

Chestnut Hill Community Association

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

via Zoom

Attending: Andy Kite, Anne McNiff, Keith Kunz, Jason Bissonette, Lucie Daigle, Alex Burns, Bradley Wells, Cathy Brzozowski, Jason Pierce, Joyce Lenhardt, Karl Martin, Kathi Clayton, Laura Lucas, Lawrence McEwen, Lindsey Toconita, Lynn Schroeder, Michael Harding, Tony Banks

Also attending: Heather Gray, Therese Tiger

1. President's Welcome – December meeting minutes and January meeting agenda were approved.
2. Executive Director Updates
 - a. Membership report – Anne reported that membership numbers for the previous 4 weeks were 22 new members and 108 renewals.
 - b. Anne reminded the Board that it is the last chance to make a donation for a Memorial tree for Eleanor Murdoch.
 - c. 2nd round of PPP loans – Anne reported that she will be applying for the 2nd round of PPP loans and it is likely that we will get the loan that will be eventually forgiven.
3. Physical Division Updates – Larry McEwen announced that he will be stepping down temporarily as VP of the Physical Division. His withdrawal as VP will be for the duration of the Community Review process for the 30 W. Highland Townhome project for which he is the architect. Tony Bank (VP of Operations Division) has graciously agreed to assume this role during Larry's absence.
4. Social Division Updates –
 - a. Deck the Door Contest – Lynn reported that the contest went really well with 24 homes and 2 business participating. Lynn thanked all the board members who contributed to the gift baskets. The feedback was so positive that we may make this an annual thing.
 - b. Virtual Parade video – Anne reported that Brien Tilley contacted her and suggested that in lieu of the parade we put together a virtual parade of sorts that would include musical performances from groups that are typically in the parade and other videos from non-musical groups. Brien contacted all parade participants and got a great response. Sebastian Tilley edited the video and Anne put it up on our YouTube channel. The link was sent to all members on Christmas Eve as a gift from the CHCA. Thanks to Brien and Sebastian for their hard work and quick turnaround on this.
5. Annual Appeal - Kathi Clayton announced that we are a bit ahead of where we were last year at this time – donations total \$35,000 as of today. There are still 2 months to go (appeal ends March 31) so we feel optimistic that we can make our goal of \$50,000. The CHCA is running a Valentine's themed ad in the Local asking people to make a donation of \$100 or more to the Appeal for which they will get a free personalized Valentine's message of love published in the Local. Kathi asked the CHCA board to all chip in \$10-\$20 for an ad from the Board. Kathi also proposed resurrecting Tony's idea from the fall to create a video message of board members talking about the organization that gets sent out. She also mentioned that Lindsay Toconita sent

out a nice message soliciting her friends and neighbors that Anne will share with everyone to use as a template for their own messaging.

6. New Business - Keith Kunz brought the situation at the former Blossom property on Mermaid Lane to the Board. The property was purchased in 2019 by the Goldenberg Group but nothing has ever been done with it. In the meantime, particularly since the COVID pandemic started, property crime has been increasing at the site. The vandalism and loitering reached such disturbing levels that Keith reached out to the property manager. Since that conversation, some crime mitigation and maintenance efforts have taken place, but the situation remains unresolved. There may be a connection between recent violent crimes in the vicinity of the property and the criminal activity taking place at the Blossom property. As a near neighbor and CHCA Board member, Keith is trying to facilitate a dialog between the property owners, the near neighbors and the Community Association. Anne mentioned she has a call with Cindy Bass, the Philadelphia Police Department 14th District and other community organization representatives about organizing a Town Hall that addresses the noticeable uptick in crimes in Northwest Philadelphia.
7. Community Partner Updates
 - a. Business District – Kathi Clayton: This weekend the Business District is presenting “Chestnut Hill on Ice” again. Remember that ice skating participation requires registration and that stores and restaurants will be running sales and specials.
 - b. Chestnut Hill Hospital - Cathy Brzozowski: The Hospital has currently vaccinated over 1000 employees and physicians with their first COVID vaccine doses and 300 with their second dose. The next phase will involve vaccinating community members who are over 75 years old. Cathy also mentioned that the hospital is creating a program to address de-escalation during interactions with people with mental health issues. Mental health problems are on the rise during the pandemic. This program will be open to the community and the hospital is working with the 14th District of the PPD as well.
 - c. Water Tower – Keith Kunz: The Water Tower building is re-opening on a limited basis. Occupancy is restricted and will be limited to permit-holding organizations. Keith also announced the rollout of a new Instagram account and website (www.wtrec.org) in addition to the Water Tower Advisory Council’s Facebook page. The postponed 100th anniversary celebration will be held September 16, 2021 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club.
 - d. Springside-Chestnut Hill Academy – Jenny McHugh: On MLK Day, SCH hosted a Conversation with Salem Baptist Church Pastor Marshall Mitchell and Pennsylvania's Attorney General Josh Shapiro inspired by the words of the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to commemorate this national holiday. She also announced that with fingers crossed, SCH has launched spring sports – and are committed to keeping the fields and track open to the community knowing that wellness is very important during the pandemic. She also expressed her thanks to the CH Local for including the article on the collaborative exhibits at Woodmere and SCH Academy in the inaugural issue of The Wissahickon Magazine.