

GARDEN COURT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019

Present: Brenda Bonhomme, Maria Delgado, Stephen DeLuca, Angela Dowd-Burton, Ancil George, Andra Laidacker, Howard Lowell, Chris Mejia-Smith, Dorothy Mejia-Smith (on-line), Lois Pharr, Hazel Singleton, Elyana Tarlow

Guests: Frank Allegra, Progressive Dinner Logistics; Sargent Cureto, Police Department
University of Pennsylvania

Absent: Liz Champion, Claudia Christian, Gregorio Cojulun, Freda Egnal, Kate Farquhar, Jerene Good, Victoria Harris, Bobbi Jaffe, Nani Manion, Mark Mendenhall, Malyka Sankafa, Utsav Schurmans

WELCOME

PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2019 – OUTCOME AND FEEDBACK

The 25th Anniversary Progressive Dinner was an extraordinary success! Over \$5,000 was raised including \$1,200 in donations and 12 new members. The dinner was attended by at least 105 people, including hosts. 94 Tickets were sold, 57 via TicketLeap and 37 via check. 12 attendees paid \$50 at the late registration rate. Two complimentary tickets were given to Spruce Street Commons as an acknowledgement of their \$1,000 donation and two tickets were also offered to the student musicians and their parent, one parent and student attended.

Angela distributed small tokens of appreciation to Board Members and asked Members to deliver gifts to hosts (25th Anniversary GCCA commemorative candles) and sponsors (covered commemorative certificates) who supported the dinner over the past twenty-five years but were unable to attend this historic event. All 2019 hosts will be given an opportunity to receive a GCCA letter documenting their donations to the Progressive Dinner, based on receipts provided.

The Board was asked to reflect on the success of this Anniversary Dinner, reportedly the best in 25 years, and to provide suggestions that will make the 2020 Dinner even better. Frank Allegra has agreed to provide contacts for three new hosts. Andra Laidacker has volunteered to Chair the 2020 Dinner scheduled for September 26, 2020. Save the Date! Angela will write a How-To Host A Progressive Dinner Manual for future reference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning – Jonas Macionas, Chair (reported by A. Dowd-Burton)

The Board has approved the following individuals to serve a one-year term on the Zoning Committee

(2019 – 2020): Anurag Sagar, Luis Bravo, Adam Butler, Becca Runyon, Brenda Bonhomme

On September 9th the Board approved the following individuals to serve a two-year term
(2019 – 2021): Leonard Bonarek, Victoria Harris, Howard Lowell, Chris Mejia Smith, Cindy Rosenthal, Elyana Tarlow, Dolores Vera

The one-year and two-year terms will enable the Zoning Committee to implement a staggered governing structure to ensure continuity.

Andra Laidacker recommended an insurance orientation for the Zoning Committee which was approved by the Board. Jonas will coordinate with Andra an on-boarding process for all committee members.

Finance – Chris Mejia-Smith, Chair

Chris highlighted the impact of the Progressive Dinner fundraiser, \$5,000 in revenue, including \$1,200 in donations, 12 new financial members. Finance Report is attached for reference. A question has been raised as to the use of the funds raised. This topic will be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

Angela Dowd-Burton was reimbursed for citation printing, citation holders, Things to Remember engraving and postage for additional postcards mailed. Sterling keepsake boxes for Progressive Dinner Chairs were donated.

Communications – Dorothy Mejia-Smith, Chair

We need your input for the next newsletter. The Progressive Dinner, changes in the Zoning Committee, other Committee news should be reported. The November ??? General Meeting featuring Jamie Gauthier, City Council Democratic Nominee for the 3rd Councilmatic District, site and date to be confirmed. Also, The Enterprise Center will host a program celebrating Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell on October 28th from 5:00 to 8:00. In addition, Mary Allegra's Memorial Service and Pot-Luck will be held at the Mosaic Community Church on October 19th from 1:00 to 5:00.

Education – Nani Manion, Chair (Reported by A. Dowd-Burton)

Wednesday, October 9th, Councilwoman Blackwell is hosting a 52nd Street streetscape listening session. All are invited to drop by the Library or fill out the online survey.

Tuesday, October 15th, Councilwoman Blackwell is hosting both a demonstration of the new voting machines (3:30 to 6:30) and a rain barrel workshop at 6:00 (all are invited to register).

Tuesday, October 22nd, The Friends of Blackwell meeting will take place. (This was postponed due to the Jewish holidays.) The GCCA Education Committee will be their special guest.

Saturday, October 19th, there will also be a voting machine demonstration at Calvary United Methodist Church, 801 S. 48th Street.

Membership – Utsav Schurmans, Chair (reported by C. Mejia-Smith)

12 new members generated from the Progressive Dinner.

Business – Mark Mendenhall, Chair

No Update, Mark is traveling.

Greening - Victoria Harris, Chair (reported by H. Lowell)

Friday, October 25th, (5:00 to 6:30) a Garden Harvest will take place at 47th and Spruce

Saturday, November 9th, Love Your Park – volunteers are requested for Clean-up of Barkan Park
(2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

Report dead trees to Councilwoman Blackwell's office.

Be aware of the threat of the spotted lanternfly.

Public Safety - Gregorio Cojulun, Chair

Sergeant Cureto, Police Department for the University of Penn, cautioned car owners to remove all valuables including car insurance documents from the vehicle; encouraged all to say something if they see something out of the ordinary (call 911); ask that we be the eyes and ears of the force. Chris Mejia-Smith reported the predator discussed at the September Board meeting was captured.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Presidency – Angela Dowd-Burton's transition to the presidency leaves the Vice President position vacant. Chris has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee to fill the vacancy.

Memorial Service and Pot-Luck for Mary Allegra on October 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 at Mosaic Community Church, 123 So. 51st St.

NEW BUSINESS

Join us in congratulating Jonas and Victoria on the birth of their bouncing, baby girl.

WRAP-UP

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted by Angela Dowd-Burton on behalf of Liz Campion, Secretary.