

Washington Square West Civic Association

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2020

Conducted Via Zoom

- I. Call to order by the President, Neal Pratt at 7:03 PM
- II. Attendance: 1. Neal Pratt 2. Robert Sher, 3. Deb Sweeney, 4. Rick Spitzborg, 5. Jonathan Broh, 6. Carl Engelke, 7. Judy Applebaum, 8. Catalina Gonzalez, 9. Sukrit Goswami

III. President's Report:

As the stay at home order continues, WSWCA will make an effort to inform the community via the WSWCA website regarding the businesses open and their level of operation as they serve customers.

Some cities are considering street closures to facilitate social distancing once the stay at home is lifted. The purpose of these closures is to provide the additional space required for social distancing as restaurants serve diners. As Philadelphia begins the recovery effort planning, the board will be open to discussions and willing to provide input as requested.

IV. Community Comment:

A community member updated the board on short term rental nuisances. The neighbors affected have presented their concerns to Councilman Mark Squilla. Neighbors of such rentals have experienced inappropriate behavior and disruption from the tenants. L&I has been contacted in an attempt to address specific issues.

- V. The board approved minutes from March 10, 2020 meeting. Note that no meeting was held in April due to COVID-19.

VI. Treasure's Report:

Civic Association finances are stable.

The membership campaign will actively resume in the weeks ahead. Online payment is encouraged.

Street cleaning will continue every other week until June when it will be weekly.

VII. Committee Reports:

Membership: The membership renewal campaign will begin in July. HOA's, condominiums and businesses associations are also encouraged to join. Individuals within these businesses and may join as a member. The website features a membership page to streamline the process with payment options.

Street Tree Planting: Rick proposed revitalizing the Washington Sq. West Tree Tenders Group. We have reached out to PHS (Philadelphia Horticultural Society) Tree Tender graduates and other neighbors to determine their interest in serving as tree tenders. Eight to fifteen volunteers are needed to oversee site identification, communicate with property owners, facilitate the application process and plant.

Community Gardens: Temporary COVID-19 guidelines are in place and being followed by garden members accordingly. Open plots have been assigned for the 2020 garden season.

X. Zoning:

There were no zoning applications presented in March or April. ZBA (Zoning Board of Adjustment) is currently closed. Information on resuming the application process is forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM by Neal Pratt.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9, 2020

~The WSWC always welcomes and encourages the public to attend meetings. The Civic is in need of individuals willing to be involved in the Civic activities and to serve on the various committees.~