



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

Meeting Date: January 10, 2018 | **Attendees:** 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance as of December 31st was \$1,223.79.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

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

- **Annual Membership Renewal:** All memberships must be renewed at the beginning 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.
- **Multiple Levels of Membership:** A suggestion was made offer to multiple levels of membership/donation options to allow those who are interested in contributing more to do so.

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

- **Demolition Moratorium:** On December 14, 2017, the Demolition Moratorium was read and passed by City Council. On December 20, 2017, the Mayor signed the bill. The moratorium will take effect for one year and will prevent both demolition and construction on the designated properties.

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

- **Daisy Field Dedication:** The rescheduled dedication date has not yet been confirmed. Contributions/improvements to the park will be made by the Phillie organization and Councilman Jones' office. Parks and Recreation will perform the labor.
- **LaNoce Park Upgrades:** We are researching the cost of improvements to the park. We received a quote from an arborist for work on the trees in park.
- **Corner of Northern Children's Services:** We also received a quote for improvements to the corner of the Northern Children's Services property at Ridge Ave and Lauriston St.

Councilman Jones noted on his walk up Ridge Avenue last year that the street corner was overgrown.

AD-HOC

- a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: None
There was a discussion regarding plowing and snow removal in the neighborhood.
- b. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski
Three members of the 21st Ward Town Watch have been patrolling the neighborhood. They are still looking for additional volunteers. Recent activity included:
 - An individual arrested on the 200 block of Lauriston for stealing packages
 - Needles found, reported, and cleaned up by police on Vicaris St and around Mitchell St & Hermit St
 - Increase in theft from auto especially around 200 block of Lauriston
- c. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
Now that the Demolition Moratorium has been passed, the next phase will be the NCO. Matt Wysong from the City Planning Commission will have a draft in two weeks to send to us. The official presentation to WICA will tentatively be at the March meeting. Then the NCO will be go to City Council in April or May.
- d. **Bylaws** | Co-chairs: Nick Barrile and Jon Miller
No update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Triple A Auto** (5134 Rochelle Ave): The owner of the business reportedly bought a multiuse property in Frankford that includes an auto repair shop. There is a public hearing scheduled for January 30th on 8 Osborn Street but it is possible it will be continued.
- b. **90 Rochelle**: A week before Christmas, Jeff Allegretti was served with a lawsuit related to the 90 Rochelle transaction. As the lawsuit mentioned his role as the WICA zoning chair as being material to what they perceived to be actions to prevent them from buying the property, we sent the complaint to our insurance carrier. They have reviewed it and decided to defend Jeff. They are working on reaching a resolution, but until that happens, we cannot comment any further.
- c. **Flatiron Building Company** (5189 Ridge Ave): The business has been warned by the 5th District that vehicles parked on the sidewalk will be ticketed. The large Flat Iron truck is no longer parked on Rochelle or in the vicinity.
- d. **Wissahickon Presbyterian Church**: They are postponing their community event until the spring. Their new website is up and running - wissahickonpresbyterianchurch.com.

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Roxborough Development Corporation (RDC)** | James Calamia, Executive Director
- RDC is a not for profit, business improvement management association. The RDC board, volunteers, and staff have been working since 1992 to enhance Ridge Ave. The Ridge Ave corridor includes 215 storefronts. RDC has six staff members that work to attract new businesses and provide support in opening. They also write grants and organize events. RDC's board members are business owners and live in the neighborhood.
 - The RDC is volunteer driven and they are looking to recruit more members and volunteers.
 - (1) District Improvement Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm at the RDC offices at 6111 Ridge Avenue.
 - (2) Marketing & Events Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at the RDC offices
 - You can sign up for the RDC email newsletter at roxboroughpa.com.
 - The next scheduled event is Art is Life on April 21, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.