

January CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2012

**Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) – January 12, 2012
Coral Street Arts House, 6:00 PM – Recorded Attendance Attached**

I. Welcome and Introductions

–The Chair opened the meeting by recognizing the presence of our new 1st District City Councilman, Mark Squilla, who will soon be addressing the Board. A thank-you was given to outgoing Chair, Steve Weixler, recognizing his years of incredibly important leadership of CDAG. Followed by the introduction of the new Executive Committee Board and all Board members and guests and their affiliation.

II. Chairman's Report – Matt Ruben

The Chair's report will include Legislative, Planning Commission, City Council, PennDoT, DRWC and other agency reports relative to CDAG's involvement.

The Columbia Ave. Connector is in design phase and the design should be complete in March. Construction should start in the fall. Pier 9 designed as an event space will, first stage, be an open space, then fitted out. Estimated cost 1 Million dollars. It will be rented out but, free of charge to civic groups. There will be a future public meeting on the Penn Street section of the trail. Work to start on the Spring Garden Street connector in March.

Planning Commission will take up the Master Plan at their meeting in February. Question as to whether the overlay will be in effect once the Master Plan is approved

III. Approval of the Minutes.

Minutes of CDAG Board meeting of December 12, 2011, approved

IV. Opening remarks/Q & A with Councilman Mark Squilla

Councilman: Planning Commission is a formality as to the Master Plan. Would replace overlay. Meeting with Tom Corcoran on how to get the 5 private land owners/developers to buy into the Master Plan and zoning overlay. He believes in incentives to get developers to agree. DRWC

doesn't want to prolong Master Plan because of the overlay. Questions emerged as to how overlay will affect development. May have legal issues. He is a big advocate of the 7 mile trail. Would like to propose a seat for CDAG on the DRWC board.

Q: Doesn't Council have final approval of Master Plan and if so doesn't overlay remain in effect until Council approves M.P.? And if so can't Council pass a bill for the overlay to remain in effect until there is a final overlay?

A: Yes we do. If no one challenges it we can do that. _____

Q: Ordinance 1638 states Overlay will remain in effect until the time council passes the Master plan. Therefore can't Council pass an amendment to 14-1638?

A: If there is no objection it can be done.

Q: Do you believe in spot zoning?

A: I would look at that. It depends on whether a specific project is a benefit to the community. To say "never" is a mistake. However only total agreement by Council, community and developer will do it.

Q: The connector streets are of the utmost importance. You would think laying utility lines to the site under city-platted streets would be an incentive to the developer; isn't that so?

A: I agree that incentives are the way to go.

V. Committee Reports.

1. Communication & Outreach -- Dianne Mayer

Dianne just assumed the committee chair this week. Her main focus going forward will be outreach. Thanks to Rene for all the work she has done in establishing this committee.

2. Treasurer's Report -- Rene Goodwin

Year end report submitted by Dave Hammond, 2011 Treasurer

January 1 – December 31, 2011

Opening Balance 1/1/2011			\$ 633.38
Deposit: PA Treasury			5,000.00
Checks paid out:			
#97 Soc Mrktg Serv.	2/24	\$	65.00
#98 Mont/McCracken	2/24		2009.09
#99 P.O.Box Rental	7/14		102.00
#100 Phila Ins Co	9/15		1006.00
#1001 I-95 Artifact Mtg	11/14	\$	400.00
#1002 Vista Print flyers	12/28	\$	342.15
#1003 Fireball Printers	12/28	\$	191.75
			4,115.99
Closing Balance 12/31/2011			\$1517.39

Update from Rene: Due to a generous gift of \$1000.00 from Society Hill the present balance is: **\$2531.39**. We need to ask our civics for donations.

3. Membership Committee -- Laura Lanza

The following is an outline of the Membership Committee's focus for the next quarter.

Finalizing membership outreach/ email announcement system.

Action: Philip Stoltzfus and Traver Hammer of ORCA volunteered. Phil prepared excel list and greeting for the general membership email that will be discussed by committee prior to implementation. ETA Feb. 2012. We will be working with the communications committee to iron out this system and have a monthly email with key dates and a reminder of that month's Board meeting.

* Goal: email to invite Friend's group. Who: People who applied for new general membership and have signed up at events, expressed interest in riverfront development and/or CDAG, will be invited to become general members. The committee identified that contact information ought to be captured in a format that can be utilized for membership outreach as well as other organizational purposes such as mapping, fundraising, etc.

CDAG Advisory Committee Update

Patrick Starr of PEC and original CDAG Membership Committee has agreed to take the lead on

the Advisory Committee. Harris Steinberg, of Penn Praxis, accepted to chair the committee as the senior advisory organization, so Penn Praxis is ready to help these invitees to the advisory committee, but we must take the lead. Hence, Patrick is working with Harris in cooperation with the CDAG Executive Committee, following up with the invitees, who are higher level contacts and potential allies for the CDAG mission. He also will share the contact info of these invitees with the Executive Committee to be maintained by the Secretary.

We will aim to have an update report in February about the next steps to get this important membership category activated.

*FYI- 2 invitees, Urban Land Institute and Center City Business District accepted. The entire list is at the end of this report.

Outreach and Events

The committee expects to work with the entire Board on future outreach activities in 2012, to inform and recruit new members and the public at large about CDAG's mission. These may include CDAG road shows, the next I-95 event, riverside events, etc. The PEW grant application process, which CDAG is one of 4 partners is moving ahead and if selected, CDAG will have additional resources to enhance our outreach capacity. The status of this project will be reported at our February Board meeting, since we will meet with PEW before.

Membership Webpage

A key component of the Membership Committee's 2012 work will be developing the membership page on CDAG's Word press site. This will be coordinated with Margaret Kalalian and others.

Bylaw

The Membership Committee expects to present bylaw updates for the Public (Friends of) Membership and the Advisory Committee categories at the Feb. 2012 meeting. Proposed amendments will be circulated in advance.

CDAG Board Members Contact Form

Thanks to those who responded to the request for completed contact forms. A summary of this information is in the process of being compiled to be shared with the entire Board. Those who have not yet completed this information will be contacted.

Date and time for next committee meeting is in process.

Addendum:

List of approved invitees for the advisory Committee;
Penn Praxis, Committee Chair

American Institute of architects
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Building Industry Association
Center City District
(If CCD is invited it may be necessary to invite all other special service districts that touch or are adjacent to the river)
Center City Business District *
Design Advocacy Group
Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
GreenSpace Alliance
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
PennTrans
Philadelphia Parks Alliance
Philadelphia Urban Food and Fitness Alliance (PUFFA)
Schuylkill River Development Corporation
Schuylkill River Park Alliance
Seaport Museum
Urban Land Institute *
* accepted invitation

VI. Old Business

1. Richmond Street Entertainment Venue

The venue was legalized by ordinance. At the public meeting with the developer attended by local civic association members, Steve –attended as an interested party for CDAG. He stayed away from community issues and used his own judgment because CDAG hadn't discussed the issue. Only spoke to principals of CDAG's mission.

CDAG does not want to see planning and development by ordinance.

2. Action Plans

Several boxes of the Action Plan booklets were turned over to the Communications Chair for CDAG's use at future events.

VII. New Business

1. Councilman Squilla

We will send him a task list as he requested and use it as a bench-mark. Future meetings with other officials such as Council President Darrell Clark and the Chair of ZBA will take place when appropriate.

2. City Council/Mayor Nutter

Council meets on January 26,2012. CDAG will write open letters to Council and the Mayor. In essence we are against spot zoning which could allow destruction of the master Plan through “death by 1000 cuts“. We will include action plans and our progress report.

3. CDAG Broad Meeting Minutes

CDAG Board meetings are open to the public so we should make our meeting minutes public. We will set up a system and then start the process to post CDAG Board meeting minutes to the CDAG website-

4. Delaware River Ambassadors

Delaware River Ambassadors are leaders who will help inform people about the Delaware river. They would help/plan at least 3 trips. Tours, events along the River. If you are interested or wish to learn more go to www.pecpa.org/ambassador . You can also get their flyer to pass on to your civic group.

Meeting called for adjournment at 7:30 PM

Next regularly scheduled CDAG Board meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2012, 8:00 AM, NLNA Community Room

CDAG Board Member Organizations Roll Call:

	CDAG Board Member Organizations (N/V = non-voting Board Members)	Representatives Primary & Alternate	Pre sen ttt	Quorum Count

			(X)	
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/Samanth Malamed (A)	X	1
N / V	Franklin Bridge Neighbors North	----- (P)	N/V	N/V
2	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Mary Stumpf (P)	X	2
	Neighbors Allied Best Waterfront	Dianne Mayer (A)	X	
3	New Kensington Development Corp.	Sandy Saltzman (P)	X	3
	New Kensington Development Corp.	Tom Potts (A)		-
4	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Matt Ruben (P)	X	4
	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Ira Upin		
5	Old City Civic Association	Joe Schiavo (P)	X	5
	Old City Civic Association	Rob Kettell (A)		-
6	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Honey Pertnoy (P)	X	6
	Court At Old Swedes Homeowners Assoc.	Bob Clark (A)	X	-
7	Olde Richmond Homeowners Association	Phil Stolfus (P)	X	7

	Olde Richmond Homeowners Association	Travis Hanmer (A)		
8	Pennsport Civic Association	Tom Otto (P)		
	Pennsport Civic Association	Jim Moylan	X	8
9	Penn Future	----- (P)		
	Penn Future	Christine Knapp (A)		
10	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Patrick Starr (P)	X	9
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Chuck Knolls (A)		
11	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Jennifer Mahar (P)	X	10
	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Tammy DeMent (A)		
12	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Laura Lanza (P)	X	11
	Port Richmond On Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Jeremy LeCompte (A)		
13	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Richard Wolk (P)	X	12
	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Jeff Hornstein (A)	X	-
14	River's Edge Community Association	John Scorsone (P)	X	13
	River's Edge Community Association	Rich Stange (A)		
15	Society Hill Civic Association	Steven Weixler (P)	X	14
	Society Hill Civic Association	----- (A)		-
16	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Marsha Bacal (P)	X	15
	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		
	Whitman Council	Rich Lazar (P)	X	16
	Whitman Council	Mark Kapzcynski (A)		

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

Friends and Guests of CDAG Present:

Rene Goodwin, CDAG Treasurer
 Marsha Moss
 Bridget Keegan, Penn Praxis
 Jeff Rush, ZBA
 Ed Kirlin
 Kelly Patrick Gates, Plan Philly
 Mark Squilla, City Councilman