

December CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2011

Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) – December 8, 2011

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

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of CDAG Board meeting of November 10th, 2011, approved.

II. Delaware River Waterfront Corporation Update – Sarah Thorp

Master Plan

The Master Plan (300+ pages) has now been sent out to be printed and each CDAG Board organization will receive a copy of the finalized, printed document. The Master Plan Executive Summary is being edited down from its previous size (100+ pages) and reformatted to be more public-friendly. The Executive Summary is expected to be printed in January and CDAG Board organizations will be receiving a copy of the finalized, printed document.

The Central Delaware Riverfront Master Plan is “penciled in” to be on the Planning Commission agenda for January 17th. The final PCPC agenda will be set close to the 17th.

Riverfront Zoning Overlay

DRWC is working with Eva Gladstein on the draft outline of the Riverfront Zoning Overlay. The first draft is anticipated in early January and will be shared with CDAG. In the next six months DRWC is hoping to complete a draft of a proposed re-mapping plan for the Central Delaware.

Traffic Study

The traffic study launched earlier this year is still underway. The collection of data has been completed, and the analysis of that data and developments of the consultant’s recommendations, is now underway. The traffic study is expected to be complete in February of 2012. One of the first steps to be executed in response to traffic plan will likely be a re-timing of the traffic lights of the corridor.

At the conclusion of Sarah’s report on this topic, a couple of our Board members offered comments on a few specific signage conditions that are inaccurate and confusing.

Central Delaware Recreational Trail Guidelines

DRWC has commissioned RBA, a New York consulting firm, to develop and document engineering and design standards for about four miles of the southern section(s) of the riverfront and roadside recreational trail. RBA has a history of developing trails in urban setting conditions as diverse as are typical in the area of the Central Delaware. Preliminary public meetings are anticipated in January or February of 2012.

Our members asked if signage standards are included in the trail standards. Sarah responded that signage was not included, but the need for a comprehensive signage program for the Central Delaware has been acknowledged by DRWC.

Race Street Connector – Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Race Street Connector (north side of Race Street) is now under design via a grant through the Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Utilities, also a grant from the State, all of which will go toward

construction. Funds from the William Penn Foundation are being used for the costs of the project design. Construction is anticipated to begin in late summer or fall of 2012.

Columbia Avenue Connector

DRWC is working closely with NKCDC, and a steering committee of local residents and other stakeholders, on design solutions to be incorporated in the Columbia Avenue Connector, that will be incorporated in the work of the I-95 reconstruction project. PennDOT will be executing the build-out of this connector. The scope of work has been extended to include upgrade plans for both Marlboro and Shackamaxon Streets to improve the basic design of both connector streets.

Penn Street Trail

DRWC has secured a DVRPC grant to build out a connecting segment of the trail starting at Spring Garden Street at the south, and ending close to the south end of the trail segment along the edge of the SugarHouse site. SugarHouse has agreed to complete the connection by building a small segment the trail at the south edge of its site. The consulting firm working on the overall trail design guidelines, RBA, will be working closely with DRWC on this segment of the trail, which provides an excellent opportunity RBA to test ideas under development. This project will begin in May or June of 2012 and will take place entirely on the City-owned right-of-way.

Opportunities at the Wall Mart Site

Due to the Wall Mart Store expansion project under way, and the opportunities that project affords, DRWC is negotiating with the Wall Mart Foundation to make improvements to the area behind the store and create an easement to facilitate pedestrian access to the trail at that point.

One of our Board members asked about the future of Tasker Street, east of Delaware Avenue, and if there are any near-term plans for improvement. Sarah responded that Tasker Street will not be struck as a public street, and the DRWC may soon be focusing on that connector.

Spring Garden Connector

Spring Garden is the next connector street project, following Columbia. Sarah expressed that there is great deal of interest in this connector and an opportunity to pool may different resources and stakeholders (PEC, William Penn Foundation, PHS, NLNA) to make a significant difference at Spring Garden Street. DRWC will serve as project coordinator/manager.

III. Committee Reports

1. Communication & Outreach – Rene Goodwin

Rene recounted her original connection with the Central Delaware *Advisory* Group, and her original assignment to find an appropriate venue for the public event at which Mayor Nutter was expected to embraced the Civic Vision and Action Plan for the Central Delaware. That event took place at the Seaport Museum, as arranged by Rene. Rene recounted other accomplishments including the overseeing development of the CDAG logo and brand, website, stationary, brochure, business cards, and good relations with the press.

Rene then resigned as Chair of the CDAG Communications Committee, but expressed interest in continuing with some select responsibilities associated with CDAG communications, and offered her advice, experience, and expertise to the Board and whomever might take over the responsibilities of the position.

Rene then suggested that the Board should annually acknowledge the volunteer efforts of those who give their time to CDAG's work, but are not Board members.

The Board thanked Rene for her past service.

2. Membership Attendance Report – Joe Schiavo

One CDAG constituent organization, Penn Future, required notice of a second missed meeting. Byran Collins is no longer with Penn Future. Penn Future has confirmed its interest in CDAG and its activities, and will once again participate in CDAG Board meetings as soon as the Penn Future outreach position is filled.

Rob Kettell was introduced as the new alternate representing the Old City Civic Association.

Jeff Wiesner and Alan from Dickinson Narrows Civic Association were in attendance, due to the outreach efforts of Mary Stumpf. Dickinson Narrows may soon, once again, become a voting member of CDAG.

3. Membership Committee – Laura Lanza

The membership committee did outreach at CDAG sponsored event (Nov 15, "Before and Below I95") and held several small work meetings.

New Business

Before and Below I-95, Nov 15, 2011 report:

CDAG was the lead sponsor of the 2nd "Before and Below I95" event, this time at Kensington High School of the Creative and Performing Arts, the other three sponsors were PennDot, URS and New Kensington CDC. Event partners had info tables, volunteers, financial or in-kind donations, including: DRWC, ORCA, FACT, Penn Treaty Museum, Friends of Penn Treaty Park, West Ship Yard Preservation Trust, Philadelphia Archeological Forum, Drexel University, author Harry Kyriakodis, Stock's Bakery, Aramingo ShopRite, Hinge Café, JustBorn and La Colombe.

Attendance was estimated as 300. CDAG can email many of these contacts to see if they'd like to join us as new public members. At the CDAG table several new 'Friends of the Central Delaware Riverfront' registered and three offered to volunteer.

An important task ahead for the committee (and CDAG board) will be how we connect to and utilize prospective and new CDAG general members and volunteers in 2012.

Community engagement was a focus with this year's event, hence before the exhibit, the lead archeologist worked with a social studies teacher in a special class room lecture. Many students attended the event to earn credits. Also, we began recording riverward resident's memories at this event. (The idea of this digital archiving of stories comes out of the first grant CDAG applied for with Glen Muschio, Drexel professor. The recordings are occurring parallel to a PEW grant - that CDAG is a partner in – with NKCDC being the receiving partner. It passed the 2nd stage of application, due in February 2012.)

URS and PennDot were thrilled with the outcome and suggested we organize another Before/Below I-95 event in spring 2012. This next event could build on the partnerships with riverfront historical and archeological groups, get public support to advocate for a permanent space for the exhibition (PECO building – as in the master plan) and promote more recording of residents' memories for the digital archive. I hope CDAG commits to be the lead sponsor as we have an opportunity to use this major service and vehicle for promotion of our mission and organization.

CDAG contributed approximately \$300 towards the event hospitality, the space, equipment rental and misc. expenses exceeded \$1000, paid by the other sponsors. The value of the donated in-kind services are considerable – such as the professional recording services of the Drexel University Media, who were able to capture 10+ digital interviews of riverward residents on behalf of CDAG and its partners. The table partners contributed donations of \$85 to go towards supporting the next event.

Special recognition goes to Sandy Salzman & Tom Potts of NKCDC, a CDAG board member organization, for taking a lead on this project. Thanks to Marsha Bacal, Steve Weixler, Mary Stumpf and Phil Stolfitz for volunteering at the CDAG table. Thanks also to John Scorsone and Tom Potts for their work in getting the place set up and broken down; and to Rene Goodwin for her publicizing efforts. We had several CDAG folks in the audience, including Jim Moss and wife, Marsha (who was quoted in one of the Spirit Newspaper articles - event coverage spanned 3 weeks). The event was announced in KYW and NPR radio and other media. Thank you letters are being prepared to go to our in-kind event partners and the school.

New Volunteers and New Focus for Membership Committee

Thank you to ORCA's reps Phillip Stoltzfus and Travis Hammer and Juliet Whelan, QVNA member, for volunteering to help move the Membership outreach forward in 2012. Phil and I met briefly to discuss email welcome to the new Friends of CDAG in January, and how to start putting the 250+ names into an excel spreadsheet for contact and outreach.

We will hold a Membership Committee meeting in January (tentatively second week – M, T, or W 1/9-11 in the pm). New volunteers are welcome and needed to support CDAG's advocacy work through membership. Call Laura at 215-990-3196 if interested.

The 2012 focus will be wrapping up the old To-Do list, and emphasize effective outreach. Aside from implementing the long awaited initial welcome to sign up contacts and a monthly email to Friends of CDAG, a key task for our committee will be to create a Membership web page. This page may be on or seamlessly linked to the CDAG website so interested people and orgs sign up online and the public can access information. The committee will also work for the board and with the executive committee on developing a do-able annual member meeting per the proposed draft bylaws, possibly in conjunction with a CDAG event such as Progress Report 2012.

Old business

CDAG Board Members Contact Form

At the risk of sounding like a broken record - according to my records, only the following board member organizations have submitted a complete contact form: Old Swedes, Society Hill Towers, PROPAC, SHCA, OCCA. I am sending out a digital word file (look for it tomorrow) and prefer to have you fill it out and email it back. However, at the Board meeting, we will provide hard copies to fill out. Please send the form in by December 17. Thank you.

Please mail to: Laura Lanza, 2505 East Lehigh Ave., Phila., PA 19125, or email: lanza.cdag@gmail.com

Bylaws

The Membership Committee will request a vote to update the bylaws for the Public (Friends of) Membership and the Advisory Committee categories at January 2012 meeting. Proposed amendments will be circulated in advance of the January meeting.

CDAG Advisory Committee Update

The board approved a list of Invitees to the Advisory Committee* back in July. A mailing went out and so far, just 2 invitees have responded (Urban Land Institute and Center City Business District). Other than the Committee Chair call them and thank them for their interest, there has been no other meaningful contact and we need to do something. Back in July 2012, Harris Steinberg confirmed that Penn Praxis is happy to accept CDAG's request to chair the Advisory Committee, however the CDAG Membership Committee has not had the manpower to get this important effort followed up. Penn Praxis is ready to help but CDAG must take the lead.

Potentially, the Advisory Committee members can be essential allies in our advocacy strategy in 2012 and beyond. Hence last week, the Committee Chair requested the Executive Committee's help to take a more active role, as it involves connecting with higher level contacts. We will need a CDAG representative to help take a lead on this – specifically calling and following up with the invitees, and so on. Are any experienced CDAG board members interested?

A small matter of housekeeping: The contact information of the approved list of invitees to the Advisory Committee (below) was developed by committee member, Patrick Starr, PEC. A request will be made that this information be sent to the CDAG Secretary for our CDAG records.

* FYI List of approved Invitees for the Advisory Committee:

Penn Praxis , Advisory Committee Chair

American Institute of Architects

Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

Building Industry Association

Center City District (**responded**)

(- a comment that several committee members agree with: "if CCD is to be invited, it may be necessary to invite all other special service districts that touch the riverfront or are directly adjacent to it.")

Design Advocacy Group

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

GreenSpace Alliance

Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay

PenTrans

Philadelphia Parks Alliance

Philadelphia Urban Food and Fitness Alliance (PUFFA)

Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Schuylkill River Park Alliance

Seaport Museum

Urban Land Institute (**responded**)

Sandy Saltzman asked the Board to acknowledge the tremendous effort made by Laura Lanza in putting together the successful **Before and Below I-95** event.

4. 2011 Progress Report – Joe Schiavo

The 2011 Progress Report is printed and ready for distribution. Copies of the Report were circulated at the meeting table. The next step is generating the mailing list, printing cover letters and mailing envelopes, and mailing the Progress report to all the appropriate offices, agencies and stakeholders.

A special thanks to Bridget Keegan for formatting the Report, Matt Ruben for editing, and Rene Goodwin and Susan McAninley for managing the printing of the Report.

Steve Weixler asked that the 2011 Progress Report remain confidential until Steve has had the opportunity to review the report with the DRWC and other key policymakers. After such meetings take place, the Report will be released for public dissemination.

IV. Billboard Legislation - Tom Potts

Tom recounted recent legislation (Bill 100552), sponsored by Councilman DiCicco, that allowed the reestablishment of billboard structures that have, or will be, displaced by the I-95 expansion/reconstruction project. The legislation grandfathers all the displaced billboards and allows those structures to be relocated in close proximity to residential structures, regardless of prevailing regulations governing such uses.

The Board was asked to consider taking a position against the legislation, and ask that all billboards, within the area of concern, be subject to the prevailing and applicable zoning regulations.

However, it remained unclear if the Bill 100552 has already passed City Council and has been signed by the Mayor. If so, there may be no opportunity or prospects for a successful action by CDAG. Also unclear was the substantive difference between Bill 100552, and Bill 100678 which has passed City Council and was signed by the Mayor on July 19th of this year. Bill 100678 appears to address the same subject in the same subject area.

Tom offered to email the Bill (Bill 100552) in question to all CDAG Board members. Mary Stumpf offered to research information on recent and current billboard Bills affecting the subject area.

V. 2012 CDAG Officer / Executive Committee Elections – Jim Moss

The slate of CDAG Officers presented by Jim Moss, who managed the nomination process and posted the results to the Board in advance of our December Board meeting, included only one candidate for each of the five CDAG Officer positions:

Chair, Matt Ruben
Vice Chair, Laura Lanza
Vice Chair, Joe Schiavo
Secretary, Richard Wolk
Treasurer, Rene Goodwin

Jim asked the Board for a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers. The motion was made and seconded. After an offer of discussion, the vote was called, and passed.

Thanks to Jim Moss, again this year, for managing the CDAG Officer election process.

The Board thanked Steve Weixler, outgoing Chair, for his service over the past three years.

VI. Old Business

1. Review of the SugarHouse Phase 2 Expansion Response by CDAG – Steve Weixler

Steve confirmed to the Board that CDAG had drafted a position letter, addressed the Planning Commission, articulating the Board's position on the various aspects of the proposed Phase 2 expansion of the SugarHouse facility. Our letter, drafted by Matt Karp, with edits by the CDAG Executive Committee, was sent to the Commission on November 13th and distributed

Following is the text of our letter sent to the Planning Commission:

November 13, 2011

Via Email

Mr. Alan Greenberger, Chairman
Philadelphia City Planning Commission
One Parkway, 13th Floor, 1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Re: City Council Bills No 110718/110719/Sugarhouse Casino Phase II Expansion

Dear Planning Commission:

The Central Delaware Advocacy Group would like to advise the Philadelphia City Planning Commission it is opposed to:

Bill No. 110719: "To amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by the southeasterly side of North Delaware Avenue, the centerline of former Shackamaxon Street, the Pierhead Line of the Delaware River and a line approximately parallel to the centerline of former Shackamaxon Street being a property line located on the southeasterly side of north Delaware Avenue approximately 260 feet north east of the southwesterly side of former Shackamaxon Street and extending from that point to the Pierhead Line of the Delaware River."

CDAG believes that this city council bill and the proposed expansion of the Sugarhouse Casino are contrary to the public good and the intention of the Civic Vision for the Central Delaware. We feel it is a dangerous precedent and misses an opportunity to influence and change the design to be consistent with the goals of the Central Delaware Waterfront Master Plan. Our specific issues of concern are:

Building Massing/Program Arrangement

The current proposals do not disperse the building program across Philadelphia city scale parcels or allow for through traffic within the site. The large structured parking garage and sea of surface parking create a single use of parking that dominates the site.

There is no active street frontage with ground floor retail and commercial uses to enliven Delaware Avenue. The secondary uses of the site currently cannot be accessed without passing through the primary use. Also, the addition of the garage does not appear to reduce the amount of surface parking on the site.

Reconnect the city to the river’s edge

The massing of the proposed designs creates a very large structure along the river, this eliminates the possibility of allowing view corridors through the site to the river and breaking up the mass. The view corridor to the river from Shackamaxon Street is completely blocked by a 95’ tall parking structure.

Honor the river

Locating a loading dock along the waterfront limits the potential for further uses along the river to activate the waterfront and trail.

The large parking garage at the river’s edge is not a use that takes advantage of the views out over the river. Further, the ground floor of the garage structure is not animated with retail/commercial uses that would enhance the pedestrian experience while circumnavigating the parking structure via the trail.

Design with nature

The proposals make no note of storm water management or treatment on site. There are no obvious designated areas for regenerating the sites natural ecology and re-naturalizing the river’s edge.

The spirit of Philadelphia’s Master Plan for the Central Delaware Waterfront is to create a world-class waterfront that will attract Philadelphians and visitors from around the world for future generations, and the Central Delaware Advocacy Group takes the Plan very seriously.

Currently CDAG believes this project does not have acceptable conformance with the Civic Vision for the Central Delaware and is a missed opportunity.

We are asking the Planning Commission to vote against this plan, in its current form, and recognize the scale does not fit in with the Civic Vision and sets a serious precedent for development along the river.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group

VII. New Business

1. Certificate of Acknowledgement – Rene Goodwin

Rene followed up on her earlier suggestion that the Board should annually acknowledge and reward the volunteer efforts of those who gave their time and did exemplary work in support of CDAG’s mission, but are not Board members.

The Board confirmed, by consensus, its support of Rene’s suggestion. Rene asked that the Board recommend potential recipients for such acknowledgement, and that those recommendations be channeled through Rene, to be considered by the Executive Committee.

2. Discussion of CDAG Board Finances - Tom Otto

Tom pointed out the fragility of our on-going financial position, noting that he noticed the unchanging balance of our bank account. Tom urged that CDAG more aggressively pursue grants and consider the possibility of CDAG’s constituent organizations making modest annual contributions to CDAG’s operating account. Other Board members voiced support of this notion.

As this discussion progressed, it was recognized that further of CDAG’s financial strategy was an excellent topic for a future Board retreat.

Closing and Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn. Adjourned: 9:25 AM

Next regularly-scheduled CDAG Board meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012, 6:00 PM, at Coral Street Arts House, hosted by NKCDC

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	Delaware River City Corp.	Tom Branigan (P)	N/V	N/V
N/V	Dickinson Narrows Civic Assoc.	Jeff Wiesner (P)	X	N/V
N/V	Dickinson Narrows Civic Assoc.	Alan Sabel (A)	X	N/V
1	Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Micah Hanson (P)		
	Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Matt Karp (A)		
N/V	Franklin Bridge Neighbors North	----- (P)	N/V	N/V
2	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Mary Stumpf (P)	X	1
	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Dianne Mayer (A)		
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)	X	3
	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Ira Upin		
5	Old City Civic Association	Joe Schiavo (P)	X	4
	Old City Civic Association	Rob Kettell (A)	X	-
6	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Honey Pertnoy (P)	X	5
	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Bob Clark (A)		

7	Olde Richmond Homeowners Association	Phil Stolfus (P)	X	6
	Olde Richmond Homeowners Association	Travis Hanmer (A)		
8	Pennsport Civic Association	Tom Otto (P)	X	7
	Pennsport Civic Association	Jim Moylan		
9	Penn Future	----- (P)		
	Penn Future	Christine Knapp (A)		
10	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Patrick Starr (P)		
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Chuck Knolls (A)		
11	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Amanda Benner (P)		
	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Jennifer Mahar (A)	X	8
12	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Laura Lanza (P)	X	9
	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Jeremy LeCompte (A)		
13	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Jeff Rush (P)		
	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Richard Wolk (A)	X	10
14	River's Edge Community Association	John Scorsone (P)		
	River's Edge Community Association	Rich Stange (A)		
15	Society Hill Civic Association	Steven Weixler (P)	X	11
	Society Hill Civic Association	----- (A)		
16	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Marsha Bacal (P)	X	12
	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Jim Moss (A)	X	-
17	South St. Head House Business District	Krystal Souvanlasy(P)		
	South St. Head House Business District	Joette Adams		
18	Whitman Council	Rich Lazar (P)	X	13
	Whitman Council	Mark Kapzcynski (A)		

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

Friends and Guests of CDAG Present:

Rene Goodwin, Chair, Communications Committee
 Jeff Wiesner, Dickinson Narrows
 Jeff Hornstein, QVNA, President
 Sarah Thorp, DRWC

Kellie Patrick Gates, PlanPhilly
 Alan Sabel, Dickinson Narrows
 Kirsten Kinzer