

Girard Estate Neighbors Association (GENA)

MINUTES

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Start: 6:30 P.M.

End: 8:30 P.M.

Attendance: 25

1. Gaetano Piccirilli opened the meeting by highlighting efforts to remedy blighted properties in the neighborhood and to prevent predatory and nuisance businesses from operating here. We are also working on a zoning overlay. We are trying to contact the new absentee owner of the old Goodwill store on the corner of Passyunk and 22nd.
2. GENA has set aside funds to file for a 501c3 (nonprofit) status by the end of this year. This will make donations to the civic tax-deductible.
3. Elections will be held in September as per the bylaws. A committee will be set up to manage the election and at the May meeting we will call for nominations.
4. The current treasurer, David Storione has stepped down with our thanks for a job well done. Our new treasurer is board member Rob Frye.
5. The new treasurer, Rob Frye, reports that there is presently \$3900 in our account. The Christmas event netted \$1100 and The Winterthur Trip, managed by Livia Cristella, contributed \$500.
6. 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.
7. Jessica Frye, chair of the Events Committee, reported that the recent coat drive collected 116 winter coats for the needy. This event, in cooperation with Taproom on 19th, was so successful that we are holding another charitable event with them on March 11th – a food drive to benefit Philabundance. Also the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28th, we will have a summer movie in the park, and park Brunches.
8. John Longacre, co-chair of the Zoning and Quality of Life Committee, reported that the committee will hear a request for a variance to establish a triplex rental property in the 2400 block of 21st street. In addition, we have filed an appeal in court against the establishment of a barber shop in a residence in the 2100 block of Passyunk Street, within the boundaries of the Girard Estate historic area.
9. Special Guest – Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. Councilman Johnson made several points:
 - a) Mrs. Debra McCarty was present at the meeting to answer residents' questions about the water main break that affected homes in the 2300 block of Garnet Street.

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b) The Councilman will soon convene a meeting of civics to gather input on plans for using the promised \$300,000 funding for improvements to Girard Park

c) CSX has promised to repair the 26th street railway bridge. But regulation of the oil trains is at a federal level. He can work with Senator Casey on this.

10. There were several questions from the audience concerning steps to take on cleaning up trash and litter on Oregon Avenue, including a suggestion that the councilman sponsor legislation to tighten enforcement codes on litterbug businesses. The community is frustrated by the lack of response from the city in helping with this issue. The Councilman's aide, Steve Cobb, offered to bring the Streets Commissioner to our next meeting to hear our concerns.

Next Board Meeting:

In the week of April 12th. Exact time and place to be determined.

Next Public Meeting:

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

www.girardestateneighbors.org

Prepared by: Paul Rossi, Secretary