

Meeting of the Board of the Washington Square West Civic Association  
8th of February, 2022  
Via Zoom

I. Meeting is called to order by president Tami Sortman at 7:01pm

Attending:

Tami Sortman  
Maris Shaaban  
Leigh Ann Campbell  
Richard Le  
Patrick Coue  
Sukrit Goswami  
Jonathan Broh  
Robert Sher  
Katie Dillon Low  
Deborah Sweeney

Absent:

Casey Kuklick  
Joe Papalardo  
Drew Moyer

II. Motion to approve minutes from January meeting: the vote is postponed because our Secretary is unavailable to attend the meeting, and there is no consensus about whether the previous meeting's minutes have been properly reviewed.

III. Guest speaker Joe Ferraro of the Philadelphia 6th District Police speaks on recent incidents in the neighborhood and general safety.

IV. Board members and community members participate in a Q and A with Joe Ferraro.

V. Robert Sher presents the working WSWCA budget. Joe Papalardo, treasurer, is unavailable to attend the meeting.

VI. Budget Q and A with board members and community members.

VII. There is no motion to approve the budget, as it is still a working budget.

VIII. Marisa Shaaban, vice president, speaks on the progress of the Preservation Committee.

IX. Deborah Sweeney, greening committee chair, speaks on greening activities and budget items.

X. Richard Le, chair of the Safety Committee, speaks on neighborhood safety projects.

XI. Jonathan Broh presents zoning, but recuses self from the project at hand and Marisa Shaaban will present.

A. 1308 Chestnut Street. Mona Restaurant. Restaurant use is allowed in this CMX 5 location, but due to a special city rule, any restaurant located on Chestnut street must acquire ZBA approval.

B. Mona restaurant faces no opposition from near neighbors. However there is a concern from a neighboring business about trash. The issue has been resolved by containing the trash in a designated enclosure, to be enforced by the City.

C. Marisa motions for a vote of non-opposition, subject to acceptance of written provisos regarding noise, capacity, and service hours for the restaurant's proposed roof top service area. The written provisos have not yet been presented to the board. The lawyer for Mona has emailed to say that there will be written provisos which Mona and near neighbors have agreed upon.

D. Sukrit Goswami seconds the motion.

E. Votes to approve: Tami Sortman, Marisa Shaaban, Sukrit Goswami, Patrick Coue, Leigh Ann Campbell, Deb Sweeney, Robert Sher, Richard Le.

Abstain: Jonathan Broh, Katie Dillon Low

F. Jonathan Broh announces agenda items for the upcoming February 22nd Zoning Committee meeting. 126 S. 7th St., 1232 Chestnut St.

XII. Addition to the agenda: Katie Dillon Low motions for a vote to support blood donation with the Red Cross. The motion is contentious. There was a lengthy discussion surrounding blood donation rules prescribed by the FDA, lobbying and positions advanced by the Red Cross and related issues. There was strong consensus among the directors regarding the need for blood donations while concerns were also expressed regarding current rules restricting donations from the LGBTQ+ community.

A. Mrs. Low changes the wording of the vote to support Blood Donation via E-Post and social media posting only. Robert Sher seconds.

B. Votes to Approve are unanimous.

XIII. Tami Sortman adjourns the meeting at 8:38 pm.