

Washington Square West Civic Association

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 12, 2023

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

The following Directors were present:

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

Absent:

- Joe Pappalardo
- Casey Kuklick

Ms. Sortman welcomed members and attendees and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Moyer, Secretary, presented the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2023, which were unanimously approved as written.

Mr. Sher, Treasurer, reported that the Association's annual tax return was finalized and is ready for filing. He also reported that the new membership software was

ready and planned to go live on the Association's website.

Ms. Sortman introduced Sarah Kolker who spoke about Mural Arts projects including the 7th Ward Windows Project and Tribute. There will be a celebration for Legacy Reclaimed | A 7th Ward Tribute. This will be an opportunity to meet the Tribute Artists and catch a preview of the extended gallery for ***Reflecting Revenants: Recalling Black Life in the 7th Ward***. Nyasa Hendrix also described a mural celebrating Ballroom and the LGBTQ+, black and brown community history in the Gayborhood. This is scheduled to be celebrated at 13th and Cypress (near Pine) on Sept. 23, 2023.

Jeremy Williams, producer of OURfest (previously Outfest), reported on the neighborhood event scheduled for Oct. 6-8. He explained the intention of making it a national Coming Out Day so that people come to Philadelphia to "come out", thus changing it from a 1-day event to a 3-day event. Friday night activities will be small. There will be a parade on Saturday at 4pm from 5th and Market St. to City Hall. The festival will be on Sunday with a similar footprint as in prior years.

Russell Richie and Patrick Coue reported on a process to simplify and clarify individual membership levels. The Board also expressed a need to review the list of existing business members.

Katie Low and Russell Richie announced a Bike Event scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16. This is the rain date for the event planned earlier in the summer. There will be a kids' bike ride with a police escort at 1pm. All residents are encouraged to attend, even if one is not a cyclist.

It was also reported that the "Hot Summer Nights - Night Out" event was a great success.

Deb Sweeney reported for the Greening Committee and announced that the annual

street cleaning day will be held on December 2, 2023.

Joshua Dillard described a proposal for new fencing around the Waverly Street Community Garden.

Tami Sortman invited comments from members and the public. There was a discussion about safety and the monthly community police meeting.

On Zoning matters, Jonathan Broh reported on a matter regarding signage on the new Jefferson building. He also noted the intention to wrap up the zoning remapping process. The Planning Commission will present the new map.

A consulting group contacted the Association seeking discussion surrounding the proposed 76ers arena through a focus group. An invitation was made for participation in the focus group meeting. Concerns were expressed about insufficient advance notice of the focus group formation based on the proposed date of the meeting. Ms. Sortman and Mr. Broh agreed to follow up on this issue and keep the community posted about further developments regarding the focus group.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew A. Moyer
Secretary