

CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2014

Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) Oct.9, 2014 at Society Hill Towers Community Room at 6:00 PM - Recorded Attendance Attached

I. Approval of the Minutes

The Sept 11, 2014 minutes were approved by acclamation.

II. Chairs Report - Matt Ruben

I have nothing to report other than what is on the agenda items that follows. So we will move on.

III. Committee Report

1. Treasurers Report - Jim Moss

Since the last meeting I have paid for the Directors' liability insurance and other liability insurance needed to cover our award event. Therefore we currently have \$1255.00 in our account. I have also received contributions from Pa. Environmental Council, NBNA, Society Hill Towers, Society Hill Civic Association, Olde Swedes Court, PHS

2. Secretary's Report - Richard Wolk

Thank you to those who contacted me to make corrections to the minutes and for the cooperation I got from all of you when I called around to find out whether or not you will be able to attend our event.

3. Outreach - Dianne Mayer

I wanted you all to know I made a presentation at Hopkinson House in September that was very well received.

IV. CDAG Waterfront Cleanup - Joe Schiavo

The waterfront cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 27th. went very well. I wish to thank our participating partner United By Blue a non-profit organization that cleans up water ways around the world. They helped us set up logistics. DRWC also was very helpful. They lent us various pieces of equipment and assigned two maintenance staff for the day. The Water Department supplied us with a skimmer boat We worked between pier 53 and pier 70. The Fire Department was there with an EMS unit. The biggest partner had to be Lew Blum who brought two of his tow trucks and they were so instrumental in getting the 160 shopping carts out of the river. At the end Lew bought everyone lunch. We had donations from

Shoprite, Superfresh and WaWa. Thank you Dianne for managing all that. All in all CDAG got good press from PlanPhilly. 6220 lbs of debris was collected from the river. We followed up with a meeting with Walmart Managers to do something to prevent their shopping carts from ending up in the river.

V. CDAG Award Ceremony Banquet - Matt Ruben

Next week at this time we will all be at our first CDAG Award Event. We will be giving out two awards. The first one is for someone who is in public service and has had a significant impact on the formation of the Civic Version for the Central Delaware. Also one to someone who is a citizen advocate who worked to see this concept move forward. Therefore the public service award is going to former Councilman Frank DeCicco who is the father of the plan for the Central Delaware and the advocate award is being given posthumously to Steve Weixler the first Chair of CDAG who worked to make us a responsible source as the advocates for the river communities. The event is scheduled for Oct. 16th Thursday evening between 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the ballroom of the Seaport Museum. We will have butlered hors d'oeuvres and beverages available. We have arranged for free on site parking. It should be a fun time for all.

VI. Remapping Parts of Central Delaware Overlay Area- Matt Karp

In Fishtown we have a lot of out of date zoning designations. Four years ago the process of zoning remapping was started. It involved a lot of surveying of what was there and then working with the Planning Commission to determine what should be there. Finished in September it is still open for public comments and therefore I wanted CDAG to have a chance to review the changes proposed. I will send out PDFs to all of you but in the meantime he showed us two charts one black lining all the changes made. A lot of changes on Frankford Avenue and some on Girard Avenue. You can also see that it changes some things on the water front. The Central Delaware Overlay does not apply to industrial areas. What we are trying to do is get all the industrial out of the neighborhoods and have them remain primarily residential. There are now several different CMX commercial designations relative to the heights of construction that would be in the new code. CMX3 is 5 stories and is consistent with what it is in the Central Delaware Master Plan. The Central Delaware Overlay as the stricter Overlay should be the deciding factor but this needs to be determined.

VII. Center City Zoning Bill Impacting the Central Delaware District: Discussion With Councilman Squilla

Councilman Squilla: The impetus behind the bill was that when the Zoning Code went into effect on August 2012 they had said at the time of creating the bill that after a year everyone could go back and see what they think worked and what didn't work and to see what changes needed to be made. We met with the Building Association and the Planning Commission and came up with some

things we thought helped fill density mainly in the center city area. This area goes from Washington Avenue to Girard Avenue and then from river to river. We said the Center City Area is an area that seems to be growing and will continue to grow and beside building density also allowing for more commercial development. Thus enabling the City to grow more easily. I met with Joe and I believed the Planning Commission was going to vet this out with community groups and believe there is a meeting set up for CDAG with Planning?

Joe: They did make an offer to meet and then rescinded it.

Councilman Squilla: So now there is no meeting and the Cross Town Collation was also canceled. What was the reason for that?

Joe: They felt their time was better served meeting with you.

Councilman: What I had recommended they do is meet with those groups and get there input to the bill. When they had all the recommendations from all the interested parties in the center city district then we would sit down and see which of the amendments would work. I wanted to get the ideas and concerns of the communities and hopefully fit that into this bill. I feel it's a better idea for you and I to meet with them so that we don't have this constant going back and forth.

Joe: That's why when I asked them for a meeting my hope was that you would also be there at the table. So that we all would be having a full discussion rather than a fragmented one. It seems at the moment that their current disposition is that it is not their bill. It's not a Planning Commission bill it's a bill vetted by BIA that you sponsored.

Councilman: I had told them that I wouldn't move the bill forward until we heard from CDAG and the Communities both east and west.

Matt Ruben: Now that you are aware that the Planning Commission has rescinded the offer of meeting are you committed that there should be a meeting?

Councilman: Absolutely.

Matt: Secondly there will not be hearings until there would be such a meeting of public input?

Councilman: That's right.

Joe: The bill that Matt is referring to is the original bill that had no amendments. The version of the bill that the Planning Commission has shown has many amendments that can't be discussed.

Councilman: Well I think they can and should be discussed not because they are now part of the bill but are suggested amendments and should be part of the discussion.

Matt: The basics of the bill is still in there and that is what BIA asked for. BIA wants to build by right with more density and height. We can discuss the basic principles and how it would affect the Central Delaware.

The main thing for CDAG is how greater density in CMX3 and CMX4 could affect a portion of the Central Delaware Overlay. However our Overlay should stop this since it has stricter height controls. The Councilman feels that the Overlay with the stricter controls wins the day but we would like to get a clear answer to which overlay prevails.

Councilman: If you send a letter to Planning Commission about your thoughts of CMX3 and 4 as it pertains to the Central Delaware and as to their opinion of whether or not they agree that the final determiner is the Central Delaware Overlay. I would want to be cc'd on it.

The conclusion was to attempt to get a meeting together with all parties on Oct.23rd.

VIII. Old Business

Dianne asked about the cement wall along Columbus Blvd where the Bridge View project at 787 Swanson is being built. Richard, who is on the QVNA Zoning committee, and is concerned, has a meeting next Tuesday with Mike Hauptman, the Zoning Committee chair to discuss the wall and will get back to CDAG with an explanation.

IX. New Business

Tammy Leigh informed us of the opening of the Baxter River trail on the northern section of the Delaware. Way north of the Central Delaware Overlay District for any one who might want to attend on Tuesday Oct. 14th.

Andrew Goodman informed us that bids were being accepted on the Delaware Power Station property until November 3rd.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 PM

**Next regularly scheduled CDAG Board meeting is November 13, 2014
at the Society Hills Towers Community Room at 6:00PM**

CDAG Board Member Attendance Record - Oct. 9, 2014

CDAG Board Member Organizations (N/V = non-voting Board Members)	Representatives Primary & Alternate	Present	Quorum Count
Abbotts Square Homeowners Assoc.	Sean Sullivan (P)	X	NV
Delaware River City Corp.	Tom Branigan (P)		NV
1 Dickinson Square West.			
Dickinson Square West	Ted Savage (1A)		
2 Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Matt Karp (P)	X	1
Fishtown Neighbors Assoc	David Quadrini (1A)		
Fishtown Neighbors Assoc.	Tim Potens (2A)		
Franklin Bridge Neighbors Assoc.	Gary Vernick (P)		N/V
Franklin Bridge Neighbors Assoc.	Ricky Camitta (A)		N/V
3 Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Mary Stumpf (P)		
Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Dianne Mayer (1A)	X	2
Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Kathy De Angelis (2A)	X	
4 New Kensington Development Corp.	Sandy Salzman (P)		
New Kensington Development Corp.	Andrew Goodman (1A)	X	3
5 Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Matt Ruben (P)	X	4
Northern Liberties Neighbors Association	Nina Zimmer (1A)	X	
Northern Liberties Neighbors Association	Mike Futryk (2A)	X	
Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc.	Fred Santilli (3A)	X	
6 Old Swedes Court Homeowners Assoc.	Paul Nutaitis (P)	X	5
Old Swedes Court Homeowners Assoc.	Kerry Durst (A)		
7 Olde Richmond Civic Association	Phil Stolzfus (P)		
Olde Richmond Civic Association	Julio Nieves (A2)		
Olde Richmond Civic Association	Tom Potts (A1)		
8 Pennsport Civic Association	Tom Otto (P)		

	Pennsport Civic Association	Jim Moylan (A1) (A1)		
	Pennsport Civic Association	Rene Goodwin (A2)		
	Penn Future	(P)		NV
	Penn Future	Christine Knapp (A)		NV
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Patrick Starr (P)		
	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Tony Spagnoli (A)		
9	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	Tammy Leigh DeMent (P)	X	6
	Pennsylvania Horticultural Society			
	Port Richmond on Patrol & Civic Asso	Laura Lanza (P)		NV
	Port Richmond on Patrol & Civic Asso	Jeremy LaCompte (A)		
10	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Richard Wolk (P)	X	7
	Queen Village Neighbors Association	Jeff Hornstein (A)		
11	River's Edge Community Association	John Scorsone (P)		
	River's Edge Community Association	Rich Stange (1A)	X	8
	River's Edge Community Association	Kathy McMullen (2A)		
12	Society Hill Civic Association	Jim Moss (P)	X	9
	Society Hill Civic Association	Joan Kleinbard (2A)	X	
	Society Hill Civic Association	Lorna Katz-Lawson (1A)	X	
13	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assp	Marsha Bacal (P)	X	10
	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Assoc.	Herman Baron (A)		
14	South St. Head House Business District	Krystal Souvanlasy (A)	X	
	South St. Head House Business District	Mike Harris (P)		
15	Whitman Council	Rich Lazer (P)		
	Whitman Council	Mark Kaczynski (A)		

Joe Schiavo Vice Chair *Ex- Officio voting member

(9 voting Board members required for a meeting quorum) 10 present

Guests and friends of CDAG:

Councilman Mark Squilla
Sean McMonagle

