

# Center City Residents' Association

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors December 14, 2004

Present: Coffey, McNamara, Seltzer, Reilly, Kung, Ascher, Baker, Donahue, Gutman, Haider, Lee, Levi, Miller, Murphy, O'Brien, Saltz, Schneider, Stavrakos, Tissian, Wroblewski, Berson, Millhollen, Halpern, Krakower (counsel,) Levin (administrator)

Absent: Klenk

Excused: Mattern, Easton, Mandel, Barnes, DiMaio, Levy, Phillips, Straub, Weinberg

1. MOTION: Approval of November Executive Board Minutes  
Motion made by Berson, seconded by O'Brien.

ACTION: Approved unanimously

2. Cross-Philly Walk presentation by Stephen Hammell of U. of Penn.

Mr. H. presented an interesting and informative plan for a footbridge walk to connect Center City and University City from Delaware to Schuylkill Rivers. He has already secured cooperation of Society Hill Residents Association as well as Washington West who will advertise it in their newsletters. He requested this same cooperation from CCRA.

3. President's Report

See Agenda for list of items a – d. Item d refers to drive to get 450 lapsed members of CCRA to rejoin.

Additional item -- LC asked for volunteers to replace him at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission's Parking Study. Eleanor Haider will attend; Fred Murphy will attempt to attend.

4. PA. HOUSE BILL 1954 limiting taxpayer standing to appeal zoning decisions. (see agenda).

Lively discussion regarding a midnight rider which was attached sans knowledge of Legislature, designed to kill SCRUB, which had been successful in getting billboards overturned). This bill puts into question standing of every community group in Philadelphia to appeal Zoning Board decisions and, even standing to be heard by the Zoning Board. Mary Tracy is trying to bring the neighborhood and civic organizations from across the City together to try to defeat this bill.

MOTION: made by Fran Levi, seconded by TJReilly

CCRA should participate in effort to defeat House Bill 1954, which will include litigation and an effort to have the offending legislation repealed.  
CCRA will commit up to \$5,000 as deemed appropriate (by LC) to cost of opposition.

ACTION: Passed Unanimously.

5. Should CCRA hire Executive Director

Lively discussion followed, articulating pro and con positions. Pro position held that CCRA has a big agenda and needs an ED. Con position held that it is a mistake to lodge the face of the organization in one person....that the face of the organization should be of a volunteer organization.

MOTION made by Jean Wrobleski, second by Lenore Millhollen

Adam Schneider to chair a committee of diverse opinions to draft a mission statement for CCRA to be presented at the February meeting. Beth Miller and Ed Kung volunteered to serve on the Mission Statement Committee.

ACTION: Passed with 1 opposing (Peter Baker)

The Executive Committee was charged with drafting a job description for an ED based on the proposed mission statement

6. Neighborhood Toy Exchange

MOTION: Jean Wrobleski, second Ed Kung

CCRA will sponsor an event for a neighborhood toy exchange, to be developed by Heather Ascher.

ACTION: Approved Unanimously

7. Treasurer's Report (see materials accompanying agenda).

KSK's revised proposal confirms that the team they head will do the project CCRA wants for just over \$82,000.00, plus out-of-pocket costs, subject to increase for CCRA requested change orders. At this point, Greater Phila Tourism Marketing Corporation has committed \$5,000.00, thanks to the efforts of Brett Mandel, CCRA has committed \$20,000, CC District \$25,000 for a total of \$50,000.

7A (additional unscheduled item) CCRA Newsletter

Nancy Ambler asked for individuals to supply content for newsletter since increase in advertising results in a change to the newsletter from 16 to 20 pages. The deadline for submitting copy is January 14, 2005.

8. Schuylkill River Park

Sarah Stuart Clark representing Friends of SRP in its legal efforts to further oppose CSX in its efforts to block access to parkland. She sought support of CCRA. Following suggestions by J. Wroblewski that this matter be better discussed in private session because of seriousness of the issue, further discussion was postponed until later in the meeting where there was consensus that means other than signing onto SRP objectives be taken: e.g., LC send a letter to the editor and other appropriate persons. CCRA will not join the litigation at this point.

MOTION: made by Berson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. O'Brien

CCRA make a public statement that access to park is essential.

ACTION: Passed, with one dissenting vote from Fran Levi

9 Greenfield School

MOTION: made by J. O'Brien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by TJ Reilly

CCRA write letter on behalf of Greenfield in their application for DCED grant

ACTION: approved unanimously.

10. Zoning report (see attachment to agenda)

Stanley Krakower reported that variances granted to Spencer group by ZBA are being appealed by Mariner group. Wheeler project is facing three appeals from the variances granted for the project at 18<sup>th</sup> and Sansom. Briefs are due in early March. Krakower has intervened on behalf of CCRA in both matters on the side of the ZBA because both projects agreed to the provisos requested by CCRA. This will assure that we will be notified if any deals are proposed that would eliminate CCRA's provisos.

11. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Seltzer  
Secretary