

Washington Square West Civic Association

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 12, 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 April 12, 2022, pursuant to notice duly provided to the membership and each of the Directors. The following Directors were present:

Tami Sortman, <i>President</i>	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>	Katie Low

Ms. Sortman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed the Board, community members and guests to the meeting.

Officer Joe Ferraro introduced Officer Julie Carpenter, Community Relations Officer for the 6th District, who described the role of the community relations function of the Department. They shared their contact information as follows:

Julie.carpenter@phila.gov

215-686-3063

Joseph.Ferrero@phila.gov

The minutes of the meeting held on March 8, 2022, were approved as written.

Mr. Pappalardo, Treasurer, reported that the Association’s accounting firm had not yet completed the first quarter report of actual income and expenses compared to the budget, but it should be available to share at the next meeting. He also reported on the challenges encountered in updating the authorized signers for the

Association's bank accounts at WFSF and noted that there may be a need to change banks.

Leigh Ann Campbell reviewed recent electronic and social media postings and reported information of community interest. She stressed the importance of member involvement and financial support for the Association. There was discussion of membership programs to solicit timely renewals and monthly reports of memberships expired within the last 90 days now being produced by the new bookkeeping firm.

Katie Low reported on community outreach including outdoor events at Seger Dog Park and a plant exchange at Kahn Park. Patrick Coue announced neighborhood history tours to be conducted by a William Way LGBTQTA+ historian, and Warren Williams, Architectural historian at Temple University.

Deb Sweeney reported for the Greening Committee and noted that all planting would be completed by May 13.

Richard Le provided a community safety report and a summary of the Community Police Meeting held earlier in the evening. Recent crime was discussed at the meeting by Officer Ferraro including tire slashing and vandalism. The Town Watch training was piloted, and the results are being assessed.

No report was required by the Zoning Committee.

Casey Kuklick introduced the evening program, "Meet the candidates," and explained the format that would be used for the balance of the meeting. Each candidate was introduced and provided with the opportunity to make a brief statement and respond to questions from members. The candidates were:

1. **Mary Louise Isaacson** – Representative from the 175th District, of portion of

which is in Washington Square West. Contact information was provided:

Repisaacson@pahouse.net

215-503-3245

2. **Deja Lynn Alvarez** - Running for State Representative in the 182nd District.

Contact information was provided:

www.dejaforpa.com

info@dejaforpa.com

3. **Will Gross** – Running for State Representative in the 182nd District.

www.WillforPA.com

will@willforpa.com

4. **Jonathan Lovitz** – Running for State Representative in the 182nd District.

www.LovitzForPA.com

Jonathan@LovitzForPA.com

5. **Ben Waxman** – Running for State Representative in the 182nd District.

www.votewaxman.com

benwaxman@gmail.com

Lyn Kirshenbaum, 5th Ward Democratic Committee Member, commented on the May 2 voting registration deadline and the importance of getting the vote out in Philadelphia. She provided her contact information as 267-934-2468.

Mr. Kuclick noted that candidates from both parties were invited to attend the meeting.

It was reported that there would be no Zoning meeting for the month of April.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectively submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary

Washington Square West Civic Association

**Board of Directors
Action by Written Vote**

March 24, 2022

Pursuant to instruction provided by Ms. Sortman as President, the Board conducted a vote on support for the nomination of the Washington West Square neighborhood to be designated as a Historical District by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Ms. Shaaban provided a written summary of a meeting conducted in the evening in which certain Board members were unable to attend.

WHEREAS the Association wishes to support the nomination of Washington Square West as a Historical District; and

WHEREAS numerous community meetings were held to provide for resident input, discuss the process and the implications of Historical District status, and

WHEREAS a subcommittee of the Board's Government Relations Committee had been convened and comprised of Board members and residents and was active over the past year, and

WHEREAS the subcommittee unanimously recommends application for the Historic District after it had completed an evaluation of the costs, implications, and nomination process. It is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Association supports Washington Square West becoming a Historic District, and hereby authorizes all efforts that the Association would subsequently be engaged in, including the paperwork to file the nomination, representing WWCA in support of the nomination, and raising \$13,500 to pay for Emily

Cooperman's nomination contract as consultant for the project.

The following Directors voted either in person or by email in favor of the above Resolution, representing the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors now serving:

Jonathan Broh – via email
Drew Moyer – in person via proxy
Marisa Shaaban – in person
Deb Sweeney – in person
Richard Le – in person
Sukrit Goswami – via email
Patrick Coue – in person
Casey Kuklick – in person
Tami Sortman – in person
Leigh Ann Campbell – in person
Katie Low – in person

Joe Pappalardo did not vote, and Robert Sher abstained from the vote.

Respectively submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary

Washington Square West Civic Association

**Board of Directors
Action by Written Vote**

May 6, 2022

Pursuant to instruction provided by Ms. Sortman as President, the Board conducted a vote by email on a proposal to add the name of Jeff Guaricino, the President of Visit Philly who recently passed away, to the rainbow street signs on 13th Street in the neighborhood. Ms. Sortman introduced the background of this proposal, noting that Mr. Guaricino had worked to establish the rainbow signs to mark the Gayborhood and had led other important to promote the neighborhood, Philadelphia and the LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Sortman has been in communication with Councilmember Squilla's office and noted that letters of support were received from Visit Philly, the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau and other community organizations.

WHEREAS the Association wishes to recognize the significant contributions of Mr. Jeff Guaricino to the neighborhood, the city and the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS a proposal to affix Mr. Guaricino's name to the rainbow street signs on 13th Street had been prepared and supported by other community organizations. It is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Association supports the proposal, and further

RESOLVED, that Ms. Sortman is authorized to provide letter of support on behalf of the Association and attached to this resolution as Exhibit A.

The following Directors voted by email in favor of non-opposition, representing the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors now serving:

Jonathan Broh
Drew Moyer
Robert Sher
Marisa Shaaban
Deb Sweeney
Richard Le
Sukrit Goswami
Patrick Coue
Joe Pappalardo
Casey Kuklick
Tami Sortman
Leigh Ann Campbell

There were no votes against or abstentions.

Respectively submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary



May 6, 2022

The Honorable Mark Squilla
Philadelphia City Council
City Hall, Room 332
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290

Dear Councilmember Squilla:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Square West Civic Association (WSWCA) Board in support of adding Jeff Guaracino's name to the bottom of every rainbow street sign on the 13th Street corridor in the city's first district Gayborhood in Wash West. Jeff was a tireless champion for Philadelphia's hometown heroes and businesses in the Gayborhood.

The recent loss of Jeff Guaracino, following his fierce battle with cancer, has had a profound impact on Philadelphia. Jeff was a great leader and beloved by all in the community, especially in the Gayborhood. The WSWCA worked with the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus, which Jeff was a founding board member, back in 2004 when the Rainbow Street Signs were first installed in the neighborhood. WSWCA pledged its support then, as we continue to now, with the installation of these street signs. .

The street signs were put up when Visit Philadelphia made it their mission to ensure the world knew Philadelphia as a world class destination and a welcoming city to the LGBTQ+ community. Notably, Jeff contributed significantly to Philadelphia becoming the first city in the United States to launch a major marketing campaign, "Get Your History Straight and Your Nightlife Gay®", to welcome LGBTQ+ travelers. The first stop for many of these travelers is the Gayborhood, in Wash West.

While many may never know Jeff Guaracino by name, millions of visitors, residents, and many businesses in Wash West benefit from the diverse and inclusive, family-friendly, civic-pride-boosting, and proud LGBTQ+ initiatives that Jeff conceived and led.

Washington Square West Civic Association Board thanks you, Councilmember Squilla, and your fellow public servants for your tireless leadership in serving the City of Philadelphia. On behalf of the WSWCA Board, we pledge our support in honoring Jeff Guaracino's legacy.

Sincerely,

Tami Sortman
President
Washington Square West Civic Association
215-806-0960 tamisortman@gmail.com