

**Washington Square West Civic Association**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

March 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Washington Square West Civic Association (the “Corporation”, “Association” or “WWCA”) was held via *Zoom* at 7:00pm Eastern Time on March 8, 2022, pursuant to notice duly provided to the membership and each of the Directors. The following Directors were present:

Katie Low	Sukrit Goswami	Leigh Ann Campbell
Casey Kuklick	Richard Le	Deb Sweeney
Robert Sher	Patrick Coue	Jonathan Broh
Marisa Shaaban, <i>Vice President</i>	Drew Moyer, <i>Secretary</i>	

Mr. Moyer called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and announced that he would serve as Chair of the meeting at Ms. Sortman’s request, since she was unable to attend due to illness. Mr. Moyer welcomed the Board, community members and guests to the meeting.

The minutes of the meetings held on January 11, 2022, and February 8, 2022, were approved as drafted and posted on the Association’s website.

Mr. Moyer introduced special guests from the William Way Community Center. Chris Bartlett, Executive Director, and Renee Gilinger, Capital Campaign Associate, were welcomed by the Board and proceeded to deliver a presentation on building and expanded program plans for the Community Center. Mr. Bartlett covered various aspects of the proposed building project including planning and fundraising, a neighborhood economic analysis, possible uses for new space in the building, parking spaces adjacent to the building and other matters. He addressed questions raised by community members and discussion continued about the history,

purpose, and vision for the Community Center. The Board expressed its support for the project and thanked Mr. Bartlett and Ms. Gilinger for their attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Pablo Mateo, Director of Operations for Town Watch Integrated Services, was introduced to describe the possibility of a starting a Towne Watch group in Washington Square West. The Board and community members discussed issues relating to this program including experience with a Town watch in the neighborhood, the size and safety of patrolling groups of residents and training. Training would be covered in two different sessions: "Eyes and Ears Training" and "Patrol Training". In training, it is taught and reinforced to participants that it's important not to interfere or engage in a situation. Town Watch participants report by calling 911 and record matters which can be written down, photographed or video describing what is happening. This action appropriately escalates the situation to law enforcement. The Organization agreed to obtain further information and distribute training session details following the meeting. Officer Ferraro also described the Police District's support and engagement with Town Watch groups.

There was a discussion among members and residents regarding education and appropriate responses to homelessness in the neighborhood, areas deemed to be problematic and alternative approaches to maintain clear sidewalks. It was noted that Officer Eric Brooks ([eric.brooks@phila.gov](mailto:eric.brooks@phila.gov)) is the Sergeant for the Philadelphia Police Department's Homeless Detail. Sergeant Brooks is extremely knowledgeable and engaged in this area and should be contacted as a primary resource.

Mr. Moyer introduced Councilmember Mark Squilla and welcomed him to the meeting. The Councilmember commented on Town Watch programs, homelessness, Airbnb regulations, policing matters including safety and ATVs, and disruptive noise control. He responded to questions by members regarding trash pickup, recycling, and efforts to obtain Historic Designation for Washington Square

West by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. The Board encouraged residents needing recycling containers to contact WWCA or the city as these are provided at no cost to residents. Councilmember Squilla also addressed questions regarding new regulations for restaurant streeteries in the city. Concern was expressed for small businesses operating the streeteries and the cost of the new regulations. Discussion ensued regarding the balance of helping small businesses while needing a basic level of regulations for the protection and safety of residents. It was noted that the Streets Department is charged with application and enforcement of the regulations for streeteries.

Graffiti removal resources were discussed, and it was noted that the city has a specific team called the Community Life Improvement Program (or, "CLIP") which handles these matters through the 311 reporting system. CLIP was described by members as very responsive and effective in this effort.

The Board thanked Councilmember Squilla for his attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Pappalardo was unable to attend the meeting due to business travel, and Mr. Sher delivered the Treasurer's report. He reported that the 2022 annual budget incorporated changes discussed at earlier meetings and was now ready for Board approval. The budget reflects both an increase in program expenses as well as an increase in membership revenue. It also reflects non-recurring expenses (net of contributed revenue) that are specifically restricted to historical district designation for Washington Square West. After further discussion, and upon motion made and duly seconded, the 2022 budget was approved as attached to these minutes as Exhibit A. The Board committed to provide quarterly reporting of financial results against the budget in the future.

Mr. Broh reported for the Zoning Committee and covered projects presented and discussed at recent Committee meetings including a new restaurant at 1232 Chestnut Street. Regarding 700 Sansom Street, he reported that an ordinance is

being sought through City Council for a fire escape ladder which would encroach on the sidewalk when it's in the down position. Due to the ordinance process, no variance was requested or required. The ladder is 14 feet above the sidewalk when it is not being used. There were no objections to this when it was discussed by the Committee, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission has approved it. The Board voted not to oppose the ordinance, consistent with the recommendation by the Zoning Committee. Mr. Le recused himself and abstained from voting on the matter since he owns the property.

Ms. Low announced upcoming events for WWCA in the community including a plant exchange and opportunities to meet with Board members at Seger Dog Park.

It was also announced that a special meeting regarding the process and cost of historical district designation would be held on Monday, March 14.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Board was duly adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Drew A. Moyer  
Secretary

