

**GARDEN COURT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2019**

Present: Frank Allegra, Stephen DeLuca, Angela Dowd-Burton, Ancil George, Bobbi Jaffe, Howard Lowell, Chris Mejia-Smith, Dorothy Mejia-Smith, Mark Mendenhall, Elyana Tarlow

Absent: Brenda Bonhomme, Liz Campion, Claudia Christian, Gregorio Cojulun, Maria Delgado, Freda Egnal, Jerene Good, Victoria Harris, Andra Laidacker, Martha Ledger, Jonas Maciunas, Nani Manion, Lois Pharr, Malyka Sankafa, Utsav Schurmans, Hazel Singleton

Guest: Shelia Mayne

WELCOME

- Minutes of the November 4th meeting were approved
- Feedback was provided on the General Meeting held November 14th at the Church of the Holy Apostles & the Mediator, 260 S. 51st Street. The consensus was that Councilwoman-elect Jamie Gauthier gave an excellent presentation and Q&A; various locations for the spring general meeting were suggested for consideration (Churches proposed: Holy Apostles, Beulah, Calvary, and Renewal – handicap accessibility was required)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning – Jonas Maciunas, Chair (reported by Chris Mejia-Smith)

- A protocol for an unbiased survey will be developed in 2020
- 48th Street property is under renovation, no permit for demolition on file
- A historic preservation presentation will be shared with Councilwoman-elect Jamie Gauthier in 2020

Finance – Chris Mejia-Smith, Chair

- \$327 in new membership fees were collected for November; income for the year totaled \$6,623; expenses totaled \$4,340; ending balance of \$25,047.
- The request for the Treasurer's Report a week before the Board Meeting was denied given the end of the month financial activity and the first Monday of the month meeting schedule does not permit time for compiling the bank statement and activity

Communications – Dorothy Mejia-Smith, Chair

- Writers are encouraged to blog about topics of interest to GCCA residents. Dorothy will help with access to the website. Online articles provide members with more timely information. Blogs will be converted to articles for the spring newsletter; a picture gallery will be created to share events with our members; the list of Progressive Dinner hosts and contributors over the past 25 years will be listed on the website as a tribute; as an alternative to a group picture of the Board of Directors all board members were asked to send Dorothy their picture for the GCCA website; we need to prepare an invitation for members to consider serving on the board and pursue nominations in the spring.

Education – Martha Ledger, Chair

- No report available

Membership – Utsav Schurmans, Chair

- Special thanks to those who provided light food and refreshments during the General Meeting on November 14th - Andra; Frank; Hazel; Howard; Lois; Maria; Utsav; and Angela.

Business – Mark Mendenhall, Chair

- The Enterprise Center is conducting a 52nd Street traffic safety and streetscape improvements project with JVM Studio, the Lindy Institute, and Sam Schwartz Engineering. Mark (representing GCCA) and Nani (representing the Library) are serving on the Steering Committee for the project. Jonas, in his professional capacity, is the lead consultant on the project.

By-Laws – Mark Mendenhall, Chair, (Dorothy, Andra and Angela to serve)

- Mark will reactivate the Committee after the holidays. Andra Laidacker has agreed to co-chair the committee and assist in updating the By-Laws with best practices.

Greening - Victoria Harris, Chair (report given by Howard Lowell)

- Park clean-ups were successful; Nancy Geryk advised that three people have volunteered to maintain the "tennis courts"

Public Safety - Gregorio Cojulun, Chair (Ancil George reported)

- Ancil reported a package being stolen from his front door. He noticed the culprit and reminded the Board, "If you see something out of the ordinary say something".

Progressive Dinner Chair 2020 – Andra Laidacker

- Angela to provide a Planning doc for reference in 2020.

Nominations Committee

- Chris Mejia-Smith to serve on the Committee but has declined to chair

NEW BUSINESS

- Frank Allegra will chair the Mary Allegra Tribute Committee in 2020.
- Frank has requested volunteers to help decorate the Allegra House for the holidays on 12/7 and 12/14. Board members are invited to the Holiday Party, 12/20 at 7:00, and the New Year's Day Brunch at 11
- **Next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2020**

WRAP-UP

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. Small gifts of appreciation were distributed. Happy Holidays to all. Best wishes for a wonderful new year

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