

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020, 6 pm
Via Zoom**

1. The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:07 pm.
2. The following directors were present via Zoom: Maggie Mund, Rick Gross, Jeff Braff, Tina Breslow, Pip Campbell, Elena Cappella, Michele Ettinger, Kate Federico, Matt Fontana, Chuck Goodwin, Barbara Halpern, Steve Huntington, Amy Jared, Susan Kahn, Doug Mellor, Lauren O'Donnell, Harvey Ostroff, Nathaniel Parks, Charles Robin, Nan Robinson, David Rose, Matt Schreck, Richard Speizman, Robin Sweet. Richard Vaughn, Ben Weinraub, Dawn Willis and Ben Zuckerman. Wade Albert participated as CCRA Legal Counsel, and Travis Oliver, CCRA Operations Manager joined as well. Participating as a guest this month was CCRA member Hayley Schneider.
3. Board members not present: Richard Frey and David Rose.
4. Susan Kahn, a member of the Board of both CCRA and the Friends of Schuylkill River Park, opened the discussions with a presentation of the Draft Schuylkill River Park Master Plan, a document produced to assist in prioritizing improvement goals for the future of the park. Moving the Recreation Center location is generating the most discussion, and revisions will be considered after the public comment period. CCRA is not being asked to take a position at this time and Susan will keep the Board posted of relevant developments. Questions should be directed to Susan's attention.
5. A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2020 was Made, Seconded and unanimously Passed.
6. Matt Schreck presented the Treasurer's Report, advising that CCRA continues to be strong financially, thanks to core sponsorships and efforts of the membership committee. Fundraising deficits are being addressed and expenses remain flat, with much of the credit for that going to Travis Oliver, Operations Manager.
7. Travis Oliver provided the Office Report beginning with WeWorks offering CCRA 3 months free to continue as a tenant. Overall, however, the rate is higher so a counter was made and negotiations continue. Travis attended the latest Police Reform meeting, speaking on behalf of our neighborhood specifically about ATV's, the homeless population, people's reluctance to both approach the police and to be recorded. No answers have been determined yet, but another meeting is being scheduled for early 2021. With respect to the Fall/Winter appeal, \$8,000 has

Board of Directors

President: Margaret Mund

Executive Vice President: Richard Gross

Vice Presidents: Phillipa Campbell • Barbara Halpern • Charles Robin • Robin Sweet

Secretary: Nan Robinson • Assistant Secretary: Lauren O'Donnell

Treasurer: Matthew Schreck • Assistant Treasurer: Richard Speizman

Directors: • Michael Bowman • Tina Breslow • Jeff Braff (past President) • Elena Cappella • Michele Ettinger • Kate Federico • Richard Frey • Matthew Fontana (past President) • Charles Goodwin (past President) • Stephen Huntington (past President) • Amy Jared • Susan Kahn • Douglas Mellor • Harvey Ostroff • Nathaniel Parks • David Rose • Richard Vaughn • Dawn Willis • Benjamin Weinraub • Ben Zuckerman

been collected to date, with 40 people donating and 15 entering the raffle so far. Website traffic continues to increase, with a lot of interest in the raffle details. The Quarterly Newsletter was well-received and readership is up for the ENewsletters. Travis is asking for quick updates for each committee for the last newsletter of the year, preferable 3-4 sentences to be sent in by 12/18. CCRA will close early on 12/24 and reopen on 1/4/2021.

8. Rick Gross of the Development committee reported that the matching gift goal is within reach and the hope and expectation is for 100% Board participation in the Clean, Green & Safe Fall/Winter campaign. Most of the funds generated will go toward street cleaning but if not designated on the return form, more flexibility on the use of the funds is available.
9. Steve Huntington provided background behind the request from the Cross Town Coalition for a motion to consider endorsing that the “search by name” function be restored to the City’s Office of Property Assessment website. Following discussion, and prior to making the motion to endorse the restoration, a motion was Made, Seconded and Passed (by a divided vote) to table the restoration motion until next month.
10. Michele Ettinger shared two brief Membership thoughts as the year winds down:
 - a. With the terrific response to the quarterly newsletter, feel free to email a copy to friends and neighbors to familiarize them with CCRA
 - b. Consider giving a CCRA membership as a holiday gift!
11. Barbara Halpern discussed the Communications report, including the Social Media Users Guide, created to assist in maximizing social media outreach. For example, on Facebook, continue to like and share posts for broader circulation. Another zoom meeting has been scheduled for the Taney Street renaming and Barbara will circulate the link once she has it.
12. Matt Fontana provided an update on the Hi Rise Homeless Initiative, given the challenges being experienced particularly along the 15th street corridor and the proposal for a mobile police station and related services to address the situation. Following some minor edits, the following resolution was brought to Motion, Seconded and Passed:

In light of the deteriorating quality of life for residents, businesses, and their employees throughout Center City west and particularly in the eastern end of the neighborhood, it is now moved that CCRA join with other interested organization, buildings, and businesses to, 1) work with the police department to affect the creation of a mini-police station, and 2) work with the Mayor’s Office to bring more focused programs to provide social services for the homeless people in the neighborhood.
13. Harvey Ostroff of the Streets committee made a recommendation to call 311 or send pictures to 311.com when neighbors place garbage out well ahead of trash pick-up times. Harvey will write something up for the newsletter.

14. Each month, PDAC summaries are prepared for us by Tina McClintock, a CCRA member serving on the Public Safety Committee. These are very useful updates informing about police news and activity in the area and the suggestion was made to include a report in the newsletter.
15. On the Major Development Task Force:
 - Charles Robin reported that the 2012 Chestnut Task Force, that has been meeting since February, has now agreed to an Ordinance and CBA that includes the required provisions, including affordable housing and offsite parking (with a sunset clause). The next steps will include holding a public meeting to ensure the project is vetted by the community and to incorporate relevant input. Depending on timing of the meeting, this will be presented to the CCRA Board for final approval either at the January or February Board meeting.
 - Rick Gross reported that the CVS project at 1900 Chestnut is still at the drawing board stage but the CCRA comments are being taken into consideration in the planning, which is very encouraging.
 - Rick also reported on the PMC Trader Joe's parking lot project, with PMC contending they are unable to meet minority hiring and purchasing targets. A side meeting was arranged for other developers to share how they have been successful in meeting similar goals.
16. Dawn Willis provided the AirBnb and ATV report. With respect to the AirBnb issue, following discussion, there does appear to be enough regulation but more enforcement is encouraged. Dawn will draft a letter on behalf of CCRA asking the Cross Town Coalition to address the enforcement of existing laws with the relevant agencies and, if possible, present data from surveys and complaints to support requests for resources to increase enforcement throughout the city. With respect to ATVs, a council hearing was held in November and there does not appear to be an easy solution, although there may be a slowdown in activity during the cold weather months. Allan Domb has been active in seeking alternative solutions and a suggestion was made to reach out to him, in addition to checking with Matt Fontana.
17. Chuck Goodwin reviewed a Conditional Licensing Agreement for a liquor license application for Ambrosia (restaurant at 24th and Locust) that was negotiated on behalf of concerned neighbors, bringing the parties together and reaching mutually agreeable terms.
18. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Robinson, Secretary