

Washington Square West Civic Association

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2020

Conducted Via Zoom

- I. Call to order by the President, Neal Pratt at 7:02 PM
- II. Attendance: 1. Neal Pratt, 2. Robert Sher, 3. Deb Sweeney, 4. Rick Spitzborg, 5. Carl Engelke, 6. Judy Applebaum, 7. Catalina Gonzalez, 8. Tami Sortman, 9. Jonathan Broh
- III. President's Report:

Neal mentioned the issues throughout the neighborhood with ATV's negatively affecting the quality of life. Rick Piper spoke to the issue as it directly affects public safety and quality of life in the Philadelphia neighborhoods. Specific areas of concern and intervention include:

- 1) Enforcement
- 2) Street engineering- rumble stripes
- 3) Community intervention via social media
- 4) Recognize that it is legitimate and possibly create alternative space for riders

Rick Piper is working to unify the civic associations in an effort to help resolve the issues through:

- 1) Out reach to local organizations, businesses, non profit organizations and others that are on the ATV routes.
- 2) S-T-O-P (**S**afe **T**ravel in **O**ur **P**hiladelphia) has been organized to lead the initiatives while reaching out to leaders, public individuals and those individuals with networking influence who can assist and seek support.
- 3) Working with the media to share concerns and publicize the issues.

IV. Open Board positions are available. Applications are due by the October 13, 2020 board meeting. The board will solicit interest via social media.

V. Community Comment:

Community members supported the S-T-O-P initiative.

Community member mentioned an empty lot near her residence and the nuisances associated with such a space. She requested ideas to help control the area. Suggestions: motion lights and cameras. The board will assist in attempts to identify owner(s) and send them letters of concern.

Camac Street resident expressed concern about blocking the street for temporary outdoor restaurant use. Jonathan is working to identify the process for street closures.

Community member would like the Jefferson helicopter routes shifted back to the pre-protest routes

VI. The board approved minutes from June 14, 2020 meeting.

VII. Treasure's Report:

Civic Association finances are stable and where they were last year. There is a need to recruit former members for renewals. WSWCA is committed to funding weekly street cleaning with a return to every other week in the coming winter months. This initiative is funded by membership dues.

Community members are encouraged to submit membership dues through the WSWCA website.

VIII. Committee Reports:

Zoning is reviewing a gate installed next to Middle Child designed to modify a retail facade and restrictions.

Design review of S 12th St. has been completed.

931 Clinton St. is seeking a variance to convert a parking lot to townhomes.

2020 Fall Clean Up Day -

Debby received a verbal commitment from Streets Dept. to say that they will work with WSWCA on the 2020 Fall Clean Up. At that point, the city events coordinator was contacted with regard to the status of an event permit. The city is not approving any permits until Feb 2021 and they suggested that the Clean Up committee work directly with the Streets Dept. Debby is working on receiving the written commitment from the Streets Dept. Once received, plans to implement will move forward. The board will be informed of developments.

Street Tenders Group-

2021 planting is scheduled for April 2021. Twelve residents have volunteered as tree tenders and 12 sites have been identified for planting. The Washington Square Trust has established a scholarship fund, to reimburse community members for the PHS Tree Tenders training tuition fee. The Trust has also pledged to partially subsidize the cost of stump removal in old pits, preparatory to planting new trees.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM by Neal Pratt.

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2020 at 7PM.

~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.~