



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

Meeting Date: September 12, 2018 | **Attendees:** 8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:11pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and accepted. There are no official minutes from the August meeting as a quorum was not present.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. As of September 10th, WICA's total funds were \$1,539.38, including \$821.16 in our checking account and \$717.17 in our PayPal account. A motion was passed to renew our Directors and Officers insurance and send payment for the amount due of \$803.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

a. **Membership** | Chair: Dane Troup | No update.

b. **Zoning** | Chair: Brian Olszak

- **Zoning Committee:** The committee met on September 10th.
- **5102 Rochelle** (formerly Melnick's): Construction continues including recent earthmoving. Neighbors are encouraged to report any issues to 311.
- **90 Rochelle:** There has been no update from the developer or the City. Recently the walkway was paved and an ADA ramp was installed. The required permit was posted.

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

- **David Montgomery Field** (formerly Daisy Field): Josh Cohen reported that the Phillies and Parks and Recreation are working on major improvements to the park. The rededication ceremony is scheduled for November 3rd.
- **LaNoce Park:** As part of the citywide Love Your Park Fall Service Day on November 10th, WICA is organizing a cleanup at LaNoce Park.

Disclaimer: The contents herein represent the notes and recollections of WICA's Executive Secretary and representatives. This is not a verbatim transcript of the meeting but rather an attempt to capture the general spirit of the discussion.

AD-HOC

- a. **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski | No update.
- b. **Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)** | Chair: Ken Sawyer
 - Neighbors are encouraged to be diligent and report any violations of the NCO.
- c. **Bylaws**
 - An amendment was proposed to eliminate the voting privileges of Associate members. The proposed amendment was submitted in writing and will be debated and voted on at the October 10th meeting. A markup of the bylaws reflecting these changes is attached.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Wissahickon Gateway Plan:** The City Planning Commission adopted the Wissahickon Gateway Plan on July 18th. The finished document is available [online](#).

6. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Sergeant Walton, 5th District, Philadelphia Police Department**
 - Sergeant Walton addressed traffic and parking concerns in the neighborhood. He encouraged neighbors to be vigilant and call 911 to report any suspicious activity.
- b. **Josh Cohen, Chief of Staff to Councilman Curtis Jones**
 - **Ridge Ave Historic District:** On September 12th the Historical Commission's Committee on Historic Designation unanimously approved the Ridge Ave historic designation. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure the preservation of historically significant buildings and structures along Ridge – 188 properties will be protected. Tax credits/incentives for owners of these historic properties are being considered. The Historical Commission will review the Committee's recommendation and nomination on October 12th. The meeting is open to the public and will provide an opportunity for public comment.
 - **10-year Tax Abatement:** Councilwoman Cindy Bass has introduced a bill that would repeal the 10-year property tax abatement for any projects begun after October 31st. The bill will head to committee next.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services board room, 5301 Ridge Avenue.

BYLAWS

WISSAHICKON INTERESTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Wissahickon Interested Citizens Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association”).

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

Section 1. To provide a forum for the expression of concerns.

Section 2. To consider and act on all matters properly brought before the Association or its Executive Board.

Section 3. To develop and maintain an informed and productive membership dedicated to serving the community interest.

Section 4. To coordinate and further projects for the improvement and development of the Wissahickon Community.

Section 5. To promote and support unity, pride, and communication throughout the community.

Section 6. To maintain non-partisan and non-sectarian policies in all activities of the Association.

Section 7. To maintain a free and open democratic Association.

**ARTICLE III
TERRITORY**

Section 1. The boundaries of representation for the purpose of the Association shall be the area encompassed by the south side of Hermit Street running from Ridge Avenue to Henry Avenue, proceeding in a southerly direction along the west side of Henry Avenue to the Wissahickon Creek, along the Wissahickon Creek to Ridge Avenue, north on the eastern side of Ridge Avenue to Hermit Street.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1.** The Association shall recognize three types of membership: Individual, Associate, and Honorary.
- Section 2.** All individuals who meet the following requirements shall be entitled to hold Individual Membership in the Association:
- A. Is a resident of the territory defined in Article III.
 - B. Is eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- Section 3.** All individuals or entities that meet the following requirements shall be entitled to hold an Associate Membership in the Association:
- A. Have a business operating within the territory defined in Article III.
 - B. Their activities and purpose are not at odds with those of the Association as defined in Article II.
 - C. Must be interested in the activities of the Association.
- Section 4.** Honorary Membership may be granted to individuals or organizations interested in participating in the activities of the Association or to those who demonstrate support for the Association's activities. Honorary Membership will be subject to a majority vote of those members present at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present.
- Section 5.** Individual ~~and Associate~~ Members shall each be entitled to one vote on any deliberation of the Association. Honorary ~~and Associate~~ Members shall not hold voting privileges in the Association.
- Section 6.** Associate and Honorary Members may not accept a nomination, be elected to, or appointed to any of the elective offices of the Association.
- Section 7.** Individual and Associate Members shall be required to pay annual dues as defined in Article V.
- Section 8.** Membership shall be renewed annually. New members may join the Association at any time. To be eligible to vote, a member must have joined one month prior to casting a vote on any issue.
- Section 9.** All memberships shall be dependent upon a willingness to abide by these Bylaws.
- Section 10.** All members shall be furnished with a copy of the current Bylaws.

**ARTICLE V
DUES**

- Section 1.** Individual and Associate Members shall be assessed an annual rate of dues. The amount of dues shall be established by the Executive Board and approved.
- Section 2.** The membership period with annual dues will cover begins upon renewal current membership. Membership will be valid for one year.

**ARTICLE VI
ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS**

- Section 1.** Administrative authority of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board), consisting of the elected officers, the chairpersons of the Standing Committees (listed in Article VII) and the past presidents. All members of the Board must be Individual Members.
- Section 2.** The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected at the June meeting of the Association between the old and new business portions of the meeting.
- Section 3.** The President shall guide the activities of the Association in accordance with these Bylaws and the desires of the Board and the Membership. He/she shall by virtue of his/her office be an ex-officio member of all Committees except the Nominating committee. The President shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board and general membership. The President or his/her designee(s) shall act as liaison to all affiliated organizations and represent the Association in all its public affairs. The President shall have the power of appointment to fill vacancies (as defined in Article IX) subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- Section 4.** The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform any of the activities designated to the President as may be required for assuring the continuity of the activities of the Association and Board. The Vice-President shall advise the President on topics that may require the attention of the President or Board.
- Section 5.** In the absence of the President and Vice-President from any meetings of the Board or general membership, the Secretary shall chair the meeting(s). In the absence of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary, the Treasurer shall chair the meeting(s).

Section 6. The Recording Secretary shall take the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Board and shall maintain an accurate record of such minutes to be read at any meeting of the Association and of the Board when called for by the presiding officer. The chairperson of the Committee on Membership shall furnish the Recording Secretary an accurate record of the membership. The Secretary shall handle any correspondence as may be directed by the President or the Board, maintain copies of such correspondence, and receive and report any replies.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Association as authorized by these Bylaws or the acts of the Association or Board. All funds shall be maintained in accounts in the name of the Association at regulated and insured financial institutions as approved by the Board. All monetary receipts of the Association must be duly deposited in the accounts of the Association.

All disbursements from the accounts of the Association shall be co-signed by the Treasurer and either the President or Vice-President.

The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of all receipts and disbursement in books belonging to the Association and shall submit a report of balances and activity at all regular meetings of the Association or at the direction of the President.

The Treasurer shall prepare, and present at the September meeting, a statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the preceding year. The Treasurer shall keep all records available for audit.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Standing Committees of the Association shall be:

- A. Committee on Membership
- B. Committee on Zoning
- C. Park Committee
- D. General Beautification Committee

The President shall appoint the chairpersons of these Committees at the beginning of each year.

Section 2. Standing Committees shall be responsible for informing the President and the Board of any matter of community interest within their jurisdiction. The Chairperson of a Standing Committee shall report to the Association on such matters of community interest when directed to do so by the President or the Board.

Section 3.

- A. Committee on Membership shall:
1. Inform the membership when dues are payable.
 2. Turn over all dues received to the Treasurer on a timely basis.
 3. Maintain an accurate record of the Association's membership and make that record available to those members needing such information for activities of the Association.

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be able to report on any aspect of membership when directed to do so by the President, Board, or Association. He/she shall be able to determine the eligibility to vote of any member at all meetings of the Association. He/she shall be able to determine each member's eligibility to participate in nominations and elections. He/she shall record attendance at all meetings of the Association and the Board.

The Chairperson of this Committee will be charged with developing ideas to maintain and expand the membership of the Association.

- B. Committee on Zoning shall:
1. Collect and monitor information on and concerning zoning activity within the territory of the Association as defined in Article III.
 2. Relate such information to the Association and the Board.

The Chairperson of this Committee shall formulate a proposed position on all zoning activity within the Association's boundaries. The Chairperson shall also coordinate all contact with City agencies/departments, elected officials, and the 21st Ward Community Council when deemed necessary to support or further positions on zoning activity.

- C. Park Committee shall:
1. Formulate policy for presentation to the Association or Board on handling of activity at the passive park bordered by Rochelle Avenue, Kalos Street, and Osborn Street.
 2. Coordinate all comments or concerns raised regarding the park and present such to the Association with a recommended course of action.

The Chairperson of this Committee shall coordinate all the policy formulation and presentations to the Association regarding the passive park.

- D. General Beautification Committee shall:
1. Develop an overall plan for the area covered by the Association relating to maintaining the natural beauty of the area.

The Chairperson of this Committee will be alert to opportunities to comment on improvements to the physical characteristics of the community.

Section 4. Special Committees and Ad Hoc Committees not provided for in these Bylaws may be created at the discretion of the President or by vote of the Association or Board. The President shall appoint the Chairpersons of these committees, and the committees shall function in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws that govern Standing Committees.

ARTICLE VIII PRACTICES

Section 1. The Association, acting in meeting, to the Executive Board for such action shall refer infringement of any part of these Bylaws or any action detrimental to the Association by any member, as they may deem advisable. Any action, except expulsion from the Association, may thereafter be taken without further consent of the Association. Expulsion of a member shall require the consent of the Association in meeting based upon the recommendation of the Board. Any specific action for discipline shall require specific charge based upon specified violations of these Bylaws

Section 2. The Association, acting in any general membership meeting properly convened, shall have final decision by vote over any and all matters of policy and action for this Association.

Section 3. Any officer, member, Committee, or the Board is obligated to report all business conducted by them in the name of or on behalf of the Association. All members are obligated to adhere to the majority expressed actionable and positional intent of the Association in all of their actions in conduct of the affairs of the Association. No member or Committee by their action on behalf of the Association shall contravene the expressed will of the Association.

- A. Reasonable and ordinary expenditures in the conduct of the business of the Association, as provided in the Bylaws or unspecified motions of the Association, may be expended by the Treasurer at the direction of the President without further authorization.

- B. The President may authorize discretionary expenditures appropriate to the business of the Association up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) but less than one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), provided that those expenditures are reported promptly to the Association at its regular meeting.
- C. Expenditures greater than fifty dollars (\$50.00) but less than one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall require the approval of the Board.
- D. Any expenditure greater than one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall require the approval of both the Executive Board in meeting, and the Association, in meeting.
- E. All votes regarding the expenditure of funds shall be qualified as to the extent of available and budgeted funds for the purpose.

Section 4

The Executive Board shall have the power of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present at a meeting where a quorum exists to recommend to the Committee of the whole removal from membership in the association any Member whether resident or associate (e.g. business) member for conduct deemed prejudicial to the Association at a regularly scheduled Association meeting the President or in his/her absence the Vice President will present the recommendation of the Executive Board to the general membership after a motion is made and while discussion on the motion is taking place subjects of the motion shall be allowed to stay in the meeting, however when the vote is called the subjects shall be prohibited from voting. The subject of the motion shall be allowed to stay in the meeting, however when the vote is called the subject(s) shall be prohibited from voting.

Section 5

An associate (e.g.) member of the association may be removed if he/she is violation of zoning or building codes or for such members who sell alcohol, if he/she is in violation of Liquor Control Board regulations.

ARTICLE IX

NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, AND VACANCIES

Section 1.

Nominations for the election of officers shall be made at the May meeting of the Association. Nominees must agree to have their names placed in nomination. Nominations will be closed at the May meeting.

Section 2.

Nominations may be received from an Ad Hoc Nominations Committee or from the floor of the May meeting of the Association.

Section 3.

No member may be nominated to more than one office.

- Section 4.** The Chairperson of the Committee on Membership and the President shall certify that a nominee has attended, as a member of good standing, no fewer than fifty percent of the General Membership meetings held within the twelve (12) months prior to the May meeting (in which nominations are made) attendance shall be determined by the nominee's signature on the meeting sign-up sheet. The meeting sign-in sheet will serve as the official record of meeting attendance. To assure credit for attendance, each member must be sure that his or her name is entered on the monthly sheet. The Recording Secretary will verify that the meeting sign-in sheet is accurate and includes all meeting attendees.
- Section 5.** The election of officers shall be held at the June meeting between the old and new business portions of the meeting.
- Section 6.** Write-in candidates and absentee ballots shall not be permitted.
- Section 7.** If more than one individual is nominated for an office, the vote shall be by secret paper ballot. If there is only one nominee for an office, the Secretary shall cast the ballot completing the election process.
- Section 8.** The nominee receiving a majority of votes shall be elected.
- Section 9.** The incumbent officers shall tally the votes and when their tallies agree, the incumbent President shall announce those elected by a majority vote.
- Section 10.** In the event of a tie in any balloting, succeeding ballots shall be taken until a nominee shall receive a majority vote.
- Section 11.** The term of office for all elected officers shall commence immediately after the last regular meeting of the Association for the fiscal year.
- Section 12.** The term of all elected officers shall be for one year.
- Section 13.** There shall be no consecutive term limit on any elected official.
- Section 14.** The Vice-President shall fill a vacancy in the office of President. All other vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE X
MEETINGS AND QUORUMS**

- Section 1.** The general membership of the Association shall meet on the second (2nd) Wednesday evening of every month at a date, time, and place determined by the Board. There shall be a minimum of nine (9) meetings of the general membership.
- Section 2.** The President shall set regular meetings of the Board. There shall be no requirements for the Board to hold regular meetings.
- Section 3.** Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President, the Board, or upon written request of ten (10) members in good standing.
- Section 4.** Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or upon request of four (4) Board members.
- Section 5.** Eight (8) members, including at least two (2) officers shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association.
- Section 6.** Four (4) members, including two elected officers, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Executive Board.
- Section 7.** When not inconsistent with other provisions of the Bylaws, majority vote shall decide all deliberations of the Association and the Board.
- Section 8.** The Order of Business at all regular meetings of the Association shall be:
1. Call to order and determination of quorum
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting
 4. Treasurer's Report
 5. Committee Reports
 6. Old Business
 7. New Business
 8. Adjournment
- Section 9.** The Order of Business at all special meetings of the Association shall be:
1. Call to order and determination of quorum
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of purpose for which the meeting was called
 4. Discussion and action on the subjects(s) for which the meeting was called
 5. Adjournment

Section 10. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Association when they are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI BYLAWS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended when the proposed amendment(s) have been submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the Association by a member in good standing. The proposed amendment(s) shall only be read when submitted and debate or action shall be deferred until the next regular meeting of the Association, or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. All members of the Association shall be notified of the proposed amendments(s) to these Bylaws and shall be advised of when debate and action will occur. Notification of all members will be considered satisfied if the fact that the amendment(s) have been proposed, and the date and time set for debate and action have been listed in a written form in the media covering the territory of the Association.

Section 3. Individual provisions of these Bylaws may be suspended only on a temporary basis for a specified period of time and such suspensions shall require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Association in meeting.