

**The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd**  
**Board Meeting December 8, 2009**  
**Lower Merion Academy**

Board Attendees: Amara Briggs, Casey O'Bannon, Jerry Skillings, David Haas, Bob Zimmerman, Dan Russoniello, Anne Greenhalgh, Roger Moog, Phyllis Faber Kelley, Maxine Goldberg, John Grugan, Patty Smith, Merle Zucker

Excused: Eric Foster, Judy Strazzella, Michael Taichman-Robins, Ellen Wertheimer, Dee Dee Litvin, Katherine Schiefflin

Officials Attending: LMPD Spt. McGrath, Commissioners Bruce D. Reed, Paul McElhaney and George Manos

Call to order: President Greenhalgh called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Police Report: Supt. McGrath and Officer Lane addressed recent rash of break-ins, the police response and what the community should do to protect itself. They also informed the group of their online alert system [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

Treasurer's Announcements – Amara Briggs presented a detailed report about our budget. She contrasted our dues structure and budget with other local civics. Anne said she would convene a sub-committee to review the report and make proposals to the Board.

Solicitor's Announcements – Bob Zimmerman looked into the D&O insurance question. He will provide a memo as the question is too detailed for a quick verbal report. Grugan mentioned that he has applied for D&O insurance for The Club.

Commissioner's Announcements Bruce reed explained the current budget process and the gave an overview of the various positions. He lamented the current property tax assessment system. Communities lose tax revenue because properties are assessed infrequently and don't always reflect increases in property value.

Reed highlighted the issue of the Ludington Library renovation. Costs have come down to \$9 million from \$11 million due to the economy. The Township has the opportunity to borrow at historically low rates and get things accomplished for less. There is debate as to how to proceed with many of the budget issues in this economic climate.

Reed talked about the implementation of the new trash fees and reiterated his desire to review the program for 2011.

Cynwyd Trail – The consultants have been talking to various user groups to help develop ideas for the trail. The current expectation is to begin construction in Spring 2010.

M District – There is a conditional use hearing coming up. It will be interesting. There is little movement on the Rock Hill Road projects.

Comm. George Manos talked about the issue of affordable housing in the township. A definition is not clear and the township is working to find a rational way of establishing guidelines and definition of affordable housing.

Farmers market – Manos introduced an amendment to the Farmers Market ordinance regarding corner lots.

Manos also informed that the township is working to re-define the parking ratios for retirement/home for the aged facilities which seem to be inappropriate for the actual use.

Manos discussed the City Ave. Ordinance. There is an anticipated timeline of one year from introduction, public hearings, from revision to implementation. The hope is that it will dovetail with the Transportation Services Area study.

John Grugan asked if The NCBC will be able to see the ordinance before it is introduced. This has been the Club's position for a long time. Manos said it is not clear. John Grugan will call Gil High and ask.

Cynwyd Trail – The question arose about lighting? The Township currently says no. If there is lighting introduced it should not affect residents.

Jerry Francis talked about the Historical Society's capital campaign. They have committed significant funds toward the Cynwyd Train Station, they have a tenant/caretaker in place.

President's Announcements: Anne expressed that she will be re-drawing committee assignments and would contact Board members before January meeting about their preferences.

Minutes from previous meetings are forthcoming. Dee Dee is working on.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ROHO Ordinance Committee – Dan spoke briefly. There were questions about the steep slope raised at a hearing. He would be surprised if ruling does not allow removal as it is considered man-made. Ruling should be made in January.

Cynwyd Trail: Mark Kocent provided several sketches of the proposed trail. The sketches are unofficial. They are just to give citizens some ideas of what could be done. There were questions about money for landscaping, etc. The Consultants are creative and realize this is a many year project. Landscaping may come in future years or from other sources like the Friends of Cynwyd Trail.

New Business – Jerry Skillings had looked into the possibility of selling NCBC and Bala Cynwyd gear to help generate revenue but feels it is time to postpone this idea.

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 12, 2010 AT 7:30PM AT THE ACADEMY BUILDING

ADJOURNMENT

Eric Foster moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m., Jerry Skillings seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey O'Bannon  
Acting Secretary