

Girard Estate Neighbors Association (GENA)

MINUTES

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Start: 6:30 P.M.

End: 8:30 P.M.

Attendance: 35

1. Gaetano Piccirilli opened the meeting by speaking of GENA's commitment to transparency, giving a voice to the community, and inviting new ideas. He said that on the kiosk in the park and on the no-exit from the Pathmark shopping center directly into Girard Estate, we succeeded in getting the conversation started that will result in some positive change. There will be a pedestrian cross walk at 22nd and Porter streets and the possibility of a speed bump to address neighbors' concerns about traffic.
2. In response to neighbor's complaints about the former Good Will store site, Gaetano said that he and some GENA volunteers will weed the lot and spray weed killer.
3. Paul Rossi, the secretary and Chairman of Safety and Security Committee, discussed communications and Girard Estate area crime statistics which can be seen on the GENA website: www.girardestateneighbors.org.
4. Treasurer's report - David Storione, the new treasurer, reports that the current funds available are \$3006.83 following a donation of \$125 to the Friends of Donatucci Library and a payment of \$200 to Starr tours to reserve the bus for the Winterthur tour (see item 5).
5. Livia Cristella, Chair of the "Senior Class" committee, detailed the upcoming trip to Winterthur Museum and Gardens scheduled for Saturday, October 18th. Trip price of \$65 includes bus fare, admission fee, lunch, and admission to the Costumes of Downton Abby exhibit.
6. Jessica Frye, Co-Chair of the Events Committee, spoke of the May 25th brunch in the park with the next one scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. The Tom Duffy art exhibit at the Taproom on 19th was a success.
7. Christy Brackon-Vasquez reported on the first get together of the Families with Young Children's group in FDR Park, speaking on behalf of Shannon Criniti who was unable to attend. The group is off to a good start.
8. Zoning Committee and Quality of Life - John Longacre said that one item came before the committee and that was the addition of a fire escape to the second floor of the daycare building on the 2400 block of Woodstock. This was voted for by the committee. John also announced that Maria Nevelson joined the zoning committee.
 - a. A question about recent sulfur smells at 20th and Porter was raised by Rebecca Finkel.
 - b. The Goodwill Building has been purchased but as yet there is no information about its intended use.

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c. Mr. Piccirilli took as an action item to investigate the legality of the gates in the possible common easement behind the gas station on 21st Street.

d. Mr. Piccirilli took as an action item from Allan Moore to contact the Girard Estate Trust to press them on issues concerning maintenance, cleanliness and good order in their rental garages between Oregon and Shunk. This was in response to complaints from various neighbors who live near the garages. Complaints include trash regularly accumulating at the ends of the garages and a garage tenant who appears to be operating an unlicensed auto repair shop. In some instances, disabled cars have been towed near the garages on 20th and 21st Streets for repair.

9. New Business: Mr. Piccirilli and Norah Dixon presented the rationale for expanding the current board of directors from 7 up to 11 positions. The expanded board will help the organization as it grows and will also put us in a better position to seek grant money once we have incorporated and established 501(c)(3) status. A motion to so change the by-laws was proposed, seconded and passed by the members present.

10. A question was posed from the membership about merging with GEAR. Mr. Piccirilli stated that GENA was about transparency and elective representation. GEAR was not. While GENA was willing to work with GEAR, no merger is possible under these conflicting conditions.

Next Board Meeting:

TBA in July

Next Public Meeting:

TBA. Some time in September. Please watch the GENA Web site for information.

www.girardestateneighbors.org

Prepared by:

Paul Rossi, Secretary