



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

Meeting Date: February 14, 2018 | **Attendees:** 10

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance as of January 31st was \$1,164.17.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

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

- No update

b. **Zoning** | Chair: Vacant

- **Zoning Chair:** Jeffrey Allegretti has stepped down. The position is now vacant.
- **Wissahickon Bistro** (5109-5111 Rochelle Ave): Brian Antczak, owner of the property, is waiting for clearance from the City to start construction of his offices on the upper floors of the building.
- **Barnes House** (559 Righter St): The appeal of the historic designation by the Barnes Family is still in process.

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

- **Philly Spring Cleanup:** We are leading springs cleanups at Daisy Field and LaNoce Park in conjunction with the citywide event on April 7th 9:00am–12:00pm.

AD-HOC

a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: Vacant

- No update

b. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski

- **Training:** A training will be held on February 20th at 7pm at the 5th District.

- c. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
 - **NCO Bill:** According to Josh Cohen, the bill is currently being drafted and will be sent to us for review once ready.
- d. **Bylaws** | Chair: Nick Barrile
 - No update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Triple A Auto** (5134 Rochelle Ave): The business is up and running again. We are still waiting to find out the outcome of the 8 Osborne St case.
- b. **90 Rochelle Ave:** As of February 5th, the Commerce (aka Westrum) lawsuit has been withdrawn by the plaintiff. The matter is now closed.
- c. **Flatiron Building Company** (5189 Ridge Ave): President Janet Anderson met with Scott Dalinka, President of Flatiron. While a resolution was not reached with parking of vehicles on the sidewalk, Flatiron is open to partnering with us on community events in the future.

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Real Estate Tax Abatement Petition:** Judy Stephanaskie, a Roxborough resident, discussed the details of the petition with us. The petition seeks to have City Council redefine the 10-year tax abatement and make Roxborough and Manayunk exempt. The petition cites Roxborough and Manayunk as having been severely impacted by overdevelopment, including the demolition of historic buildings, loss of green space, and increased density/traffic have adversely affected residents' quality of life. The petition is available online at: <https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/the-10-year-tax-abatement>.
- b. **PA State Representative Pam DeLissio:** Pam DeLissio addressed the group. She focused on the state budget process, congressional redistricting (commonly referred to as gerrymandering), and a proposed constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the PA House. Her 70th town hall meeting is February 22nd at 7pm at the Bala Cynwyd library. She also reminded us that this is an election year and the voter registration deadline is April 16th.
- c. **Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP):** On January 31st, Councilman Bobby Henon hosted a hearing to evaluate and discuss the impact of SLAPP on Registered Community Organizations (RCOs), civic groups, and organizations formed to serve the public interest. The threat of lawsuits against RCOs places communities at a disadvantage in the zoning and development process by stripping away and diminishing organized community voices. President Janet Anderson attended the hearing and provided input on WICA's experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.