

## CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2013

Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) – Dec. 12, 2013  
NLNA at 8:00 AM - Recorded Attendance Attached

### I. Approval of the Minutes

Nov. 14, 2013 minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

### II. Committee Reports

#### 1. Treasurer's Report - Rene Goodwin

Right now we have \$1094 in our account and with the check from SolareAmerica the account balance going forward is \$1394. .

#### 2. Secretary's Report - Richard Wolk

.Nothing to report as secretary but I will report later about our fund raiser.

### III. Council Legislation changing the N. Delaware Waterfront Overlay - Matt Ruben

The bill that Councilman Squilla originally introduced would not touch the Central Delaware Overlay but would have repealed a large part of the North Delaware Overlay which overlaps the Central Delaware from Spring Garden St up to Lehigh. It would also have repealed Delaware River waterfront parking restrictions north and south of the Overlay. CDAG raised concerns about this and L& I also raised concerns as did elements of the affected communities.

My understanding of the bill now passed eliminates repeal of the riverfront wide parking restrictions. Repeal of the north Delaware area controls now have shrunk to an area bounded by Delaware Avenue to Front St. and from Poplar St. to just north of the Core Realty project across from the Sugar House casino. The Councilman was quoted in the press as saying the motivation for the bill was to prevent the Core Realty project from being delayed or scuttled by the small number of citizens who have appealed the zoning variance. The area that is now proposed to be repealed is now almost the same area as the Core Realty project.

Previously CDAG has sent a letter saying it's not the best policy idea to change zoning by legislation while there was an on going appeal process. This issue was not addressed.

The Councilman has suggested that if a community had come out against this project he would have not taken this action.

#### **IV... Car Dealership Proposal for Fairmount & Delaware - Matt Ruben**

This proposal would be on the west side of Delaware Avenue. along side Fairmount Avenue. This is not the bus terminal property but a much smaller property. We have heard before that De Simone was interested in it as a Cadillac dealership and purchased the building for a showroom. Although car dealerships are included along the central Delaware it is not permitted to include vehicle storage. Planning Commission felt a "showroom" dealership would be allowed. I spoke to Councilman Squillia about it and asked if he has seen any plans. He said he saw a plan that had a showroom in front but a bay car storage area in the back and he was not happy about that. He also said the building is owned by the CDIC, a city entity.

Nothing will occur until they meet with the Planning Commission and us and that will not happen until sometime early next year. The bottom line is it's a city building and the Councilman doesn't like the idea.

CDAG would be interested in having Mr. De Simone share his plans with us at a feature meeting.

#### **V. Update: City Council Signage Legislation - Matt Ruben**

Right now there are two main thrusts. One coming from Councilman Reynolds Brown to raise revenue by allowing non accessory advertising signage on public school property. The other one co-sponsored primarily by Councilman Henon is that it will legalize existing billboards and it would freeze the number of billboards but allowing other signage, that some of us would not consider it to be billboards, to increase in size and to height. These two pieces of legislation have not yet past through committee. CDAG needs to have a position on this. The main issues are: what does CDAG think about legalizing existing billboards. What do we think about raising the height of these billboards, creating new ones and by right the conversion of billboards to digital.

We need to assess the impact it would have on the Delaware River. Secondly, the number of billboards that are already there and where they are located. Thirty per cent of the billboards are along I-95 and the increasing of their height has to do with the make over of the roadway. There also is the question of legal vs. illegal signs that exist. In the past that never seemed to matter. Regardless the legislation will make whatever they replace to be legal.

CDAG would be against by right conversion to digital with no hearing or oversight. The main question for CDAG is probably the legalization of new billboards. Quite simply any billboards taken down should not then be put back up. We acknowledge that any billboards that were legal before the work on I-95 began should be put back up. The other issue is, after widening of the roadway and you then put a billboard back up what if it now infringes on other uses. The

legislation states the billboard can be placed within 200 feet of its original location in any direction.

CDAG feels that any illegal billboard, before being legalized should have a hearing before L&I. Those that are legal should be resurrected when the highway is completed. Public safety should also be a condition of the placement of digital billboards along the roadway.

#### **VI. CDAG Board Elections - Jim Moss**

Postponed until our January meeting due to a lack of quorum.

#### **VII. Old Business - 787 Swenson St Update -Richard Wolk**

I attended the Civic Design Review meeting as the issue based RCO from CDAG. Mike Hauptman attended representing Queen Village; the RCO. The developer had been faced with opposition at a Queen Village zoning committee meeting prior to the CDR meeting. We had asked the developer to come back to us with changes that would placate those that raised issues. The movement of cars in and out of the development was the number one issue. The opponents didn't want the development to use Swanson St. The parking was the issue. The end result was they had showed the CDR their changes to meet the objections that were made including adding 5000 sq.ft. of public space with a trail, and other amenities. The CDR approved the design and they didn't need to come back...

Queen Village Zoning committee will hold another public meeting on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> and then applicant has a date with the Planning Commission on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CDAG Fund Raiser- Richard Wolk/Rene Goodwin**

As chair of our CDAG raiser I would like to bring you up to date on our activities. Rene and I came together to discuss this event, essentially her musical performance of "An Evening aboard the Titanic." Rene convinced me this could be an opportunity, not only to raise money but to publicly increase the awareness of CDAG's accomplishments, build relationships with city officials and get good press acknowledgement, Further enhancing the evening by using it as our 1st Annual Meeting of CDAG and friends of CDAG proceeding the performance. We will solicit neighborhood restaurants and businesses to provide discounts to be used to sell raffle tickets. The highlight will be the honoring of an individual of importance to CDAG as our "Person of the Year."

Tasks were outlined and will be delegated as needed. We are close to having a venue at minimal cost. I'm sure we will be asking for volunteers at some point. If careful planning is done, a good time will be had by all and the event will be memorable.

**VIII. New Business- Matt Ruben**

Next month I would like to discuss the possibility of having a CDAG retreat. CDAG's mission is changing and I feel we should get together to discuss these issues.

**Meeting recessed at 9:30 AM and will continue, with a quorum, to elect 2014 officers prior to the start of our January meeting**

**Next regularly scheduled CDAG Board meeting is Jan. 9, 2014 at the Society Hill Community Room at 6:00 PM**

**CDAG Board Member Attendance Record - Dec.12, 2013**

CDAG Board Member Organizations (N/V = non-voting Board Members)	Representatives Primary & Alternate	Present (X)	Quorum Count
Abbotts Square Homeowners Assoc.	Sean Sullivan (P)	X	NV
N / V Delaware River City Corp.	Tom Branigan (P)		NV N/V
1 Dickinson Square West.	Alan Sable (P)	X	1
Dickinson Square West	Ted Savage (1A)		
Dickenson Square West	Jane Winkel (2A)		
2 Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Matt Karp (P) HHHHHHHHH Hanson Hanson (P)		
Fishtown Neighbors Assoc	David Quadrini (1A)		
Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Tim Potens (2A)		
N / V Franklin Bridge Neighbors Assoc.	Gary Vernick (P)		N/V
Franklin Bridge Neighbors Assoc. aAAaaaAAssociatiom	Ricky Camitta (A)		N/V
3 Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Mary Stumpf (P)		
Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Dianne Mayer (1A)		

	Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Kathy De Angelis (2A)		
4	New Kensington Development Corp.	Sandy Salzman (P)		
	New Kensington Development Corp.	Carla Castillo (1A)		
	New Kensington Development Corp	Ariel Diliberto (2A)		
5	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Matt Ruben (P)	X Xx xX XX 5X	2
6	Old Swedes Court Homeowners Assoc.	Kathy Rush (P)		N/V
	Old Swedes Court Homeowners Assoc.	(A)		N/V
7 7 7	Olde Richmond Civic Association	Phil Stolztfus (P)		
	Olde Richmond Civic Association	Julio Nieves (A2)		
	Olde Richmond Civic Association	Tom Potts (A1)	X	3
8	Pennsport Civic Association	Tom Otto (P)		
	Pennsport Civic Association	Jim Moylan (A1) (A1)		
	Pennsport Civic Association	Rene Goodwin (A2)	X	5
	Penn Future	(P)	N V	NV
	Penn Future	Christine Knapp (A)	N V	NV
9 1 1 1 1 1	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Patrick Starr (P)		
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Samantha Driscoll (A1) (A)		
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Tony Spagnoli (A2)		
0	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Tammy Leigh DeMent (P) (P)		
	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Claire Baker (A)		
N 1	Port Richmond on Patrol & Civic Assoc.	Laura Lanza (P)	NV	



Whitman Council	Mark Kaczynski (A)		
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Joe Schiavo Vice Chair \*Ex- Officio voting member

(9 voting Board members required for a meeting quorum) 7 present

**Guests and friends of CDAG:**

Kellie Patrick Gates, PlanPhilly

