

Washington Square West Civic Association

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 8, 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. Judy Applebaum, 6. Catalina Gonzalez, 7. Tami Sortman, 8. Jonathan Broh, 9. Sukrit Goswami, 10. Carl Engelke, 11. Richard Lee
- III. President's Report:

Councilman, Mark Squilla was the meeting guest. He discussed several topics.

1) Council is in the process of looking at what can be done to regulate the short term rental issues. Legislation is in the process of being written to enforce and regulate use in an effort to maintain the neighborhood environment. Landlords accountability is being reviewed. The law department and L & I will review the draft to be sure that the regulations are enforceable. An effort is being made to adapt draft legislation by mid January for input from the civic association.

2) Councilman discussed temporary pilot parking available to ease the demand for additional street parking in Washington Square West. A temporary letter will be written to affected residents on Clinton St. insuring that this is only designed to be temporary parking on the north side of the street. Streets Dept. was approached to be sure that temporary parking could be legally done. Signage will be based on input from the Clinton St. residents and WSWC in the form of a letter. Petition from residents and letter from WSWCA will be written to refine this parking. Councilman thanked the Clinton St. Historical Association for their assistance in easing the current parking constraints.

3) A concern was expressed by the community regarding medical marijuana dispensaries and the number of them within a small neighborhood proximity. A request was made to Councilman Squilla that would allow for public discussion regarding dispensary safety, security and parking plans to receive board input. Two dispensaries were opened by right without the knowledge of the community. Washington Square West neighbors would like outreach and communication with the community prior to opening.

IV. The board approved minutes from November 10, 2020 meeting.

VI. Treasure's Report:  
No updates.

VII. Committee Reports:

Zoning-

11th St Jewelry store gate on the storefront is a design concern.

1323 South St is presetting on 12/22 a project within an existing 2 story building. They are proposing retail on first floor and a second floor architect office. There were not concerns from the neighbors. Board approved extending board voting rights to the zoning committee.

#### Cross Town Coalition

Cross Town Coalition is requesting that the City of Philadelphia Office of Property Assessment (OPA) reinstate public name search property on the web site. They are seeking approval from WSWCA in the form of a letter to OPA. This was approved by the board with three abstentions and eight yes votes.

#### Street Tenders Group-

Rick Spitzborg reported that the Tree Tenders Trust Board is graciously subsidizing tree planting and training of tenders. Stump removal is a permanent subsidy and open to any resident who will replant a tree. Training scholarships will also continue to be subsidized.

Fairfield Inn will revert back on Dec. 31, 2020 to a hotel and the city will vacate.

Washington West Wednesdays shopping and dining night reminders will be posted.

Motion made to voted to reinstate officers current sleight of officers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM by Neal Pratt. NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2021 at 7PM via Zoom

**~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.~**