

CDAG Board Meeting Minutes – 2014

Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) Nov.13, 2014 at Society Hill Towers Community Room at 6:00 PM - Recorded Attendance Attached

I. Approval of the Minutes

The October 9, 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 Reports

1. Treasurers Report - Jim Moss

The balance of our account at the current time is \$724. I have received \$300 from Waterfront Square and \$60 from Joe and Janet so that takes us to \$1084.

2. Secretary's Report - Richard Wolk

Nothing new to report as secretary, however, I will be reporting later on the Riverview 787 Swanson St. development.

3. Outreach - Dianne Mayer

Nothing new to report.

IV. Recap of Oct. 16th Awards Ceremony - Joe Schiavo

At our first annual Award Ceremony Councilman Frank DiCicco was presented with the CDAG Political Person of the Year Award and the founding Chair of CDAG Steven Weixler posthumously received CDAG Volunteer of the Year Award. Walter Petersen, Steve's partner, accepted the award on his behalf. These two awards will be presented going forward at our future annual award ceremonies. We had a successful event. The awards were well received and we thank all of you who attended. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Seaport Museum who gave us the space and parking. Considering the costs for the caterer and liability insurances we needed only a small amount to cover our total cost. The caterer, service staff, food and drinks were excellent. We will be sending out letters of appreciation to all for their support.

V. Design on the Delaware Conference - Tammy Leigh DeMent

Matt was a participant on a panel discussing the importance of the development of the two rivers. Panelists reviewed the planning that has gone on for the last five to ten years. Matt spoke on why advocacy was so important. Various interest groups were on the panel. There was a lot of interest in the Central Delaware Overlay and it was a very well received discussion.

VI. Scenic Philadelphia (SCRUB) - Matt Zapson/Maggie Carley

Scenic Philadelphia did a study that mapped all of the billboards in Philadelphia. For this presentation they concentrated on the Overlay area. Within the Overlay area from Allegheny Ave. to Oregon Ave there are 149 billboards 8.9% of the total billboards in the City. They are both on the east and west side of I-95. Billboards along the I-95 expansion can be moved and raised 20 feet. 2006 bill grandfathered billboards that were along the highway. The 2010 highway expansion bill set raised height and distance regulations as to where you could replace your billboards. No one ever anticipated digital billboards. A lot of information is coming out about digital billboards and highway safety. A 2007 bill stopped the creation of new billboards but that is not in affect anymore.

Actions that we can take if you see offensive or unsightly billboards, especially in an area where children play, is to call 311 and your Councilperson. You can sign on to Scenic Philadelphia's mailing list and be aware of any new legislation. Getting involved is very important.

VII. Update DRWC and CDAG - Matt Ruben

DRWC changed its by laws and has created a seat for CDAG on its Board. This is something we have been asking for from the very beginning. The only concern I have ever heard is how do we stay an independent advocate. For two reasons we feel that is not problem because confidentiality on the DRWC Board only requires certain fiduciary considerations and doesn't require this for its normal business dealings. Secondly, over time where CDAG and DRWC may not have agreed 100% of the time we have found we share the same goals and aspirations and therefore feel that it is not a problem. As to why DRWC is doing this became easier to understand after I met with Tom Corcoran and Joe Forkin and found that they changed their by laws so as to restructure the makeup of the Board. The Mayor still has a designee, plus two others through the Commerce Department and one other. PIDC has one other. The Chamber of Commerce has a designee and CDAG has a designee. DRWC has 16 members and are all self appointed. DRWC has become Mayor proof for the future.

VIII. Proposed ByLaw Changes - MattRuben/Jim Moss

The Executive Board felt that the CDAG member appointed to the DRWC Board should be the Chair or someone pointed by the chair. The DRWC is adamant

that there is to be no alternate or substitute. So it has to be one person from their point of view. Which makes sense because they only meet four times a year. So if this Board agrees with the Exec. Board we could do this by consent but since this is about policy the by laws should state that the chair will serve or his designee for a one whole term.

The second by law change would ask each constitute organization to pay a yearly dues as the Board shall determine and shall have discretion to reduce or waive the required donation for any Constituent Organization in case of financial hardship.

Joe presented a motion that we vote on stating "that the CDAG Chair be the delegate to the DRWC Board or the person that he assigns that seat". Motion seconded and passed by a vote of acclamation.

The amendments to the By Laws are being circulated and will be voted on at our December Meeting.

IX. Procedures for Executive Board Elections - Jim Moss

Nominate by e-mail directly to Jim. You can self nominate. If you would like to nominate someone else please check to see if that person is willing. your nomination will be confidential. Jim will send rolling e-mail reports as nominations are made. Nominations close at 5PM on Friday Nov. 28th. Jim will advise by e-mail on Nov.29th the list of nominees.

The election will be held at our Dec.11th meeting.

X. Old Business- Zoning Development Update

1. Riverview Apts. (787 Swanson St.) Richard Wolk

There has been some concern about the "wall" built facing Columbus Blvd. I have inspected the property and had a meeting with the Queen Village Zoning Chair. As a result I can report the project is going as planned. The property facing the Blvd. is on a flood plain. The wall was built to specifications. However I am passing around renditions of how it will look when finished. The wall will be covered with 3- dimensional frontage material including doors, steps, balconies with planters ,trees and shrubs making it look as if it is the front of the house but in essence will be the back of their basements. All 75 housing units will be 3 stories 35 feet high and except for the row closest to I-95 will be built with pre-built modules. The last row has to be built totally with wooden framing because they couldn't get the crane up there

2. Councilman Squilla Bill - Joe Schiavo

The Councilman has informed us that the bill that passed through the Planning Commission with amendments by BIA creating potential increases of density and height will not pass on as stated. There will be a meeting on Nov. 25th. of all interested parties.

3. 1 Water St.- Joe schiavo

This is the project on the west side of Columbus Blvd. by the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. It's to be built by right and the developer has gotten his permits and has now broken ground.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 PM

**Next regularly scheduled CDAG Board meeting is Dec.11, 2014
at the Society Hills Towers Community Room at 6:00PM**

CDAG Board Member Attendance Record - Nov. 13, 2014

CDAG Board Member Organizations (N/V = non-voting Board Members)	Representatives Primary & Alternate	Present	Quorum Count
Abbotts Square Condo Association	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)		
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	1
Neighbors Allied Best Riverfront	Kathy De Angelis (2A)	X	
4 New Kensington Development Corp.	Sandy Salzman (P)	X	2
New Kensington Development Corp.	Andrew Goodman (1A)	X	

5	Northern Liberties Neighbors Assoc	Matt Ruben (P)	X	3
	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	4
	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)	X	5
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)	X	8
	River's Edge Communiity Association	Rich Stange (1A)		

	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)		
	Society Hill Civic Association	Lorna Katz-Lawson (1A)		
13	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Ass.	Marsha Bacal (P)	X	10
	Society Hill Towers Homeowners Ass.	Herman Baron (A)	X	
14	South St. Head House Business District	Krystal Souvanlasy (A)		
	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:

Maggie Carley, SCRUB

Matt Zapsen, SCRUB

Jared Brey, PlanPhilly

