

CHESTNUT HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (PA), INC.

SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS/OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

**PROPOSAL TO CHCA MEMBERSHIP
TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2016 BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

At its meeting on November 17, 2016, the Board of Directors unanimously approved in principle the proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Chestnut Hill Community Association (PA), Inc. These changes were first submitted and approved by the Bylaws Committee.

Below is a summary on how the Bylaws Committee works and comes to decisions on the bylaws. It is the recommended that members read the bylaws in its entirety as it considers its vote:

On Thursday, November 17 the Board was asked to approve in principle recommended revisions to the existing Bylaws. These recommended revisions were approved by the Executive Committee on November 10 and by the Bylaws Committee on November 2. Members of the Bylaws Committee were Jean Hemphill, Esq, John Falco, Esq, Will Detweiler, Laura Lucas, Chris Padova, Julie Byrne, Dan Compton, Drew Meschter and Jack McMeekin (Chair). Their charge was to update and streamline the current Bylaws to better position the Association for future changes and opportunities. What had been 32 pages is now 20 pages, largely as the result of eliminating redundancies and more succinctly describing our committee structure. They believed that the suggested revisions offer CHCA a more forward looking, publicly supported document designed to attract new members and appeal to outside funding organizations.

Several of the more important recommended changes include setting July 1-June 30 as the new Fiscal Year, which is consistent with our sister organizations and consistent with most other Not-For-Profit organizations, as suggested by our outside audit firm. This requires us to change the timing of Nominations, Election and our Annual Membership meeting from April and May to May and June/July.

Additionally, they recommended reducing the overall size of our Board by reducing Elected Directors from 24 to 21 over a two year period, and reducing the number of outside organization directors to 5 as opposed to 6. Including the Past president, the total Board size would now be 27 as opposed to the current 31 seats. The voting age of Members is now proposed to be 18 years of age rather than the current 14 years of age. The term of the President was changed from an initial one year term, with the ability to serve an additional one year term, to an initial two year term with the ability to serve two additional consecutive one year terms. It was felt that given the growing complexity and demands of CHCA and to show greater consistency in our Leadership a longer term was appropriate.

A new committee, to be known as the Committee on Governance, was established. It is to be chaired by the Immediate Past President and co-chaired by the Vice President for Operations, with up to five Elected Directors serving as members. The Committee on Governance would be responsible for the important functions of Nomination, Election, Bylaws and Board Development. These functions are traditionally annual activities and all serve to enhance and improve our future governance structure. The Committee would meet at least once a year and at the call of the President.

In order to effect the new bylaws, current CHCA members (“Members”) are being asked to approve the Proposal. This proposal can be found on our homepage at www.chestnuthill.org. Additional copies may be picked up or read by request here in our office. The Board believes that these changes will streamline the bylaws, will enhance governance, and will align our fiscal year with a majority of similar 501(c)(3) organizations. If Members approve the Proposal, the new bylaws will become effective on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

The meeting on Monday, January 30 has the dual purpose of enabling hand delivery of ballots and also providing an opportunity to meet our staff, see our office, and enjoy some light refreshments. Voting “FOR” the Proposal constitutes a vote for the actions described in the new bylaws.

To request copies of the proposed bylaws or a proxy card (if you are unable to attend the Special Meeting/Open House in person), contact the CHCA in person (between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM); by mail at 8434 Germantown Avenue, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19118; by telephone at 215-248-8810; or by email at info@chestnuthill.org.