

Washington Square West Civic Association

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

December 12, 2023

The meeting held via Zoom was called to order at 7:00pm Eastern Time by Tami Sortman, President of the Association.

The following Directors were present:

- Jonathan Broh
- Leigh Ann Campbell
- Peter Coe
- Andrew Ferrarelli
- Andrew Jones
- Richard Le
- Katie Low
- Drew Moyer, Secretary
- Russell Richie
- Marisa Shaaban, Vice President
- Robert Sher, Treasurer
- Tami Sortman, President
- Deb Sweeney
- Sukrit Goswami

Absent:

- Casey Kuklick

Ms. Sortman welcomed members and attendees. She stated that the first order of business was to elect officers as part of the Board's annual organizational meeting. Mr. Moyer proposed a slate of officers for the Board for the coming year:

Tami Sortman - *President*

Marisa Shaaban – *Vice President*

Drew Moyer - *Secretary*

Robert Sher - *Treasurer*

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously elected the officers to the positions as noted above.

Mr. Jonathan Broh reported for the Zoning Committee. He provided an update on the following projects:

1. Jewelers Row – The Committee recommends non-opposition but requested to defer the Board vote until January so that the Society Hill Civic Association may conduct further review.
2. Oakberry Acai's special exception for takeout service
3. Dunkin Franchise application
4. 10th and Chestnut garage – A request by PPA for a development ordinance including a significant increase in FAR (floor to area ratio) for the property.

He noted that there were no projects scheduled for review in December.

Bob Sher, Treasurer, reported on a proposed increase in the street cleaning contract costs proposed by the Center City District. Due to this increase and budget constraints, Mr. Sher recommended a pause in the service and contract renewal. There was a lengthy discussion among the Board and community members regarding street cleaning and trash in general. Residents expressed frustration with a perceived lack of enforcement and adherence to regulations and commented on their observations and experience. There was discussion of forming a committee; evaluating the performance of the Center City District; and actions that members could take through more organization and volunteerism. Reference was made to new leadership at the Center City District, and a meeting to be arranged by Mr. Kuklick between Board members and CCD leadership.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved to **not** renew the cleaning contract with CCD based on issues of cost, effectiveness, and budget constraints.

Ms. Shaaban reported on the community meeting held on December 7, 2023 regarding the proposed 76 Place Arena, explaining that the attendees were overwhelmingly against the proposed arena. Mr. Moyer recorded minutes of the meeting although a separate report may be issued. A survey to be conducted by the Association was explained. There was discussion of requested studies and analysis, and a Civic Design Review of the master plan to be held by the Planning Commission. Mr. Broh explained the process for Civic Design Reviews and members discussed the ability to register to comment at the session.

Katie Low announced a holiday celebration for the community to be held at Sofi Corner Café from 5-7pm on Monday, December 18, and welcomed all members to attend.

Mr. Sher reported on closing an inactive brokerage account and the transfer of proceeds to the Association's primary business account.

Deb Sweeney reported on the annual Clean-up Day. She thanked city workers, volunteers and everyone who assisted. She also reported on the gardens and clean-up efforts after the growing season.

Russell Richie reported on membership and renewal communications.

Ms. Sortman invited comments from the community at which time appreciation was expressed for the work of the board.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary