

Washington Square West Civic Association

Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2018

Bluemle Building

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Spitzborg at 7 PM.

Attendance: 1. Deb Sweeney, 2. Lyric Chen, 3. Judy Applebaum, 4. Rick Spitzborg, 5. Neal Pratt, 6. Sukrit Goswami, 7. Tami Sortman, 8. Judy Ron, 9. Jonathan Broh

Absent: Robert Sher*, Carl Engleke*, Robin Gauri - *Prior Notice Provided

Approval of Minutes - Judy Applebaum made a motion to approve the June 12, 2018 Board Minutes. Lyric Chen second the motion. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Comment – Shahanah Abdul, a Community Initiative Specialist from the Free Library, stated that she is doing outreach to the community to find out what is happening in the neighborhood.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

President's Report – Rick Spitzborg

- Rick reported that Robin Gauri will be moving out of the area so we will need to elect a new treasurer to replace her. He has approach Bob Sher, who has experience using accounting software and is knowledgeable about the Civic Association's finances, to replace Robin. The Board voted unanimously to elect Bob. The Board thanks Robin for the exemplary work she has done for the Civic over the past few years and wishes her the best of luck in her move.
- Rick recommended that we change our accounting system from cash to accrual.
- Since Bob is currently the Secretary, Judy Ron has agreed to replace him until new officers are elected in December. The Board voted unanimously to elect Judy.
- At the June Board meeting, there was a discussion about the opening of a new Wawa at 9th and South Streets. A meeting will take place on Thursday, July 19th at 1:30 PM at Councilman Mark Squilla's office. Corporate representatives from Wawa will be in attendance. The Bella Vista neighborhood association has also been invited to the meeting, along with the Headhouse Square Business District, and the South Street Mini Station.
- Topics to be discussed at the meeting are Wawa's hours of operation, the culture that has evolved at the Wawa at Broad and Walnut Streets, and the policy for security and behavior of its customers.
- ICandy will be leaving Wash West and will be replaced by Tabu Bar, which is next door to ICandy and will be expanding into the space. Rick met with Jeff Sotland, one of the owners of Tabu Bar, and he said that no structural changes are planned. There will be an enhancement of the

performance stage on the 3rd floor. There will be no music on the 3rd floor deck to try to minimize noise.

Zoning – Jonathan Broh

- Drexel University at 12th and Chestnut Sts. (the former Beneficial Bank) and the Fairfield Inn (the former Parker-Spruce) are seeking additional signage. The Zoning Committee sees no objection.
- The Board unanimously approved these recommendations.
- If there are zoning issues between now and our September Board meeting (there is no meeting in August), we will decide by email.

Ads on Big Belly Trash Cans – Judy Applebaum

- Judy had a meeting with Mark Squilla and the Streets Department about the objectionable Barbera ads on the new Big Belly trash cans. New ads are being designed that will be more appropriate for the esthetics of the community. A marketing company owns the new Big Belly trash cans and the city gets 5% of the ad revenue.
- There will be a follow up meeting about the ads.

Future Board Meeting Date

- September 11 – Rick will be unable to attend
- October 9
- November 13 – Election of Board members

Website – Tammy Sortman

- Tammy will be sending Board members a link to view our new website. The business side is not yet done. It needs to be updated.
- Work on the website has been very time consuming.

Membership – Neal Pratt

- Neal said that Annette has identified 38 businesses that had not been sent membership solicitation letters. The letters will be sent in the near future.
- Annette is 80% through transferring data into the new database.
- We currently have 264 members.

Annual Meeting – Rick Spitzborg

- Rick said that in the past we have used the annual meeting on November 13th as an opportunity to inspire members of the community to attend. He suggested we look for a significant speaker.

Judy Ron commented that we need to fill the board member vacancies so that we have enough board members to do the volume of work required by our working board. Rick asked her to look into creating

a process / strategies to find capable board members who are willing to work. Deb said that she would help.

Clean-up Day – Sukkrit Goswami

- Clean-up Day will be on December 1, 2018.
- Sukkrit is creating a project plan with Deb.
- Judy A. suggested that we have a pizza party for the volunteers at 1 PM after the clean-up

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ron, Acting Secretary