

NLNA Board Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2009
7PM

Present: Matt Ruben, Anne Waginger, Irene Lambrou, Barbara Severino, Bill Russell, Larry Freedman, Fernando Benavides, Ken Mitchell, Ira Upin, Barb Mulckhuyse

Absent: John Braxton, Erika Goldberg, Janet Finegar, Micah Gold-Markel, Don Phillips

July Minutes approval

Motion to Table by AW, 2nd BS: Passed: 7-0-0

1. President's Report:

--Fishtown Neighbors Board wants to meet with members of NLNA Board re: Sugarhouse financing and whether construction is imminent. Matt will notify board members re: date and time of meeting for a few board members to attend. Also, Larry Farnese and Mike O'Brien will likely want to meet with the 2 boards as well.

--DRWC is considering lease of Festival Pier to Sugarhouse for 1st part of 2nd stage of construction (remote parking). Matt presented to DRWC regarding timelines and proposed long-term loss of Festival Pier (precious publicly owned space)--several years at stake here.

--Spring Garden project interviews well underway; Matt working on organizing youth focus group. August 19 tentative date for public meeting (at NLNA CC). By September there should be draft master plan for the project.

--Coalition for Philadelphia Riverfronts--Penn Future, would NLNA sign on to coalition? Motion to sign on by AW; 2nd by FB: passed 7-0-0

--Conversation with Bart Blatstein about Piazza feedback, mostly positive, but some negative info about recent karaoke machine and as a result BB asked for legislation to ban all street and sidewalk vending. Can NLNA indicate we need more discussion about this before supporting such a broad ban? no objection.

--email list over 1100. website is being updated regularly; on twitter with more than 20 followers already. Facebook page being worked on too.

--Best of Philly --8 area mentions (including MR himself).

2. Treasurer's Report:

JB not here--table? Motion by AW; 2nd by IL: passed: 8-0-0. Questions about balance sheet, OHCD account. Also, where is information about monthly withdrawal for CC loan? And shouldn't we take steps to convert the loan to a mortgage asap? Consensus was to aim to convert loan some time in October.

3. Clean & Green:

--application submitted for 57 trees and 50 should be planted in Fall '09. Trying to find date for Solar Energy Information Night (maybe 9/3).

4. CC:

using same package we sent to DiCicco to send to Mayor Nutter to show the progress/planning for CC development.

5. Crime:

Capt. of 26th dist wants to come to September GM to warn folks not to leave items in parked cars, main source of crime in NL. Also, still having problem with speeding on 2nd Street; attempts to activate new traffic light at Germantown.

6. Election

procedures to be amended to prevent one individual from running for more than one seat at the same time. Codifying special mid-term election system. Question raised about resulting problem of losing good board members if they can run only for officer position but don't win. Anne will re-write relevant procedure with this in mind. Vote 8-0-0 for amending portion of procedure allowing nomination of only one nominee per nominator (complies with Roberts' Rules).

7. Fundraising:

--CC fundraiser event ideas discussed; who will run the event? BS will email the board after talking to Paula Gansky. Possible conflict with NLBOA on the use of local restaurants.

--Holiday Party (January 17?) to be confirmed after BS discussion with Oron about use of North Bowl. Date conflicts with NFL playoffs?

--Committee descriptions needed for grant applications.

--Budget for LL, PHC grant--issues with committee budget and later redundant fundraising--reimbursement to NLNA general fund? Shouldn't it be loan from GF that can be returned if subsequent fundraising fills the need?

--Draft of fundraising recognition breakdown. Motion to accept donation scale:

Passed: 8-0-0.

8. LL

grass looks better.

9. Membership:

Meet & Greet ideas? volunteers? BS will check the proposed schedule with already-established events to prevent conflicts.

10. Operations

--question re: monitoring rent checks, AW is aware of timely payments.

--also, keycard idea for board members? is there list of people with keys, AW will send updated list.

--MR and DP researching switch from verizon to comcast for internet and phone/fax service (should be cheaper for 36 months).

11. Zoning

July 27, 2009

a) 400 W. Fairmount, coffee shop: ZC motion ratified--BS/KM passed 8-0-0:

We give preliminary support for a coffeehouse at 400 W. Fairmount Ave. with no cooking on premises, with the following provisos:

- 1) Hours of operation no earlier than 6AM or later than 9PM, 7 days a week.*
 - 2) If using commercial trash pick-up, pick-up not to be before 7AM. Trash must be stored inside building until picked up. No metal dumpsters.*
 - 3) No noise/music to escape premises.*
 - 4) Deliveries during hours of operation only.*
 - 5) Meet with UDC to discuss façade, signage, trash/recycling plan, outdoor seating. Any outdoor seating must be brought in at night.*
- Please return to ZC with final plans after meeting with UDC.*
Passed: 7-0-0

b) Tower Investments special events facility--amend motion to strike language re: applicant's late notice, chair LF indicates notice was not in fact untimely. Also, Tower indicates willingness to sit down and discuss, valet route problem already addressed. With amendment, and added understanding that we'll request ZBA to hold the motion for further discussion, ZC motion ratified--BR/BS 7-0-1:

Under current time restraints, we cannot support this project on the basis of tonight's presentation. We would like to work with the applicant to further define the project as certain potential uses would not work for the neighborhood. Specifically, we require more information regarding, among other things:

- 1) Parking plan for presented 300 person capacity, arriving and departing at same time, proposed valet service and traffic patterns through small neighborhood streets are untenable as presented and would have a negative impact on the neighborhood. We would like time and an opportunity to discuss possible solutions with the applicant.*
- 2) We need better definition of the proposed use of "special events facility" because we are concerned about certain potential uses such as concert/dance hall, nightclub, etc. and applicant has not fully defined their expected/planned use.*

Other unresolved issues that require further discussion include but are not limited to hours of operation, number of events/week, design/façade/signage issues, noise, trash pick-up plan. The applicant has verified this facility will account for 2 of the 8 restaurants previously approved for the Piazza project.

Passed: 7-0-0

Author

Deleted: (late notice by applicant)

Old Business:

--BR raises question of Philly Fringe Festival outdoor venue at SW corner of 5th & Fairmount (CREI building). Don't they need permission? NLNA should talk to L&I about this temporary use

because last year there were complaints and there wasn't any notice/request to us about the use. MR will follow up.

--223 Fairmount seems to be underway again; stop work order on basis of backyard space was "resolved"?? MR will follow up. Other violations too.

New Business:

Bodine School "greening" project with Mural Arts, asked us for support, PR for meetings, some assistance from Lara, some funding. We will advertise it.

Motion to adjourn:

IU/BR Passed.

8:15PM, adjourned.