

# Wissahickon Interested Citizens Association

**Meeting Date:** 5/10/2017

**No. of Attendees:** 17

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance is \$1,584.72. There is about \$400 in the PayPal account as well.

## I) Committees – Standing

### 1) Committee on Membership (Chair: Dane Troup)

- 5/10/17: Between March and today there are 10 new members.

### 2) Committee on Zoning (Chair: Jeffrey Allegretti)

Meetings held every fourth Monday at Wissahickon Presbyterian Church

- 5/10/17: A subcommittee met with the developers of 5102 Rochelle to go over their alternative plans. The group discussed their plan and the consensus was that if you could get some concessions like defining the use of the retail space or some aesthetic input in terms of maintaining the glass stair tower or setting back the fourth story they would support the alternate plan which is in-line with a CMX-2.5 development. The Commissary abandoned their zoning application which means that if they went in again all of the new overlay and zoning remapping provisions will apply. 90 Rochelle is under agreement and geotechnical investigation has gone on at the site. Their attorney stated that their plan is to maintain its use as an office. The geotechnical investigation does not seem to comport to this explanation, however. The Historic Commission voted to nominate the Barnes House for Historic designation. If there is an appeal, the City will have to defend the nomination.

### 3) Park Committee (Chair: None)

- 5/10/17: John Gallagher and Hal Rosner will co-chair the Park Committee. An issue was raised regarding speeding through the access road leading to Daisy field.

### 4) General Beautification Committee (Chair: None)

- 5/10/17: No update.

## II) Committees – Ad Hoc

### 1) Traffic and Parking Committee (Chair: Suzanne Hagner)

- 5/10/17: Pendot had their community meeting where they presented their plans for Henry Avenue which was held in East Falls. Our section of Henry Avenue (from the Wissahickon Creek bridge to Walnut lane) was moved into the Roxborough purview because they have more means to deal with the traffic issues that our section incurs. Pendot might install a traffic light at Henry and Barnes. Pendot is going to put a median from the bridge to Barnes

street with a longer left hand turn lane which will stop left hand turns onto Hermit lane and will time the lights to 35 MPH.

**2) Quality of Life Committee (Chair: Diana Miller)**

- 5/10/17: No update.

**3) Town Watch (Chair: Rich Wilczynsicks)**

- 5/10/17: Town watch is still looking for members and block captains. There will be a community meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Gorgas Park.

**III) Old Business**

**1) Bylaws Update**

Summary: WICA's bylaws are dated and require revision.

- 5/10/17: No update. Updating the bylaws is a task that should be relegated to an ad-hoc committee.

**2) Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)**

Summary: WICA has been pursuing the formulation of an NCO similar to that of Roxborough to create a set of guidelines regarding certain aspects of development in the neighborhood and to give the civic more leverage during negotiations with developers should they become necessary.

- 5/10/17: Chip Roller will chair the NCO committee. Ken Sawyer, Jeffrey Allegretti, Kathryn Barnhardt and Vaughan Piccolo would like to be included in the committee.

**3) GoPuff**

Summary: neighbors have expressed concerns with delivery trucks blocking traffic on Ridge Avenue and with the appearance of the property.

- 5/10/17: The loading zone in front of GoPuff is supposed to be installed in mid-May. GoPuff is going to pay for the materials for Cook Wissahickon to do mural artwork for the store windows. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have already sketched out ideas.

**IV) Open Discussion Items/New Business/Miscellaneous**

- 1) Nominations: Ken Sawyer motioned that we open the nomination to the group via email and that we postpone the vote until the July general membership meeting. The motion passed.
- 2) Triple A Auto (8 Osborne) a WICA subcommittee met with the Fire Chief and an L&I code enforcement officer to look at the storage lot and vacant house on Osborne Street. WICA learned that this is a fire hazard but that the Fire Chief does not have the legal authority to take action having seen that so he must coordinate with L&I which he promised to do.
- 3) Kay Sykora put together a meeting with the City of Philadelphia Planning Commission, Historic Commission, and 4 neighboring civics to discuss how to preserve historic houses on Ridge Avenue.

**Next meeting will be held on 6/14/17 at 7:00 pm in The Northern Children's Services Board Room.**

**Submitted by:** *Vaughan Piccolo*, Secretary