



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

**Meeting Date:** December 13, 2017 | **Attendees:** 11

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted with one correction made. The third bullet under Zoning listed should have read “90 Rochelle” instead of “5102 Rochelle.”

**3. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer’s report. WICA’s checking account balance as of November 30th was \$1,323.79.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STANDING**

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

- **Annual Membership Renewal:** All memberships must be renewed in January of each year. New members are encouraged to join. The annual cost of membership is \$10. Memberships can be purchased or renewed online using PayPal or in person at a general membership meeting.

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

- **Demolition Moratorium:** On December 5th, the Committee on Rules of City Council held a public meeting to hear testimony on Bill 170678 – the much anticipated Ordinance to establish a temporary Demolition Moratorium with respect to properties in the area of Ridge Ave between Wissahickon Creek and Northwestern Ave. Testimony from the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Registered Community Organizations was entered into the record. In addition to Councilman Curtis Jones, Jeff Allegretti was one of four representatives that spoke in favor of the bill. Several community and WICA members were also in attendance. The bill was voted to move forward to City Council to vote on the bill.

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

- **Grant Funding:** There is interest in pursuing grant funding for improvements to the Wissahickon War Memorial on Rochelle and the corner of the Northern Children Services property at Ridge and Lauriston.

## AD-HOC

- a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: None
  - **Wissahickon Gateway Plan:** As part of the public outreach effort for the Wissahickon Gateway Plan, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission held a public meeting and administered a user survey during the months of October and November 2017. The following blog post highlights some the key findings of these efforts and provides a link to the full outreach summary: <https://www.phila2035.com/single-post/2017/12/08/Wissahickon-Gateway-public-input>.
  - **Henry Avenue Safety Improvement Project:** On November 29<sup>th</sup>, representatives from PennDOT met with residents and stakeholders to provide an update on the project. The project involves the engineering design of safety improvements along 1.4 miles of Henry Ave, extending from Hermit St to Abbottsford Ave in East Falls. The project will involve a total of 168 roadway improvements, such as replacing various signs and pavement markings, resurfacing the roadway, improving various traffic signals, building a guardrail, and a new traffic signal at Barnes St. A shared-use bike and pedestrian path is also proposed.
- b. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski  
Patrolling has continued with a focus on Andorra and the Houston Playground due to recent problems in that area.
- c. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer  
Ken spoke with Josh Cohen again and he assured Ken that the NCO will be reviewed at the beginning of the new year.
- d. **Bylaws** | Co-chairs: Nick Barrile and Jon Miller  
No update.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Triple A Auto** (5134 Ridge Ave): It appears the owner has returned and business operations will resume.
- b. **Melnick Motors** (5116 Rochelle): The business is set to close at the end of 2017.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Northern Children Services (NCS)** | Renata Cobbs-Fletcher - President/CEO, Jamie Wyper - Former Board President, Kevin Weber - Director of Recreation, Academic and Volunteer Services  
Representatives from NCS shared information about the history of the organization and their current services. Founded in 1853 as "Northern Home for Friendless Children," NCS was founded to meet the needs of orphans from the Civil War. NCS has resided on its 6-acre campus in Roxborough since 1923. NCS offers caring and effective trauma-informed behavioral health and child welfare services for kids and young adults from under-served, under-resourced families and neighborhoods. Looking towards the future, NCS is making plans for the maintenance of the campus' aging facilities and infrastructure. They feel the

sprawling green Roxborough campus is closely linked to their identity. NCS offers a multitude of programs including residential services for young mothers and their children, after-school programs, and foster care and adoption placement. NCS is the only surviving organization of its kind in Philadelphia. Moving forward, NCS wishes to be more connected to the surrounding community and they are open to ideas and suggestions on how to do so. They are also looking for neighbors to volunteer for tutoring, gardening, babysitting, etc. A motion was approved to make a \$150 donation to NCS on behalf of WICA.

b. **Philadelphia Police Department** | Captain John Moroney

- **Ongoing/Recent Issues:** Captain Maroney listened to and addressed the group's concerns about issues plaguing the neighborhood. He asked that we feel free to report any issues directly to him or Community Relations Officer Maurice Scott.

Captain John Maroney

[john.moroney@phila.gov](mailto:john.moroney@phila.gov)

215-686-3050

Officer Maurice Scott

[maurice.scott@phila.gov](mailto:maurice.scott@phila.gov)

215-686-3052

- **Police District Advisory Council (PDAC):** PDAC is looking for interested citizens to volunteer on their council.

c. **Wissahickon Presbyterian Church** | Cameron and Michelle Mactavish

Cameron and Michelle from the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church are looking to connect more with the surrounding community. Their intentions are to preserve the building as a public facility. They are looking to partner with Roxborough YMCA to bring back childcare to the church. They are also open to exploring other types of mutually beneficial partnerships. They will be hosting a family friendly musical event open to the public sometime in 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

**The next meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.**