



Preserve, enhance and celebrate  
urban living

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY May 5, 2020 6:00 pm  
Streaming via ZOOM

Members Present: Maggie Mund, Pip Campbell, Donna Cordner, Rick Gross, Barbara Halpern, Matt Schreck, Charles Robbin Robin Sweet

1. **Discussion of joining opposition to the CBA Legislation** Approved signing the Cross-Town Coalition letter opposing the legislation but still try to get Clarke to approve it.
2. **Finance**  
Treasurer's Report --Matthew Schreck Discussion of getting a deal from Paul Levy on Street Cleaning. Spring appeal has started well. Need to consider on-line or other alternatives to fall fundraising event. Discussed office housing solutions for CCRA and We Work. Discussed the federal loan. Discussed Board fundraising. Discussed c-o-i issue for a new board member.
3. **President's Report**
  - 5.1 Annual Meeting Planning
  - 5.2 Social Distancing in Rittenhouse Square
4. **New Business**  
CDR for 1620 Samson
5. **Adjournment at 8:05**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Gross,  
Secretary

**9<sup>th</sup> POLICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PDAC)**

*9<sup>th</sup> Police District Headquarters*

*401 N 21<sup>st</sup> Street - Philadelphia PA 19130*

**Meeting Notes – Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**PRESENT: 9<sup>th</sup> Police District:** Officer Jesse O’Shea, Officer Steven Kiefer **PDAC Members:** Chester Wichowski (FCA), Colleen Walsh (LSNA and Tivoli), Wendy Gosfield (RIT-FIT), Michael Leigh (City View and The Cathedral), Marc Glassman (2601 Parkway), Patricia Coyne (Citizen, PCHR retired), Jessica Tomchick (CCCVS), Jonathan Hunter (BARN and Raven Lounge), Tina McLintock (CCRA), David Harrison (Kennedy House), Elaine Petrossian (SGCA), Carol Thomas (Project Home).

The April 28, 2020 meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> District Advisory Council (PDAC) was held via Zoom, a virtual meeting program, to facilitate the current restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm by Chester Wichowski, Chairman.

**OFFICERS OF THE MONTH:** Deferred for this month.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** The minutes for the February 25<sup>th</sup>, meeting, submitted by Colleen Walsh and previously distributed via email, were approved. No meeting held in March.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The treasurer’s report for the period since our last meeting, submitted by Treasurer Wendy Gosfield and previously distributed via email, was reviewed, noting a balance of \$28,239.32, of which \$24,000 is allocated to the Bicycle Fund; \$2,817.08 to the District; and \$1,422.24 to the PDAC which includes expenses of \$487 for Officer-of-the Month plaques. Donations from the public were solicited to provide meal(s) for 9<sup>th</sup> District personnel during the COVID-19 situation, collecting 7 checks from neighbors, totaling \$550 thus far. They were not yet deposited or included in this month’s report. Michael L. suggested soliciting the same area businesses that we did for the bike fund. Discussion followed re whom to solicit for this purpose, and which business(es) to patronize for it. Date and time for a meal with Mission Bar-B Que will be scheduled.

**P.A.L. CENTER UPDATE:** Closed due to COVID. The officers typically assigned to the center have been dispersed to work on the streets.

**PROJECT H.O.M.E. UPDATE:** Carol Thomas thanked the 9<sup>th</sup> District for their support during this challenging situation. The homeless count is down due to the opening of new shelters. The shelters are set up for social distancing; however, there are still some individuals who do not want to go in. There have been pockets of homeless people at 15<sup>th</sup> & JFK, about 100/night, and more in Kensington. For other places in center city, numbers continue to drop. The Hub of Hope opened testing for COVID-19 and are housing those infected at the Walnut Street Holiday Inn, which is currently 70% full of quarantined homeless. Project Home is still preparing to do count in May, but need more volunteers to facilitate social distancing.

**B.A.R.N. REPORT:** Jonathan Hunter reported that most restaurants are closed, except some take out. Bars are hurting more than restaurants as take-out for many are not worth it. He has been involved with informal discussions with PA state agencies to help get some of the bars/restaurants back on their feet. He noted that reopening will be challenging for owners who have already lost revenue, and for enforcement of virus-mitigation measures due to pent up demand for them to reopen.

**A.D.A. REPORT:** None

**HUMAN RELATIONS UPDATE:** None

**CAPTAIN’S REPORT:** Officer Kiefer reported that theft from autos, especially near the Art Museum and Kelley Drive, have increased due to heavy use of the trail. About half of the reported thefts were from unlocked cars. There are new reports of apartment burglaries in storage units on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. A suspect has been arrested for a purse robbery on North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Motorcycle noise and speeding complaints have increased. Crime is down; fewer victims around.

Wendy G.: an individual in her neighborhood reported that she was robbed after being pulled into alley. The police have been involved, have IDd the car, and have data on the suspect. They will keep us updated.

Elaine P: recently, and possibly related to a short-term rental property, noticed someone trying to get over a fence, appearing suspicious. Officer O’Shea noted that another neighbor reported similar activity which Officer O’Shea followed up on, reporting that the rental unit is compliant with local laws.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Officer O'Shea reported increased activity on Twitter and other social media for engaging kids in the area.

Motorcycle noise and drag racing on the Parkway have increased with the warm weather. Captain is working on a plan. Some possible solutions: metal barriers near art museum to deter them, parking tickets when appropriate, red light cameras, and speed bumps.

Rittenhouse Square: more tickets have been issued and police presence increased for increased socializing during the stay-at-home order.

**AREA NEEDS:**

Elaine P: Election Day is June 2<sup>nd</sup>, stressed importance of voting (nonpartisan message). All voters should expect that they will not be voting in their regular places. Mail-in votes are encouraged.

Elaine P.: questioned how the social distancing rules will be enforced when the weather becomes warmer. Officer O'Shea said the police are encouraging groups to disband and move along, as the police try to find a middle ground in an increasingly stressful situation. Overnight police detail for crime prevention for boarded up stores, etc. has been increased.

Wendy G.: some neighborhood and business organizations have petitioned to close the outer lane of the Parkway for pedestrian use. No reports of this request have circulated through 9<sup>th</sup> District.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held as follows:

**Tues, May 26th 5:00pm.**

**Via Zoom teleconferencing**

*Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Walsh*

### **Officers of the Month**

Two officers of the month will be recognized once COVID allows. It was suggested that the officers of the month be recognized through scheduled Zoom meetings. Normally, restaurant gift certificates are awarded; it was suggested that they could still be given as long as the restaurants do curbside pickup. Plaques can still be ordered.

### **Treasurer's Report**

See accompanying report. \$2,550 was collected over the past month through community donations toward the food and beverage fund. The checks are appreciated. A dinner is scheduled for June 13, 2020. Donor organizations will be recognized in the future.

### **PAL Centers**

The PAL centers remain shut down at this point. An update be available after June 1, 2020.

### **Homeless Update**

There have been three separate stabbings among people experiencing homelessness in Love Park. Arrests were made immediately. There was another stabbing at 17<sup>th</sup> and Locust this past week. The stabbings occurred between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. The one at 17<sup>th</sup> and Locust occurred in the afternoon around 3 p.m. All stabbings involved people experiencing homeless against other people experiencing homelessness.

The police should be notified of homeless encampments.

### **BARN Update**

Cocktail takeout is now allowed. No problems have been reported.

### **ADA Report**

Through a recent reorganization within the DA's Office, two ADAs have been assigned to the Ninth District. One of the assigned has expressed interest in addressing the PDAC. The DA's Office seems to be working better with the Ninth District. The DA's community relations officer will be invited to the June PDAC meeting. Police are cautiously optimistic. The possibility was raised that the sudden interest is related to the upcoming election.

### **Captain's Report**

- There was a shooting 800 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street two weeks ago. There is a person of interest.
- Package thefts continue. Plainclothes officers are attempting to catch people stealing packages and checking car doors.
- A food delivery person was held up at fake gunpoint, using a BB gun. No charges were pressed.
- There was no update concerning the fatal stabbing in Rittenhouse Square. Officer O'Shea will ask for an update to be provided at the next meeting.
- Recent complaints to Police have concerned (1) lack of social distancing in Rittenhouse Square, (2) drag racing on the Parkway, and (3) use of narcotics in Rittenhouse Square.
  1. Regarding social distancing, it was stated at the April meeting that everything regarding COVID was changing from day to day and that, at that time, Police would not be arresting anyone for lack of social distancing, but they would try to get people to move along.

2. Regarding drag-racing on the Parkway, at the April meeting it was mentioned that the City had done something to shift the lanes slightly (I think in an effort to somehow discourage drag-racing). Police policy is that they cannot chase motorcyclists.
3. Regarding use of narcotics on the Square, I'm not sure exactly what they are doing. However, at a prior meeting, it was stated that Captain Hooven was personally surveilling what was happening at the Square, and I believe reference was made to this being an issue among the food-delivery bicyclists, like Caviar.

**Subject:** 1810 Chestnut Street - Historical Commission Update

**From:** Eric Leighton <[eric@cecilbakerpartners.com](mailto:eric@cecilbakerpartners.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 9:22 AM

**To:** Richard Gross <[RGross@bwra.com](mailto:RGross@bwra.com)>

**Cc:** Tim Shaaban <[tshaaban@astobaninvestments.com](mailto:tshaaban@astobaninvestments.com)>; Cecil Baker <[cbaker@cecilbakerpartners.com](mailto:cbaker@cecilbakerpartners.com)>

**Subject:** 1810 Chestnut Street - Historical Commission Update

Rick,

I hope this email finds you well.

If you are yet not aware, we received a near-unanimous vote of approval (there was one nay) from the Historical Commission Architectural Committee this past Tuesday morning, with three conditions.

While we await minutes of the meeting, by our notes a summary of the conditions are:

1. We work with the staff on the preservation/restoration of the existing Freeman's building (windows, brick repairs, concrete repairs, etc.). This was always our intention.
2. We further study the color of the elastomeric coating on the concrete core (exposed west wall) to identify something a bit darker (more gray).
3. We retain the entire north wall of the existing elevator penthouse and reuse an existing opening for a window (this can be seen rising above and just behind the Chestnut Street cornice).

We are in the process of incorporating these thoughts to the degree we can prior to the upcoming Historical Commission meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The only public comment was from Patrick Grossi of the Preservation Alliance, and his thoughts towards the overbuild were positive, owing to preservation of the existing building.

With this said, I write to inquire about the possibility of a supportive statement from the CCRA to the Historical Commission, either in writing, perhaps in person (via Webex), or both, either prior to and/or during the meeting.

We thank you in advance for your interest in our project.

Please do not hesitate to let me know of any questions.

Regards,

Eric

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**Eric Leighton, AIA**  
Partner

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