



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

Meeting Date: January 9, 2019 | **Attendees:** 14

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

2) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Sawyer gave the Treasurer's report. As of January 9th WICA's total funds were \$699.90.

4) COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING

a) **Membership**

- i) **Renewals:** All 2018 memberships are now due for renewal. Don't let your voting privileges lapse! The fastest way to renew your membership is online:
wissahickon.us/association/membership
- ii) **Dues:** WICA is considering an increase in dues to better cover our annual operating costs, namely our Directors and Officers insurance. We will review neighboring RCO membership rates at the February meeting.

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

- i) **Next Meeting:** February 4th at 7:00pm in the Northern Children's Services Board Room
- ii) **90 Rochelle:** A canine day care (currently Little White Dog Doggie Daycare located in East Falls) has applied for a use variance to allow for canine services, boarding, and sale of canine products in the existing commercial building. A public meeting will be held to discuss details of the plan with the business owner on January 22nd at 7pm at Wissahickon Presbyterian Church (5245 Ridge). A vote will be taken and the outcome of the meeting will be forwarded to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) prior to the scheduled hearing on January 30th at 2:00pm at 1515 Arch St.

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.

c) **Parks**

- i) **100 Steps Graffiti Removal:** Friends of the Wissahickon has not yet set a date for the graffiti removal.
- ii) **LaNoce Park Tree Trimming:** On December 14th President Janet Anderson met with Drew Gillespie, owner of Gillespie Tree Service, and Joe Toohey, the City arborist for Northwest Philadelphia, to discuss the scope of the project. The tree trimming has since been completed.
- iii) **War Memorial Street Tree:** Joe Toohey also looked at the dying street tree and agreed to help expedite the removal.

AD-HOC

a) **Town Watch** | Chair: Rich Wilczynski | No update.

b) **Traffic**

- i) **Neighborhood Slow Program:** The General Membership voted in favor of the application that Zoning Chair Brian Olszak prepared. The program promotes traffic safety on neighborhood streets by streamlining safety improvements. Letters of support from WICA President Janet Anderson, Councilman Curtis Jones, and State Rep. Pam DeLissio will be included with our application, which is due by January 18, 2019.

c) **Bylaws**

- i) **Revision:** The Committee will meet later this month to resume work on the updates.

5) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) **5101 Rochelle (former Melnick's):** The footprint of the new construction has been found to be too close to the SEPTA train tracks. Construction has been halted until the design is reconfigured.
- b) **268 Rochelle (Rochelle Arms):** Josh Cohen is actively working on and looking into concerns about activity at the property, including the parking of construction equipment, extension of paved areas, and new lighting/signs.
- c) **Go Puff (5261 Ridge):** RDC Director James Calamia reported that the owner of the building sent a notice declaring GoPuff in violation of the lease and asking them to leave the space.

6) NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS/GUESTS/MISCELLANEOUS

- a) **Josh Cohen, Chief of Staff to Councilman Jones:** Josh is actively working on the issues surrounding 268 Rochelle. He will also look into the nearby issues on Vicaris regarding the road degradation and tree line issues.

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- b) **Lieutenant Craig Sweeney, 5th District:** Lt. Sweeney, who is new to the 5th District, introduced himself to the general membership. He previously worked in Internal Affairs and as an officer in Center City.
 - i) Lt. Sweeney recommended taking advantage of using the “Roll Call Complaint” protocol to report any non-emergency problem or condition that the police should be made aware of. Online Form: www.phillypolice.com/forms/roll-call-complaints | Phone: 215-686-3050
 - ii) Lt. Sweeney’s Contact Information:
Email: craig.sweeney@phila.gov | Cell Phone: 267-240-4138
- c) **Pam DeLissio, PA State Representative:** Pam discussed her newly launched book club as well as her upcoming 80th Town Hall meeting scheduled for January 26th at 10:00am at Cathedral Village.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting will be held February 13, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Northern Children’s Services Board Room, 5301 Ridge Ave.