



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

Meeting Date: March 14, 2018 | **Attendees:** 15

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. WICA's checking account balance as of March 13th was \$1,184.17.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

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

- We have 23 paid members for the year. President Janet Anderson and Secretary Nicole Healy are working on a designated email to encourage former paid members to renew.

b. **Zoning** | Chair: Vacant

- **Barnes House/559 Righter St:** The appeal of the historic designation was heard in Common Pleas Court on February 16th. The historic designation was upheld by the judge, meaning the appeal by the Barnes family to overturn the designation was denied.
- **Ridge Avenue Historic District:** The Philadelphia Historical Commission, Roxborough Development Corporation, and community leaders met the week of March 5th to discuss the establishment of a historic district on Ridge Avenue. There will be public meetings held in the future and a presentation to local property owners is being developed by the Historical Commission. All the civic associations that border Ridge Avenue will be involved.

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

- **Philly Spring Cleanup:** There are three cleanups organized for our neighborhood on April 14th 9am-noon (rescheduled from April 7th). All are welcome. We encourage you to bring your own supplies if you have them available. The locations are:
 - Daisy Field - 5000 Hermit Ln
 - LaNoce Park - 5119 Rochelle Ave
 - Retta Street Wooded Area - 3551 Retta St

AD-HOC

- a. **Traffic and Parking** | Chair: Vacant
No update.
- b. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski
Town Watch is actively looking for volunteers. Another training will be scheduled soon.
- c. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
The Planning Commission has completed the drafting of the NCO ordinance, with only some minor language adjustments in one clause still remaining to be done. We are on track to have the ordinance to City Council in this session. This is very good news for WICA as the Commission has agreed to the majority of our proposed terms.
- d. **Bylaws** | Co-chairs: Nick Barrile
No update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **5134 Rochelle/Triple A Auto**: The business is not meeting the terms of their land use agreement with WICA.
 - **8 and 10 Osborne**: On March 1st there was a ruling that the owners must obtain the necessary zoning and permits to legalize the properties and comply with Philadelphia code within 60 days. Thereafter the owners must also maintain the premises and correct any further violations in a timely manner.
- b. **90 Rochelle**: Westrum has purchased the property.
- c. **5116 Rochelle/Former Melnick's**: President Janet Anderson contacted the lawyer for the new development and he deferred to the builder. The builder has not yet answered two of Janet's emails.

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **5154 Ridge/Former Mannino's**: A family-friendly Italian Restaurant will be moving in. The owner has contacted President Janet Anderson.
- b. **Josh Cohen, Chief of Staff to Councilman Curtis Jones**: Josh Cohen addressed the group. He touched on the following additional topics:
 - **Councilman Jones' Office on Ridge**: With Josh's promotion to Chief of Staff, the Councilman's office on Ridge Ave is temporarily closed. Signs are posted.
 - **Daisy Field**: The field has been officially renamed David Montgomery Field. After some improvements are made to the facilities, we hope to have the rededication ceremony this summer.
 - **Mayor Jim Kenney's Proposed Tax Increases**: The Mayor has proposed a 6% property tax increase and an increase of 0.35 percentage points to the real estate transfer tax. The tax increases are aimed at generating new funding for city schools.
 - **10-year Tax Abatement**: City Council is looking at revisiting the abatement program,

which allows property owners to avoid taxes on new construction or improvements for 10 years. The restructuring of the program is a heavy lift and would have to occur on a citywide level, not only in Manayunk/Roxborough.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 11th, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room.