



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

Meeting Date: November 8, 2017 | **Attendees:** 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance as of October 31st was \$1,427.52.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

a. **Membership** | Chair: Dane Troup

- **Annual Renewal:** Membership renewal is coming up in January. All members must renew at that time to retain active membership.

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

- **Monthly Meeting:** No zoning meeting was held in October.
- **Demolition Moratorium:** A group of people including RDC board members, Councilman Curtis Jones, Josh Cohen, Jeff Allegretti, and Chip Roller walked the length of Ridge Ave to survey and review significant historic parcels. The meeting was very positive in terms of what we were able to share with the Councilman and his perspective on the issues.

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

- **LaNoce Park:** We hosted a very successful cleanup at LaNoce Park on November 4th. Over 30 volunteers came out and helped to fill 103 bags of leaves and lawn waste that were recycled at the Domino Lane dump. Wissahickon Bar & Bistro sponsored our event providing supplies and bottled water.

d. **General Beautification** | Chair: None

No update.

AD-HOC

a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: None

- **Ridge and Rochelle Intersection:** When Councilman Jones came out for the Ridge Ave walk, he was almost hit by a car crossing the street at Ridge and Rochelle. Subsequently, the Councilman is even more interested in pushing through our request to install a light or signal there.
 - **Wissahickon Gateway Plan:** The Wissahickon Gateway Plan is a 12-month study to coordinate the expansion of the Wissahickon Transportation Center, extension of the Schuylkill River Trail, roadway improvements on Ridge Ave and Main St, new development, and public space and aesthetic improvements. On October 30th, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission held the first of two public meetings. The meeting attracted 85 participants who gave input on how to improve the Wissahickon Gateway. An online survey is also available at <http://bitly.com/wissgateway> to provide input.
- b. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski
A training session was held on November 1st. Ten people were trained and they have already begun patrolling. Recent patrols have been focused in Andorra due to problems in that area.
- c. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
Josh Cohen told us that work would resume on the NCO by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission in early 2018. He assured us that it is a priority, however, there are other items taking precedence at the moment.
- d. **Bylaws** | Co-chairs: Nick Barrile and Jon Miller
No update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Triple A Auto** (5134 Ridge Ave): The business is currently closed. It is thought that the owner may be back in Egypt for an indeterminate amount of time. A hearing is scheduled for November 9th. With the owner not present, it will likely be continued. The owner is Egyptian and there are hurdles pursuing further action due to international law. Conservatorship may be an option, where an organization cares for a property and eventually sells it for a new business opportunity.
- b. **Flatiron Building Company** (5189 Ridge Ave): Ken Sawyer had a conversation with the owner who parks his vehicle on the sidewalk. The owner is aware that it's illegal. The problem of the business' large truck with an expired inspection sticker that regularly parks in the "no overnight truck parking" area was also brought to the owner's attention.

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Philadelphia Police Department** | Captain John Moroney
- **September/October Update:** Overall crime is down. Year-to-date burglaries are down 50%. Theft from auto is only slightly lower. The Captain pointed out that out of approximately 25 car break-ins every 28 days, 20-22 of the cars were left unlocked - leaving your car unlocked makes it a target.
 - **5th District Kids Holiday Party Donation:** A motion was passed to donate \$100 on behalf of WICA to the 5th District's 44th annual Children's Christmas Party. Donations

ensure that each student receives a nice gift, and helps offset the costs of food and entertainment.

- b. **Office of Councilman Curtis Jones Jr.** | Josh Cohen, Deputy Chief of Staff
Josh Cohen addressed the group. He touched on the Daisy Field rededication, support for improvements to LaNoce Park, the Rebuild Program, and the status of WICA's NCO proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

The next meeting will be held on December 13th, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.