

## **Washington Square West Civic Association**

### **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

January 9, 2024

A meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:02pm Eastern by Tami Sortman, President of the Association.

The following Directors were present:

- Jonathan Broh
- Casey Kuklick
- Andrew Ferrarelli
- Andrew Jones
- Katie Low
- Drew Moyer, Secretary
- Marisa Shaaban, Vice President
- Robert Sher, Treasurer
- Tami Sortman, President
- Deb Sweeney
- Sukrit Goswami

Absent:

- Richard Le
- Russell Richie
- Peter Coe

Ms. Sortman welcomed members and attendees and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She reported on the Historic District application and recent progress made by the Preservation Alliance. The Preservation Alliance confirmed that all corrections requested from the initial review by the Philadelphia Historical Commission were addressed and the application was resubmitted to PHC.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2023, were approved with the inclusion of actions on two zoning matters.

Bob Sher, Treasurer, reported on the preliminary financial results of 2023 including \$23k in membership income. He noted that the Association is operating with

approximately an \$8.5k annual loss. The annual cost of running the organization will be reduced by about \$2k due to the insourcing of work previously performed by an external accounting firm. The cash balance is approximately \$43k, not including the garden accounts.

During a discussion of street cleaning, reference was made to new leadership at the Center City District. A meeting will be arranged by Mr. Kuklick between Board members and CCD leadership. More discussion will occur on cleaning and the possible formation of a committee for this purpose.

Marisa Shaaban shared a presentation on the results of a community survey on the proposed 76 Place Arena and there was discussion about the process and the results. Statements were made by members in attendance and comments made in the Zoom chat were read aloud. There was a discussion about the survey sample, the population selection criteria and interpretation of the results in the context of these factors.

Katie Low reported on member events. Lynn Landes, a member, also reported on community clubs and planned activities.

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

1. 800 Market Street - surface parking lot – This property is required to present every two years for approval to remain as a parking lot with certain attributes that do not comply with current code.
2. 700 Rodman – The property owner is seeking approval to install a fence taller than code allows.
3. Jewelers Row – The Committee recommends non-opposition but requested to defer the Board vote until February to allow for completion of a Civic Design Review.

4. 10<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut garage – A request by PPA for a development ordinance including a significant increase in FAR (floor to area ratio) for the property.

Mr. Broh noted that the neighborhood remapping project is delayed due to the Planning Commission being busy with other large projects.

Peter Furcht reported on the Community Safety Meeting held with police just prior to this meeting. There was discussion of retail theft, the new Mayor, and the Police Commissioner. Residents were encouraged to register their security cameras at [safecam.phillypolice.com](http://safecam.phillypolice.com). The problem of parking in bike lanes was again reported to the PPA.

Andrew Jones reported on the Vision Zero committee.

Ms. Sortman invited comments from the community. A member inquired about metal security gates being unsightly in the neighborhood. There was a discussion about if and why they were permitted given the restrictions against them. Specifics regarding two locations in question were reviewed.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew A. Moyer  
Secretary