

**Penn Knox Neighborhood Association Community Zoom Meeting
February 2, 2021, 7 p.m.**

pennknox.germantown@gmail.com

Attending: Zarah Adams, Adam Kaufman, Angela Steele, Terese Vekteris, Andreana Barefield, Georgette Bartell, Sue Patterson, Grace Flisser, Maggie Manzer, Alison Weiss, Shawn Megill Legendre, Krystal Dillard, Nadia Malik, James Burns, Elizabeth Green, Darisha Parker, Heather Plataras

1. Angela shared the new mission, values, and vision statement that the board had produced for PKNA, which all seemed to be fine with. Grace said that it helps to define and focus us.

2. Angela then shared the re-formed committees that we had come up with, explaining each.

The Quality of Life committee would address basic issues of our public life - traffic, stop signs, streets, safety, and such. This committee would also reach out to renters, owners of commercial properties, block captains, and ward leaders.

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor committee would address more social or individual issues, such as neighborhood events, neighbors' needs, serving to connect people. Grace will think about ways to get the ball rolling.

The Development and Conservation Committee would attempt to be proactive in addressing - possibly protecting, possibly allowing for building - our built and green environments, including zoning issues. Maggie will likely chair this committee.

Zarah suggested that we publicize their new change in our structure, informing people and drawing them in. We will include this information on our website, in newsletters, and email blasts going forward.

Maggie updated us concerning the Historic nomination for 156 W. School House Lane. At the meeting of the Historic Commission's Committee on Designation in January, the committee unanimously recommended that the property go forward for nomination. The whole Commission will meet on February 12. PKNA neighbors are urged to send letters of support to the nomination to the Commission before then; neighbors are also encouraged to attend the Commission meeting on February 12. We will send out links to model support letters and information about to whom to send them, and also information about how to join the February 12 meeting, and its time of day.

3. Terese gave us the financial report: we have roughly \$1,600 in the bank. Everyone is urged to pay dues so that we can afford the equipment printing costs, and any other fees (permits, etc.) that support our community.

4. Heather informed us about her program for girls from 3rd-8th grade that seeks to foster emotional and physical health, Girls on the Run, which is a non-profit organization that focuses on wellness through movement and the achievement of confidence and social skills. The program is recruiting girls in our neighborhood, talking to schools and other community organizations, and seeks our help both in that recruitment and in finding adult volunteers to help guide the program. The girls would meet twice per week for eight weeks starting in mid-March; the program is currently searching for parks to host their program since they can't meet at

schools due to the pandemic. The volunteers receive training; they would function something like mentors and role models, and would be provided with a curriculum. They all must receive various clearances from the state to work as volunteers. Elizabeth stated that she knows students who've been in the program and have really enjoyed it. Georgette said that people who are home-schooled might benefit from the program.

Heather mentioned the possibility of using Vernon Park; Sue suggested that Howell Park might work very well, and is a little more private.

Darisha, our State Representative, who will (among other responsibilities) chair the Subcommittee on Women and Girls of Color state committee this coming legislative session, is interested in helping Heather and would like to talk to her further.

5. open mike:

Nadia introduced herself as a representative of Mural Arts' Porch Light division, which uses arts as an avenue to foster mental and behavioral health, especially with people in Long Term Structured Residences who do not have much voice in our society. Porch Light involves people in LTSRs to paint murals as a socially and emotionally growthful activity. They scouted out Germantown looking for potential sites that they might use for these efforts that might also benefit the community, and have gotten permission to use the wall at the gas station at Queen and Greene Streets and also a wall facing the gas station on the other side of the street as well. James is the artist who will be planning and actually painting the mural; he has done this already at sites such as Einstein Hospital, and has run many workshops. Porch Light is working with the homeowner and the gas station owner. Angela had previously mentioned litter and other problems at the gas station as a quality of life issue for the neighborhood, so having mural activity and mural at that site will likely be a big help. Nadia said that research shows that the presence of murals help shift the neighborhood positively.

Nadia showed the design for the mural through screen sharing, and we were generally really happy with it. We will include information about the mural, including its time-line, once we get it, in future emails and newsletters in order to help publicize this information. Nadia and James will be on our agenda for March 2 and will share more information and officially show us the mural design at that meeting.