

PKNA zoom meeting, November 10, 2020 pennknoxgermantown@gmail.com

Attending: Maggie Manzer, Terese Vekteris, Grace Flisser, Adam Kaufman, Georgette Bartell, Martha Savery, Pat Albrgiht, Aneesha Shabazz, Jessica Horton, Katina Fisher, Betty Wideman, Chrissi Gaddle. Janice Huger, Zarah Adams, Angela Steele, Sue Patterson

1. Nominations for officers;:

Maggie announced that we are still seeking nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for PKNA. The nominations will be announced in our next news bulletin and nominees may speak at the December 1 meeting. An election will be held at our January meeting. Help spread the word!

2. By-laws:

Adam stated that the link for the new draft of the by-laws went out in the November newsletter. The new by-laws clarify job responsibilities of officers and the process for making a mid-term unexpected transition of officers. He said that dues in the by-laws are suggested, but not required, which is similar to the dues structure stated in the old by-laws. He urged us to compare the old by-laws, which are on the PKNA website, with the new ones. Terese will sent out a link with the old and new by-laws.

3. Boys and Girls Club (BCG):

Maggie stated that in response to our request for an update about renovations at the BGC at Penn and Germantown, we had received a note from the BGC lawyer, Reuben Asia. Sue stated that that we should ask for clarification as to whether there are one or two basketball courts at this point, since the BGC had filled in the old swimming pool for a basement basketball court, but there might be a new one as well. It would be an asset to the neighborhood if there were two courts. Also, Sue said that we should clarify whether the lot at Coulter and Greene Streets will be used for a little playground that the BGC is planning, and to ask how they will handle parking for that playground and for the BGC itself. We also should stay attuned to supporting the existence of the BG at Morris Street if we hear that it is threatened with closure.

4. Zoning:

a. Irving, our PKNA Chair, had zoomed with the Head of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, (PSD). PSD had bought the lot at 156 W. Schoolhouse Lane so that they could demolish it and build an auditorium, it seems. PSD wants PKNA to support the demolition. However, there is a historic designation pending for this property, so until that's decided, it certainly won't be demolished. Maggie will be taking on the communication with PSD from this point. We want to understand the justification that they have for demolition of 156. The Historic Commission is aware that this property will be considered for historic designation.

b. Maggie alerted us that 5139 Wayne, which has a nice lot immediately next to PKNA, is also up for historic designation, but the owner that had bought it in March for \$300,000 put it up for sale in June for \$1.2 million to build a 48-unit apartment building on the lot. Maggie stated that a 48-unit building doesn't "fit" with the neighborhood architecture and it will not provide affordable housing nor adequate parking. According to Sue, we are told that the Historic Commission stated a permit for demolition of the property has been given. We ned to check with the Historic Commission as to whether demolition will go forward.

Sue said that we should be proactive and write to owners who are considering selling properties to ask them to consider turning their property into affordable housing. There are other lots, such

as near Stenton Manor, that might be in a state of transition. The Zoning Committee might reach out to the Nicetown Zoning Committee to work together. Grace said that we might set up a new committee on affordable housing which would be separate from the Zoning Committee, but we're not sure who could launch that effort. Maybe we could ask Ian Hagerty (see c. below) for help to get that going. Pat Albright is interested as well. Grace urged people to read the PKNA position statement on development, which is on the PKNA website.

c. Ian Hagerty from the Philadelphia Planning Commission will speak to the PKNA community zoom meeting on December 1, and after his presentation, we can write to the city to support his recommendations if we find them compelling.

d. Note that Betty Wideman and Pat Albright expressed interest in being on the Zoning Committee. They should contact Maggie.

5. Finance: Maggie announced that we have eight new memberships! Great news. Our account has \$1,502.58 in it. Everyone should consider supporting PKNA by paying dues: \$10/person or \$25/household.

6. PKNA new instagram account: Terese announced that you can find it @pennknoxgermantown. Anyone who would like to help with that - please contact Terese.

7. Next meeting: We will hear Ian Hagerty and hear from nominees for office on Dec. 1, 7:00 pm.

8. Social Media: PKNA has two FaceBook pages. We really should merge the two. We also post on Living in Germantown and Changing Germantown.

9. Open Mike:

a. Chrissie said that the 24-hour Sunoco gas station at Greene and Queen is a nuisance - they have people blasting music at 4 a.m and produce litter; there was a shooting there as well. She asked for some advice as to how to address the problem. It was suggested that she might go to the 39th district Police District Meeting and contact their Community Liaison, Joe Lukpatis(??) - send him an email.

b. New attendees introduced themselves: Aneesha, Katina, Jessica

c. Pat said that Women at the Crossroads is moving to 5011 Wayne Avenue and hosting free COVID tests from 11-3, and will be distributing food. She'd like us to post that at or help publicize that.

d. Sue said that Love Your Park is this Saturday, so Howell Park people will be mulching and planting bulbs starting at 10 a.m. They should be finished by noon. They are happy to have volunteers.

Addendum: Following the zoom meeting, we received nominations for officers:

Sue nominated Adam for Chair and Angela for Vice Chair;

Georgette nominated both Angela and Sue for Vice Chair