

Chestnut Hill Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

Chestnut Hill Library
Thursday, July 23, 2015

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Liz Bales (VP Social Division), Bob Boyer, Julie Byrne, George Coates, Dan Compton, Patricia Cove, Will Detweiler (President), Sam Earle, Lisa Howe, Mark Keintz, Andy Kite, Joyce Lenhardt, Laura Lucas (VP Operations), Karl Martin, Larry McEwen (VP Physical Division), Jack McMeekin, Drew Meschter, Arianna Neromiliotis (Teenagers Inc.), Marilyn Pauker, Christopher Plant (CH Business Association), Dan Pulka, Tony Reilly (Treasurer), Bob Rossman, Michelle Sage, Richard Snowden (CH Parking Foundation), and Jean Wedgwood (Secretary)

Board Members Absent: Jason Bissonette, Mary Lynskey (Jenks Academy), Jenny McHugh (Springside Chestnut Hill Academy), Remy Pizzichini, and Brien Tilley (Immediate Past President)

Attendance: 26 present and 5 absent = 31

Others Present: Kevin Dicciani (CH Local), John Falco (Attorney), Celeste Hardester (Community Manager), Larry Hochberger (Associate Publisher), and Caryl Johnston (Recorder)

President Will Detweiler called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, and the roll call was conducted by Caryl Johnston. Will offered a motion to add the Treasurer's Report as an item on tonight's agenda; the motion passed. New Board member Dan Pulka was introduced. Will said that two weeks ago on Monday he received a written resignation from Community Manager Celeste Hardester, which left him shocked, sad, and disappointed. He said that a Search Committee, under the leadership of Patricia Cove and Jack McMeekin, has been appointed. Thankfully Celeste has agreed to continue to work part-time for the next 12 weeks until a replacement can be found. Will expressed the Board's great appreciation for Celeste's work. Richard Snowden offered a motion to let the minutes reflect the Board's deep appreciation for Celeste's service. The motion passed unanimously to great applause.

Will then mentioned that he had received a letter from Remy Pizzichini, which he wished to save for a (later) executive session at tonight's meeting.

Julie Byrne gave a report on last night's Pastorius Park concert fundraiser; she said \$1400 had been collected on behalf of the Hero Scholarship Fund for the families of police officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty. This is the first time CHCA has honored the police and firefighters in this way; in previous years we've held a picnic. It was mentioned that the Board also voted to give \$500 to the Hero Scholarship Fund, but Celeste corrected that by saying that this amount was included in the \$1400 donation.

Referred from the DRC: Residential Variance Request (440 Rex Avenue): Larry McEwen summarized the variance request for a front yard setback at this property. There was a motion to support the application for the required variance, which passed unanimously. Larry's written report also mentioned the re-activation of the Traffic, Transportation, and Parking Committee; Mark Keintz has agreed to serve as Chair.

Approval of CHCA Committee Chairs: This issue stimulated a prolonged discussion. Will Detweiler began by saying he had recommended Remy Pizzichini to the position of Membership Committee Chair, but that this was now a moot point as she had expressed that she does not wish to serve in such capacity. The bylaws require the President to recommend chairs for various committees. Will reiterated that he does not intend to name co-chairs except for certain existing committees. He thanked Larry McEwen, Liz Bales, and Laura Lucas for their input in this matter and submitted his list, the “President’s Recommendations” for committee chairpersons. Richard Snowden asked whether everyone on this list had agreed to serve; Will answered yes. Richard then offered a motion to accept the President’s recommendations; the motion passed. Liz commented that she was impressed by how many Board members stepped up to the plate. There was some further discussion regarding bylaws rules relevant to standing committees vis-à-vis ad hoc or new ones (Joyce Lenhardt). Larry spoke forcibly about the Physical Division committee. They do not have flexibility with respect to re-scheduling of meetings because actions are coordinated to strict schedules. For this reason we have had an acting co-chair, which allows the more and less experienced members to rotate. Will said that there’s nothing wrong with having a "vice-chair," but Larry thought that was “more hierarchy than we need.” Liz said the bylaws do specify designated chairs for each committee, but what about a situation where’s “it’s always been done that way.” Joyce Lenhardt agreed with Larry; things have always been working in the manner he described. Laura said that while she can live with the aforementioned nominations, she has been “appalled” at the manner in which Will has gone about choosing chairs for the committees, that has ignored the actual people who have been doing all the work. There was some further discussion, but basically the President’s recommendations were approved in a motion that passed with 15 votes in favor and 7 votes against:

PHYSICAL DIVISION

Development Review Committee	John Landis
Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee	John Haak
Streetscape Committee	John Romano
Traffic, Transportation, and Parking Committee	Mark Keintz

SOCIAL DIVISION

Blood Drive	Christopher Plant
Circle of Trees Event	Michelle Sage
Pastorius Park Concert Series	Julie Byrne
Public Meetings on Topics of Concern	George Coates

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Annual Meeting and Dinner	Richard Snowden
Awards Committee	Larry McEwen
Budget and Finance Committee	Tony Reilly
Bylaws Committee	Dan Mueller, Sr. Mary Helen Beirne
Chestnut Hill Products (inc. calendar)	Dan Pulka
Community Fund Drive	Bob Boyer
Election and Voting Procedures Committee	Sam Earle
Holiday House Tour	Jack McMeekin
Hoops Madness Event	Brien Tilley
Membership Committee (inc. New Residents Program)	Andy Kite
Nominating Committee	Brien Tilley
Movie Nights Committee	Christopher Padova

CHCA Bylaws Amendments: Sam Earle was asked to report on the status of the amended bylaws. The hope is that the bylaws can be presented at next month's Board meeting, giving time for a 30-day notice to the membership before it goes to a final vote. (The Board needs to approve the bylaws before they can be brought to the membership for a vote.) Sam said there have not really been many changes since the last time a discussion was held on the issue, and Will said that we are getting increasingly comfortable about moving this matter to the full membership for a vote. Richard Snowden said that the most important thing is to get the bylaws into a form that will pass the Board. There was some discussion regarding the drawbacks of doing this business at the August meeting, it being a month that Board members often miss. Will said again that he was hoping to bring this business to a successful conclusion and did not want to drag it out; however, let's play this by ear. Joyce Lenhardt spoke about wanting to get a copy of the bylaws to study at leisure before voting. She attempted to get a motion raised on the issue of Board members interested in seeing the bylaws obtaining a copy, but this was disregarded.

Approval of Minutes: Bob Rossman offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on June 25, 2015; this motion passed.

Interlocking Directorships: George Coates raised a question regarding Interlocking Directorships, where the CHCA sends a representative to an Interlocking institution. He then put himself forward to be the Interlocking Director from the CHCA to Teenagers Inc. This was roundly approved, with a thank you from Teens Inc. director Arianna Neromiliotis.

Executive Session: There was some confusion at this point about the executive session of the meeting about to occur, and some people were getting up to leave. It was unclear what was happening. The Recorder received permission from the President to leave. This portion of the meeting concluded at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted on 8/3/15 by:

Jean Wedgwood

CHCA Secretary

Initial draft of minutes prepared by Caryl Johnston.

Approved by the Board of Directors without amendment on 9/14/15.