

August CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2011

Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) – August 11, 2011

Society Hill Towers Community Room, 8:00 AM – Recorded Attendance Attached

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of CDAG Board meeting of July 14th, 2011, approved

II. Committee Reports

1. Finance & Development - Treasurer's Report - Dave Hammond (circulated via email)

Opening Balance		\$3,559.29
Invoices Paid:		- 102.00
CK.#99 P.O. Box rental	\$ 102.00	
Deposit (t-shirt sales)		+ 20.00
Outstanding Liabilities		0.00
Ending Balance 7/31/2011		\$3,477.59

Treasurer's Report approved as submitted

2. Communication & Outreach – Rene Goodwin (circulated in advance via email and reported at the table)

BROCHURE

Work is about to begin on the CDAG brochure. Marsha Bacal has offered to work on the brochure and Rene is looking for a additional few folks to give some input to what I'll be putting together. Of course the brochure will cover topics such as who we are, what we do, what we've done, why one should become a member. Rene wants to make certain that we cover what needs to be included in this piece. The work will be presented to the board at key stages but a smaller group will help get this going more quickly.

If interested, please send Rene an email at rqcdag@comcast.net and she will get back to you with a date for the latter part of this month.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It seems clear that information regarding CDAG must be presented from time to time to community organizations. This is particularly relevant as issues are surfacing that require close communication with civic members on a variety of issues. Chairman Steve Weixler has acknowledged this need and will be making presentations to community groups beginning this fall.

To expedite the arrangements, please provide Rene with the appropriate contact person, contact information for your organization and a list of dates when each civics' monthly board and/or general meeting is held so that we can move forward. It is hoped that Steve can make 3 or 4 meetings a month during this first round. Of course we need the help and support of each of the group's delegates.

CDAG SOCIAL

For some time we have talked about a social event for CDAG. Rene's recent experience on the Philadelphia Belle leads her to believe that this boat would be a perfect venue for such an event. This

event is separate from any other river tour as the Belle is a very large venue which provides food, beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) music and a cruise on the river. It is quite wonderful.

Honey Pertnoy has offered to coordinate this social event and has already taken steps to handle all of the logistics.

COMMUNICATION WITH FRIENDS' GROUPS

Dianne Mayer has agreed to present a regular, brief reports of the activities of the Washington Avenue Green friends group. Rene is looking for someone to report on the activities of the Race Street Pier friends group. It would not entail much time or work but it is worthwhile to keep abreast of the goings on at each venue. If interested, please let Rene and Steve know.

Communications Committee report approved as submitted

3. Fall Social Event – Honey Pertnoy

Honey Pertnoy has offered to coordinate this social event and is moving forward with the arrangements. Since the Philadelphia Belle is not currently in service, Honey has focused on the Spirit of Philadelphia as an alternative waterborne venue for the CDAG social event.

The majority of those CDAG Board members registering an opinion on the matter have preferred a Sunday brunch event. Although the Spirit of Philadelphia does not offer a brunch menu, its lunch menu will suffice. The two dates Honey offered the Board are: September 11th and September 18th. Honey passed around a prepared matrix including all Board member names, the two dates offered, and asked that each member present indicate their interest and the number of guests that might attend.

The purpose and utility of this first CDAG social event, and the appropriate composition of attendees beyond CDAG Board members and their spouses/life-partners/companions/etc., the most appropriate venue, all continue to be discussed and a broad range of opinions expressed does not yet yield a consensus. Honey offered to continue this discussion outside of our meeting time.

4. Membership Committee – Laura Lanza (circulated in advance via email and reported at the table)

First, Laura thanked Bridget Keegan, as attending representative for PennPraxis, for PennPraxis' acceptance of CDAG's invitation to join the CDAG Advisory Committee, and also for accepting the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

The membership committee will have held one work meeting between July and August board sessions. Focus is to work out technical details of google email system to invite new general members (aka Friends of the Central Delaware Riverfront). Goal for membership outreach / email announcement system to be live asap.

Composition and attributes of CDAG Board Member Organizations reveal diversity in structures - contact forms need to be completed and turned in asap - please.

Recent online discussions underscore the value that having all the board member organization contact forms completed and accessible could be for supporting our CDAG coalition and understanding of each member org.

UPDATES

Advisory Committee progress

- Response to recent invitations to the advisory committee and planned follow up.
- Discussion of next steps with Penn Praxis (Chair of the Advisory Committee).
- Goal to have committee members on board in time for anticipated Progress Report II (and perhaps the cruise!) in fall.
- Next step: formalize bylaw draft for board consideration in September

Trying to find other resources as requests for CDAG volunteers for data entry of the sign up list contacts into google and or excel – has been unfruitful. Interns?

Coordination with Rene on Brochure and Margaret on website re: Membership information – started, to be continued for fall 2011.

Bylaws ready for September? Yep! The committee aims to finalize the drafts of place-holder bylaw articles for the Advisory Committee and general membership to bring up for board vote at September's board meeting.

Important Next Membership Committee Meeting needs to be called asap. Per last months report this meeting “will be scheduled to finalize email outreach, follow up tasks (such as annual member meeting, bylaws and membership webpage to be coordinated with Margaret Kalalian), and consider membership outreach at events (Progress Report forum and CDAG sponsored Archeological event - to be discussed).

Membership Committee report approved as submitted

5. Membership Attendance Report – Joe Schiavo

Joe reported that as of our meeting of July 14th, there was one CDAG Board member organization that had missed three consecutive meetings: Whitman Council. The third-missed meeting letter was mailed to Whitman Council on July 15th.

Otherwise, Board attendance has been good and we have met our quorum requirements at each CDAG Board meeting.

III. Olde Richmond Civic Association (ORCA) Application Vote – Laura Lanza

Phil Stolfus, ORCA Vice President, was present at this meeting and available to answer any questions regarding ORCA's application for membership to the CDAG Board. Phil declined to be present for our discussion and vote, and remove himself from the meeting room.

Jim Moss orchestrated the vote process.

Laura Lanza, Membership Committee Chair, and the Membership Committee members present made a favorable recommendation to the Board on behalf of ORCA. Jim confirmed that there was a quorum of the Board present, and advised the Board that a affirmative vote of the majority of the total number of CDAG Board members was required to confirm acceptance of a new CDAG Board member organization. Jim called the vote. The decision of the Board to accept ORCA as a CDAG Board member organization

was unanimous. Following our vote, Phil rejoined the meeting as our first additional new CDAG Board member.

Phil Stolfus will be the ORCA primary representative, and Travis Hanmer will be the alternate representative.

IV. Discussion of CDAG's response to the DRWC Master Plan – Laura Lanza and Joe Schiavo

Comments on the DRWC Master Plan for the Central Delaware are due on August 25th.

Laura requested formation of a small working group to compose our response to the final draft of the Master Plan as it is posted on the DRWC website. Volunteer participants included: Joe S., Matt R., Dianne M., Mary S., Rich L., Margaret K., and Juliet W. This working group will compose the first draft of our response to the Plan, to then be circulated to the entire Board for review and comment.

The question arose if it remains appropriate for each CDAG member organization to compose and submit its comments on the proposed Master Plan, no matter how different from the position expressed by the CDAG Board. The Board confirmed that every CDAG Board member organization is urged to make all comments and express all points of concern under its letterhead, without concern for CDAG's position on any particular aspect of the proposed Master Plan.

Although not technically an element of the Master Plan final draft, the issue of the importance of the zoning component, that will codify the principles and standards of the Master Plan, was discussed at length. The development of the zoning component is lagging behind and there is much concern for the confluence of the Master Plan process, the new Zoning Code process, and the Re-Mapping process, all contributing pressures to developments of the Central Delaware zoning component.

V. Discussion of the 2011 Progress Report – Joe Schiavo

To facilitate, and prompt, CDAG Board member input on each of the ten points of the Progress Report, Joe committed to re-send, via email, a pdf of the 2010 Progress Report to each CDAG Board member. Each CDAG Board member was invited to review the past Report and consider his/her updated disposition on each and every point of the Report. Board members were reminded that their current disposition on of the ten points should take into consideration the adjustments necessary due to the information brought to light due to the many studies used to inform the Master Plan process.

All input from all Board members should be directed to Joe S. within one week of this meeting, please.

Volunteers working on the first draft of the 2011 Progress Report are: Joe S., Jeff R., and Steve W.

VI. Important Upcoming Dates and Events – Laura Lanza

As more and more time-sensitive issues and important events are upon us, Laura asked for a volunteer to take a lead role in keeping CDAG informed via the CDAG-Board email list. Dianne Mayer offered to serve in this capacity.

VII. Advocacy and Signage / Billboard Discussion – Laura Lanza and Joe Schiavo

Laura circulated Steve Weixler’s letter of August 1, 2011, addressed to Councilman Frank DiCicco, that included Steve’s position on the 1100 Columbus Boulevard building-wrap (non-accessory) case. Joe S. read aloud Steve’s letter for the benefit of the Board.

This letter, although signed by Steve as Chair of CDAG, included content not exclusive to the building-wrap case and was not printed on CDAG letterhead. The Board expressed that the points of Steve’s letter, addressing the building-wrap case, should be transferred to CDAG letterhead and enhanced to expressed the position discussed at the CDAG meeting table.

Also discussed were the similar but unrelated non-accessory signage proposals for 73-83 Morris Street and 2055 Richmond Street. The 73-83 Morris Street non-accessory signage proposal is facilitated by a Bill introduced by Councilman DiCicco, and now passed by City Council, but the Legislation is now awaiting Mayor Nutter’s signature, legalizing the now illegal billboard. The 2055 Richmond Street non-accessory signage proposal, also a conversation of a billboard from accessory to non-accessory use, is also prohibited under the terms of Zoning Code Section 14-1638, the Central Delaware Zoning Overlay.

After discussion of each matter and the larger issue of the CDAG advocacy for, and defense of, the Central Delaware Zoning Overlay, the consensus of the Board was to:

- CDAG write a letter, addressed to the ZBA and copied to all appropriate offices and individuals, objecting to the requested variance to allow the non-accessory signage (building wrap) proposed for 1100 Columbus Boulevard. Jim M. and Joe S. volunteered to compose the first draft this letter.
- CDAG write a letter, addressed to Mayor Nutter and copied to all appropriate offices and individuals, requesting that he veto Bill 110306, now awaiting his signature, that would legalize the illegal billboard at 73-83 Morris Street. Joe S. volunteered to compose the first draft of this letter and before this letter will be sent to the Board for review and comment, the letter will be vetted by the Executive Committee.
- CDAG write a letter, addressed to the ZBA and copied to all appropriate offices and individuals, objecting to the requested variance to allow non-accessory signage at 2055 Richmond Street. Joe S. volunteered to compose the first draft of this letter.

Closing and Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn. Adjourned: 9:47 AM

Next regularly-scheduled CDAG Board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8, 2011, 6:00 PM, Old Swedes Church Community Room at Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard

CDAG Board Member Organizations Roll Call:

	CDAG Board Member Organizations (N/V = non-voting Board Members)	Representatives Primary & Alternate	Present (X)	Quorum Count
N/V	Dickenson Narrows Civic Assoc.	Kirk Brown (P)	N/V	N/V
1	Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Micah Hanson (P)		
	Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Matt Karp (A)		

N/V	Franklin Bridge Neighbors North	Dick Tucker (P)	N/V	N/V
2	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Mary Stumpf (P)	X	1
	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Dianne Mayer (A)	X	-
3	New Kensington Development Corp.	Sandy Saltzman (P)	X	2
	New Kensington Development Corp.	Tom Potts (A)	X	-
4	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Matt Ruben (P)		
	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Ira Upin		
5	Old City Civic Association	Joe Schiavo (P)	X	3
	Old City Civic Association	Marcus Saitschenko (A)		
6	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Honey Pertnoy (P)	X	4
	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Deep Parmat (A)		
7	Pennsport Civic Association	Tom Otto (P)	X	5
	Pennsport Civic Association	Jim Moylan	X	-
8	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Laura Lanza (P)	X	6
	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Jeremy LeCompte (A)		
9	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Jeff Rush (P)		
	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Richard Wolk (A)	X	7
10	River's Edge Community Association	John Scorsone (P)	X	8
	River's Edge Community Association	Rich Stange (A)		
11	Society Hill Civic Association	Steven Weixler (P)		
	Society Hill Civic Association	Rosanne Loesch (A)		
12	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Marsha Bacal (P)	X	9
	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Jim Moss (A)	X	-
13	Whitman Council	Rich Lazar (P)	X	10
	Whitman Council	(A)		
N/V	Delaware River City Corp.	Paul Lonie (P)	N/V	N/V
14	Penn Future	Bryan Collins (P)		
	Penn Future	Christine Knapp (A)		
15	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Amanda Benner (P)		
	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Tammy Leigh DeMent (A)		
16	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Patrick Starr (P)		
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Jessica Anderson (A)		
17	South St. Head House Business District	Dave Hammond (P)		

(* 9 voting Board members required for a meeting quorum)

Friends and Guests of CDAG Present:

Rene Goodwin, Chair, Communications Committee
 Phil Stoltzfus, Olde Richmond Civic Association
 Stephanie Kint, SCRUB
 Bridget Keegan, PennPraxis

Kellie Patrick-Gates, PlanPhilly
 Juliet Whelan
 Ed Kurland