

Preserve, enhance and celebrate urban living

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING TUESDAY, May 12, 2020

## Via Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President at 6:06PM. The following directors were present via Zoom: Guy Aiman, Paula Buonomo, Pip Campbell, Elena Cappella, Donna Cordner, Michelle Ettinger, Richard Frey, Matt Fontana, Rick Gross, Barbara Halpern, Amy Jared, Susan Kahn, Doug Mellor, Lauren O’Donnell, Harvey Ostroff, Nathaniel Parks, Charles Robin, Nan Robinson, Paul Rothblatt, Robin Sweet, Matt Schreck, Dawn Willis, Ben Zuckerman, Jeff Braff, Chuck Goodwin and Steve Huntington. Wade Albert also participated as counsel. Travis Oliver participated as well. Ben Crenshaw, Brian Emmons, Dustin Downey, Clara Weinberg and Brian Cruise participated as guests. Jacob Cooper, Evan Litwin, Mike Schade and Janice Woodcock also participated.
2. Board members not present: Michael Bowman, Ayanna Haskins, Maggie Mund, David Rose
3. Southern Land presented plans to develop 1620 Sansom Street into a 300-foot residential tower with active retail uses on Sansom, prior to submission to the CDR process. After comments were received, Jacob Cooper and Even Litwin, members of the Zoning Committee, will represent CCRA during the process and will receive and attempt to negotiate concerns coming from the Board and the Community.
4. A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of April 14, 2020 was Made, Seconded and Passed.
5. The Treasurer presented the Treasurer’s report, including the Budgeted vs. Actual results through April 30, 2020 which are on target with the budget passed in November. The current Covid19 virus situation is putting substantial pressure on our budget. Matt reported that we have been approved for a Payroll Protection Program loan. Matt is working on a reduced but balanced budget for the next fiscal year. Our accountant has notified us that he is retiring, and we will be interviewing new accountants. Office alternatives after the WeWork lease expires on December 31, 2020, are being explored. Matt is also trying to rework our street cleaning arrangements with Paul Levy at CCD.
6. Rick Gross reported that the Development Committee will meet electronically in June to review options for replacing the $40,000 hole created by the cancellation of the House Tour and the possible cancellation of the fall Casino Night.
7. Travis Oliver’s gave the office report. He is working with the DA’s office liaison on homeless problems in and around Rittenhouse Square. He has received complements from members on CCRA’s work during the crisis and on the updated website.
8. The Vice-President reported that:
   * + the Annual Meeting to be held on June 15th or June 17th electronically; Officer Jesse O’Shea will be our speaker;
     + The use of 911 to report unsafe panhandling and gang congregating which seems to be working;
     + Signs will be put up throughout the Square to urge people to stay distant and the police will follow up;

- Members will be contacted about being sure to honor their Board commitments during a difficult time.

1. Steve Huntington reported on the letter the Crosstown Coalition is recommending sending to Council opposing the CBA Legislation as currently drafted. It was M/S/P that CCRA sign the letter.
2. Michelle Ettinger reported on ideas from the Membership Committee to maintain and increase membership during a difficult time.
3. Barbara Halperin reported on efforts to help local restaurants. Hostility between mask wearers and non-wearers is evident and Barbara wants to work with other groups to work on the problem.
4. Jeff Braff reported from the Nominating Committee who have identified three existing board members (Bowman, Ostroff and Zuckerman) who will be renominated and three new candidates (Weinrow, Stace and Breslow). Tina Breslow has a financial interest but requires a waiver of our conflict of interest property. The following motion was made:

*The Board of the Center City Residents’ Association (CCRA) has acknowledged receiving disclosure of an actual or potential conflict of interest that may arise from the nomination of Tina Breslow to the Board. The CCRA Board hereby waives any such actual or potential conflict of interest that may exist by virtue of Tina Breslow being nominated and, if approved by CCRA membership, elected to the Board, in light of her continued financial interest in Breslow & Associates with whom CCRA has a contractual relationship.*

After discussion, the motion passed 18-4.

1. Chuck Goodwin reported that there will be an electronic debate between Sen. Larry Farnese and his opponent Nikil Saval on Friday, May 22nd at 5:30pm.
2. Donna asked for ideas of local heroes to be honored.
3. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Gross,

Secretary