



**Wissahickon Interested Citizens Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: September 13, 2017 | **Attendees:** 17

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance as of August 31st was \$1,407.52. One disbursement of \$608 was made for our Directors and Officers Insurance. Donations and other credits added \$247.80 to the balance.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

a. **Membership** | Chair: Dane Troup
No update.

b. **Zoning** | Chair: Jeffrey Allegretti

- No zoning meeting was held in August
- **Demolition Moratorium:** Councilman Curtis Jones' office hopes to introduce the bill on the first day of council on September 14th. The original demolition moratorium is focused on Ridge Avenue only. We would like the bill to be expanded to include all of the 21st Ward.

c. **Parks** | Co-chairs: John Gallagher and Hal Rosner

- **Daisy Field:** On September 22nd Daisy Field will be officially renamed and rededicated as David Montgomery Field, in honor of the former president and current chairman of the Philadelphia Phillies. As a child, Mr. Montgomery was a resident of Roxborough and played ball at Daisy Field. He now lives in Montgomery County. There will be two placards installed – one at Hermit Lane and one on the backstop. Scheduled attendees include David Montgomery, Councilman Curtis Jones, WICA's Ken Sawyer, and Impact Softball's Tim Bass.
- **LaNoce Park:** We are planning a cleanup day at LaNoce Park on Saturday, November 4th in conjunction with the City's LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day.
- **Rebuild Program:** One of the key benefits of the city's soda tax, the Rebuild program will provide funds to improve the city's parks, libraries, and rec centers. Daisy Field and LaNoce Park are eligible sites for Rebuild investment.

- d. **General Beautification** | Chair: None
No update.

AD-HOC

- a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: None
We no longer have a Traffic and Parking Chair. We are working to fill the vacancy.
- b. **Quality of Life** | Chair: Diana Miller
No update.
- c. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski
The 21st Ward Town Watch Committee is still recruiting volunteers to patrol.
- d. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
Our proposal was submitted to the City Planning Commission for review. The goal was to have the proposal go into law in December. However, the proposal is stalled at the Planning Commission. After the Planning Commission, the proposal would go to City Council. Josh Cohen asserted that Councilman Jones' office is committed to the NCO and while the it may not go in to law by December, it will happen in 2018. Ken Sawyer and the NCO Committee will continue to be proactive in working with Josh Cohen and the Councilman's office to see what more we can do.
- e. **Bylaws** | Co-chairs: Nick Barrile and Jon Miller
Nick and Jon have been meeting and are identifying sections that need to be updated.

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Philadelphia Police Department**
- Police Officer Maurice Scott, Lieutenant Trina Pendelton, and Sergeant Tom Galonsky addressed the group. Officer Scott is our new Community Relations Officer in the 5th District. Officer Scott has been working in the district for over 7 years. He worked alongside Officer Jones, our previous Community Relations Officer, on several initiatives. **Officer Scott can be reached by email at maurice.scott@phila.gov or by phone at 215-686-3052.**
 - Several ongoing neighborhood issues were discussed:
 - Rock Street: vehicles double park and block sidewalk for pedestrians
 - Flatiron Building (5189 Ridge Ave): vehicles consistently parked on front sidewalk
 - 200 block of Lauriston St: abandoned car with 2 flat tires and North Carolina tag
 - Triple A Auto: antique car parked on Osborn Street along with 5-6 other cars illegally parked in area
 - Cook-Wissahickon School traffic
 - Recent home break-ins
 - **Anything App**: A free app is available that recycles your old smartphone or tablet and turns into a home security camera.

- b. **Josh Cohen, Special Assistant to Councilman Curtis Jones**
Josh Cohen addressed the group. He touched on the Daisy Field rededication, the demolition moratorium and the status of WICA's NCO proposal.
- c. **Vicaris Street**
Many children use Vicaris to walk to school. There are little to no sidewalks available on Vicaris from Rochelle Ave to Lauriston St. One side of the street is bordered by parkland.
- d. **Illegal Construction/Lead Poisoning**
There was a discussion regarding construction projects in the area and how to confirm if contractors have obtained the required building permits. One concern of illegal demolition/construction in older homes is the risk of lead exposure.
- e. **5109-11 Rochelle Street**
Brian Antczak, owner of the property, gave an overview of some zoning hurdles he's facing to allow him to outfit the 2nd and 3rd floors as professional offices. While Brian previously received a zoning change approval, the city is now requesting a special exemption due to the extension of the Ridge Ave zoning overlay earlier this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

The next meeting will be held on October 11th, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.