

Washington Square West Civic Association

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 10, 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 May 10, 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 7:03 pm, introduced herself and welcomed the Board, community members and guests to the meeting.

Ms. Sortman described recent and planned community walking tours covering black history, neighborhood architecture and LGBT+ history and landmark. Other Association activities were also discussed.

Officer Joe Ferraro introduced himself along with Officer Julie Carpenter, Community Relations Officer for the 6th District. Officer Carpenter provided an update on policing activities, quality of life issues (trash, deliveries, and crime) and available resources for crime prevention tips. Contact information was provided as follows:

Julie.carpenter@phila.gov

215-686-3063

Joseph.Ferrero@phila.gov

An invitation was made to join a planned march for peace beginning at the

playground at 800 Brown Street. The march will stop at 10th and Brown Street, a problematic corner for crime, where safety resources will be reviewed. The march will begin on Thursday, May 26 at 6pm.

The Philly Pride event planned for June 5 was discussed. It was noted that street closures will be in effect in the Gayborhood, similar to Outfest in the past. Officer Ferraro explained that information available to police thus far has been limited and more information will be provided when it's available. There were questions about curfews, permits and police presence. It was noted that Councilmember Squilla is responding to questions and concerns and more information would be provided soon.

An invitation was also extended for "Coffee with Cops" to be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 10am at the Wawa at 1190 Market Street.

The minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 2022, and resolutions by written action from March 24, 2022 and May 6, 2022 were approved as written.

Joe Pappalardo, Treasurer, provided a report of income and expenses compared to budget for the first quarter. He explained that the reports are prepared on a cash basis. There was discussion surrounding income from dues, contributions and restricted contributions for the Historic District designation project. The nature and timing of income and expenses relating to community walking tours, other events and street cleaning was reviewed, as well as the outlook for meeting the budget for the full year. It was shared that a deficit in the budget was driven by non-recurring expenses of the Historic District application process. Continued fundraising for this project remains a priority for the Board. The Board thanked community members and supporting organizations for their contributions. A reminder was provided regarding the process for graffiti removal. It was noted that fundraising activity subsequent to March 31 will be reflected in the second quarter.

Leigh Ann Campbell, Membership Chair, noted that the Association is a membership-based organization which relies on membership for income. She also explained that memberships are issued on a rolling annual basis and do not expire at the end of the calendar year.

An idea was offered to make presentations to homeowner associations (HOAs) in the neighborhood to provide information about the Association. These HOA presentations could cover the Association's relevance to the neighborhood and encourage residents to join as members and volunteers.

Casey Kuklick updated members on the upcoming election on May 17, encouraging residents to get out and vote. Residents were advised to check polling locations of the district and to direct questions about polling places to the Philadelphia City Commission's website. He also reported that the Association is working with Seger Dog Park and the Streets Department to obtain and distribute more doggie waste bags. Association representatives spoke with Old City Green and intended to model a program after the one used in Old City. Residents discussed the ability to report overflowing trash containers via 311 for pick-up. Ms. Campbell reviewed recent electronic and social media postings and other information of community interest. She stressed the importance of member involvement and financial support for the Association.

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

Deb Sweeney reported for the Greening Committee. The community gardens are up and running. She thanked the Garden chairs and members for their engagement and noted that there had not been much turnover as people value their plots.

Jonathan Broh reported for the Zoning Committee. There were two projects under review:

1. 335 S. 12th Street – An application for an Airbnb-type unit in a specific apartment at the location. The applicant has not responded within 20 days as required for further action.
2. 800-838 Market Street lot – Application was made regarding signage. More information on this will be provided. The attorney for the applicant is expected to make a presentation in June. Mr. Broh noted that the Association's expanded boundaries to Market Street resulted in this property coming up for review.

A question regarding property use was raised regarding a new business at 12th St. and Spruce St. The location was previously a flower shop. Concerns were expressed that the location could become a smoke shop. Mr. Broh explained that restrictions recently enacted would prevent the sale of drug paraphernalia at this location.

Katie Low announced a neighborhood yard sale planned for May 22.

Ms. Sortman invited comments from the community. Topics including usefulness of the City's 311 App (including its geolocation and ability to upload photos) were discussed.

Mr. Tyrell Brown spoke about plans for the Philadelphia Pride event. He explained that the planned march would not be a protest or a parade. He reviewed the route and explained that Pride is being planned to be different from past years.

Organizers had high concern for resident respect and participant safety. Discussion ensued regarding expectations for Pride and the importance of providing accurate information to Members. Mr. Brown acknowledged that the sponsoring organization

is new. Persons involved understand the trust that needs to be built by the organization. The Board thanked him for his participation at the meeting and the information provided.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectively submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary