

Center City Residents' Association

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors November 9, 2004

Present: Coffey, Mattern, Easton, McNamara, Seltzer, Reilly, Kung, Ascher, Baker, Barnes, DiMaio, Donahue, Gutman, Haider, Lee, Levy, Miller, Murphy, O'Brien, Phillips, Stavrakos, Straub, Tissian, Berson, Weinberg, Millhollen, Halpern, Krakower (counsel,) Levin (administrator)

Absent: Wrobleski

Excused: Mandel, Klenk, Levi, Saltz, Schneider

1. Minutes of regular Board meeting 10/13/04:

Motion for approval by TJ Reilly, seconded by Sam Weinberg.

Action: approved unanimously with one addition.

2. Minutes of special Board meeting 10/28/04:

Motion for approval by TJ Reilly, seconded by Sam Weinberg.

Action: approved unanimously.

3. Presentation: Ellen Hannah and Paul Levy of Center City District.

New initiative to retain students in Philadelphia school system by providing more choice, e.g., parents in neighborhood can apply to enroll their children in any of 9 elementary schools in Center City. Spaces are retained for immediate area children.

Additional information can be obtained from new website for all 11 downtown schools.

Request was made of CCRA to support this effort in form of letter to Paul Vallas, from LC to superintendent of schools stressing importance of hiring a strong principal for the Greenfield School.

4. House Tour Report – Taube Weinberg

Successful with help of 150 volunteers. 600 people attended.

Recommendations/requests from T W were:

Hold tour on 3rd Sunday of October, 4th for rain date.

Celebration of Center City Living be held at a date more distant from House Tour

If there is to be another House Tour, stronger Board support by each Board Member doing one or more of the following:

- a. put your house on tour or solicit others;
- b. buy tickets to the tour and encourage your organizations to buy them (\$15 each; \$10 each in blocks of 10 or more)
- c. serve on one of the tour committees;
- d. be a tour host/ess or ticket seller

Board expressed strong appreciation to T W and her committee for extraordinary effort.

5. President's report -- Lou Coffey

see agenda for topic areas

6. Philadelphia Historic Commission Mural Arts Program -- Norman Tissian

Described the proposals of PHC's Ad Hoc Committee, as set forth in their Report dated _____, a copy of which is attached.

Request was made for LC to send letter of support of Ad Hoc Committee recommendations, making clear a request that no commercial ads be allowed.

Motion to that effect made by Lenore Millhollen, seconded by TJ Reilly.

Action: carried unanimously.

7. Membership Committee Report -- Heather Ascher

Reported on huge success of Halloween initiative for children's and parents involvement/entertainment.

Current figures report 119 new or reactivated memberships. On both accounts, Board expressed appreciation for extraordinary efforts of committee.

8. Capital Campaign Committee -- re Center City Plan

Including \$20,000 from CCRA and \$25,000 from CC District, goal of \$100,000.00 is within reach with expected commitments from other sources.

9. Legislative Committee -- Lenora Berson

5 new bills, (all faulty according to LB) will be introduced shortly. LB recommends remaining neutral at this time. LC requested that we resend to the Mayor and all City Council members the substance of his prior testimony before Council's Rules Committee regarding "Ethics in City Government."

10. Attendance by Board Members at meetings.

Reminder: 3 absences (unexcused) and off the Board. Call from Board member advising of forthcoming absence will be respected as an excused absence. However, there is some sentiment

that, absent exceptional circumstances, there should be some minimum number of meetings attended and that the President should have some discretion.

11. Treasurer's report. -- TJ Reilly.

See attachment to meeting agenda for accounting.

Membership numbers are 1,266 units or approximately 3000 members.

12. Schuylkill River Park -- JT Straub

CCRA will be asked for contribution to playground.

CCRA will be asked to join in complaint against CSX.

Complaint to be sent to Stanley Krakower for review.

13. Zoning Committee -- Lenore Millhollen for Adam Schneider

No questions -- see attachment to agenda.

Motion: (by TJ Reilly:) Stanley Krakower authorized to intervene on the side of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, if necessary, in the appeal taken by 1845 Walnut Street, from the zoning variances granted by the Zoning Board regarding the Wheeler Project at 18th & Sansom Streets (10 Rittenhouse Square), with fees not to exceed \$400. Wheeler had agreed at the Zoning Board Hearing to comply with CCRA's provisos to its position of non-opposition. Seconded by Lenore Millhollen.

Action: Unanimous approval with exception of LC who abstained because of conflict of interest.

14. Application for Liquor licenses.

Objections may be made only by an individual, church, or business entity located within 500 ft of the applicant. Such interested party may ask for a hearing. In such an instance, upon request, CCRA may appear also (Stanley Krakower advising). An LCB Committee was created, comprised of Scott Donahue, Paul Stavrakos and Jim O'Brien. They will become familiar with LCB rules and procedures, gather the facts and the opinions of adjoining residents for each application and make recommendations to the Board as to what position, if any CCRA should take regarding each application.

15. Firehouse at 21st and Market will NOT be closed.

16. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Seltzer
Secretary