

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD

Minutes of Meeting of June 9, 2009

Directors Attending::

Casey O'Bannon

Dan Russionello

Mark Kocent

Michael Tiachman-Robins

Amara Briggs

David Haas

Bob Zimmerman

Roger Moog

Ellen Wertheimer

Anne Greenhalgh

Eric Smith

Phyllis Kelley

John Grugan

Maxine Goldberg

Public Officials: Commissioners George Manos, Paul McElhaney and Bruce D. Reed Merle Zucker represented State Representative Kathy Manderino.

Police Report: Officer Cullen delivered the Police report, which consisted of a variety of minor offenses.

Friends of the Cynwyd Trail: Kathy Burns, the Secretary of the Friends of the Cynwyd Trail, spoke about the extensive volunteer efforts which have been expended to date on the Trail, and which are scheduled to continue through the summer and fall months. She explained that the Friends are eager to continue with these efforts, and asked the help of the Club in co-sponsoring the work days on the Trail scheduled for June 20 and 21, and in helping to publicize a talk on July 13<sup>th</sup> by Joe Sernak [**check spelling**], who has been involved in the planning of the Schuylkill River Trail in Philadelphia. She also asked the Club to provide free advertising in its Fourth of July program for the Friends promoting the Cynwyd Trail. Upon motion of David Haas and second by Ellen Wertheimer, the Directors approved a free ad in the program unanimously with two abstentions.

Approval of Minutes. The Minutes for the meetings of March, April and May, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Amara Briggs presented the Treasurer's Report. The membership level occasioned a discussion of the means of encouraging membership, with Phyllis Kelley suggesting the reinstatement of a prior practice, that being of informing the Directors of who in their immediate locale hasn't signed up, so they might walk around their neighborhood to explain the mission of the Club and encourage membership. Merle Zucker suggested having some presentations at some of the condominiums to reach people who might not normally be aware of or inclined to join the Club. President Greenhalgh suggested that the ideas be entertained at the next meeting when Judy Strazella, the Membership Chair, was present. Upon motion by

Casey O'Bannon and numerous seconds, the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Manos reported on the status of the planning of the Cynwyd Trail, including the Requests for Proposals which has been issued by the Township for the design of the Trail itself. As the Club is not in session until September, 2009. In response to a question about the decision of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas concerning the Croyle Site (housing of the School District's smaller buses), Commissioner Reed reported that the School District is the applicant, and it has not yet indicated whether it intends to appeal the decision, or take other actions. Commissioner McElhaney described the different options for trash collection (the Township's trash collection truck fleet is due for replacement in 2010): (i) maintenance of the present manual collection system, including rear-yard collection; (ii) maintenance of the present manual collection system, with no rear-yard collection, yielding a projected \$0.6 million annual savings; (iii) automated trucks with curbside collection but no rear yard collection, yielding a projected annual savings of \$1.6 million; and (iv) automated trucks with curbside collection and rear collection at an additional fee of \$200 for every house electing such rear-yard collection, yielding a projected annual savings of \$1.6 million (as the \$200 fee is calculated to offset the actual costs of rear-yard collection). There was a discussion of the use of the Solid Waste fee versus the portion of the General Fund which is used to defray the costs. It was agreed that the individual Directors will indicate their preferences to Commissioner McElhaney.

City Avenue Zoning. Terry Foley, the Chief Executive Officer of the City Avenue Special Services District, joined by John Gibbons of the firm of Kise, Straw Kalodner, presented a discussion of the projected traffic effect of various construction alternatives under the zoning proposals. Using a general traffic increase of 5%, the potential development of 401 City Avenue was considered (being an example of what might happen on one site in the corridor). Tactics intended to repress traffic effect were: (i) creation of an additional network of streets to provide alternative options for traffic flow, (ii) encourage mixed use development to provide different traffic flows and patterns, (iii) encourage pedestrian and transit access, and (iv) limit the number and location of curb cuts. Overall recommendations include the coordination of signalization of intersections with PennDOT to Conshohocken; conducting an engineering feasibility study of widening Monument Road from Righters Ferry Road to Ford Road/Conshohocken State Road; and moving forward with City Avenue Streetscape and Safety Capital Improvement Program. The overall concern expressed in the ensuing discussion is the effect of development in exacerbating existing traffic congestion at certain intersections. Comments were generally uniform in agreeing that it is necessary to undertake a comprehensive review of projected development and attendant traffic increase, and Commissioner Manos explained the study which is to be undertaken by Pennoni Associates, which is the Township's engineering firm.

Mark Kocent and John Grugan reported that the Club's committee working on the City Avenue zoning issue has been working on the letter to the Commissioners regarding the need for a comprehensive study should make clear that it should include all

development (the Lower Merion side of City Avenue, the Philadelphia side of City Avenue, and the development further away, such as Rock Hill Road and the M District). John emphasizes the position of the Club should be to encourage a complete

Newsletter and Nominations: Casey O'Bannon reported that the newsletter should be arriving at homes right around now. The departure from the Board of Serge Nalbantian due to his relocation to Abu Dhabi opens a seat which will be filled in the Fall of 2009, and Casey asked that Directors notify him of any potential nominees.

Fourth of July. President Greenhalgh needs: (i) children to hold the banner in the parade; (ii) a driver to pick up a convertible from BMW; (iii) George Manos to provide a write-up the Businessman of the Year (Isaac Sotolidis), (iv) Bruce Reed to provide a write-up of Citizen of the Year (Jerry Francis); and (v) announcer for the festivities. . .

Publicity. President Greenhalgh announced the establishment of the Club's e-mail address: [theneighborhoodclub@balacynwyd.org](mailto:theneighborhoodclub@balacynwyd.org). In addition, the Club now has the ability to send out bulk e-mails to residents whose e-mail addresses are known. The President asks that the Board consider usage policy for the Club's new e-mail capabilities.

Zoning. The O'Neill development on Rock Hill Road (most recent application postponed), the continuing conditional use hearing on the M District, and the assisted living facility on Old Lancaster Road (noise issues to be addressed at the next hearing of the Zoning Hearing Board) were all discussed briefly.

New Business. Protection of the trees on the sidewalks outside of BMW of the Main Line and the efforts to prevent the demolition of La Ronda are discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bruce D. Reed  
Temporary Secretary of the Meeting