

NCBC Minutes for April 13, 2010

Present for the Board: Anne Greenhalgh, Ellen Wertheimer, Roger Moog, Dan Russoniello, Mark Kocent, John Grugan, Merle Zucker, Casey O'Bannon, Jerry Skillings, Maxine Goldberg, Eric Foster, Amara Briggs, Katherine Foy, Bob Zimmerman, , Phillip Rodbell, Meredith Toole, David Haas

Commissioners Attending: Bruce Reed, George Manos.

Police Officer Attending: LM Police Officer Michael Cullin

Excused or absent: Dee Dee Litvin, Patty Smith, Phyllis Faber Kelley

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Police Department: Officer Cullin discussed various crimes in the area, especially residential burglaries. The Township is starting a Most Wanted site on the webpage.

President's Announcements: See the Agenda for a list of community activities.

The January Minutes were approved on motion of Mark Kocent, seconded by Merle Zucker. Approved unanimously.

The March Minutes were approved unanimously on motion of Amara Briggs, seconded by Dan Russoniello, as amended to reflect Board approval of the July 4 recommendations, and to correct the typo from 149 to 194 (under New Business).

Report of Treasurer Amara Briggs, as of March 31, 2010. See Agenda for written report. Amara Briggs mentioned that there is some confusion among merchants as to what the various levels of merchant memberships include; this will be clarified in the spring newsletter. The NCBC cash position is strong; we are close in dollars to last year, but shorter in membership renewals. Merle Zucker added that \$6000+ was picked up in the mail today. Not many members are using Paypal to pay dues. Reminders will be included in the upcoming Newsletter, and we can do an email reminder. Merle Zucker will explore seeking memberships from the condos. The Treasurer's report was moved and seconded by Maxine Goldberg and Dan Russoniello, and approved unanimously.

Solicitor: Bob Zimmerman had nothing to report.

Elected Officials' Report:

- George Manos discussed trash pickup. The Township guess on how many would elect rear yard pickup was pretty close, although the estimate is not final yet.
- 270 trees were planted last weekend on the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. Mark Kocent noted that there are many pictures on the Cynwyd Heritage Trail website. Bruce Reed noted that the tree planting was a huge project with many

volunteers from many community groups, coordinated by Chris Leswing. Much work has been done on the Trail by many people.

- Bruce Reed discussed the Farmers' Market ordinance. One possibility that has emerged for the Market is the parking lot of the GSB Building, for Thursday nights. Another possibility under study is Cynwyd Road off Bala Avenue, near where it dead ends at the Bala Gym, for Saturdays.
- There will be another presentation of the Finance Committee later this month; Lower Merion is still an AAA rated entity. The Township is looking at a \$24 million bond issue and at refinancing its existing bonds. Interest rates and construction costs are both very low right now.
- A neighbor asked some questions about lighting and cabling in the Township, which were answered by Bruce Reed and George Manos. Some of the street light issues are PECO's responsibility; some of them are the Township's.
- Anne Greenhalgh noted that there is a meeting on April 18th that will include a tour of Cynwyd Station, and complimented the creators of the Lower Merion Historical Society brochure advertising it.
- Bruce Reed noted that the Board needs to hear from residents who want Township services to continue. The only ones who tend to come to Board of Commissioners' meetings are those who want to see services reduced or cut.
- George Manos summarized Cynwyd Trail development and the schedule for work and planning on it.

Presentations:

Mark Fogel made a presentation on 51 Levering Circle's request for permission to build an addition that "squares off" the back corner of the house. Because of lot line irregularity, the proposed addition extends 3'6" into the required setback (22 square feet total). See the handout accompanying the Agenda. The neighbors do not oppose this request. This matter will shortly come before the Zoning Board.

George Broseman and client/principal Jim Nasuti made a presentation on 5 W. City Avenue (Lukoil site), which is projected to come before the Township Planning Commission in June. They want to place a Taco Bell and another retail building on the site; the Taco Bell would be moved from the other side of the street to the new building. They also own the KFC, pursuant to which they preserved a 19th century building. The Lukoil site is currently contaminated, which will be remediated as part of this construction project. Rob Lampert, an engineer, presented drawings of the proposed project, and questions and concerns were asked, answered, and raised. The proposed project is "within right;" no variances will be necessary. The proposed buildings will be brick, with a screening wall so the drive-thru lane will not be visible from City Ave. Various aesthetic and practical suggestions were made by Board members.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Merle Zucker reported. Dues and memberships are coming in.

Merle Zucker gave a further report on the Primary Elections on May 18: Bala Cynwyd is now part of Pennsylvania's 194th District, which is primarily a city district. There are eight candidates for Kathy Manderino's seat: one Green, one Republican, and six Democrats. Several civics are joining together to sponsor a candidates' forum on April 28th at Roxborough High School to which all candidates are invited; details will be forthcoming. A discussion of an NCBC-sponsored candidates' forum ensued. A proposal was made to invite the candidates to our May meeting, with time-limited presentations by each, and some time for questions and answers. Space might be an issue; perhaps the meeting could be in the Middle School auditorium. The May agenda already includes Superintendent Dr. Christopher W. McGinley. Merle Zucker and Anne Greenhalgh will research the possibilities.

Casey O'Bannon for the Nominating Committee: Michael Taichman-Robins's slot on the Board is available (since he is now an alternate on the Zoning and Planning Committee).

David Haas reported on the meetings of the Transit Special Services District Board. He offered to report more fully on this at the June meeting.

The Board discussed the two presentations. The Board unanimously decided not to oppose the 51 Levering Circle proposal. The Board discussed the 5 West City Ave. proposal. George Manos will check on the status of the plan in the Township process. The Board would like some participation in matters such as the site's provisions for trash, traffic, landscaping, and the like.

Maxine Goldberg presented an invitation to a League of Women Voters event on April 25th.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ellen Wertheimer