

CHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

United Cerebral Palsy, 102 E. Mermaid Lane

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Liz Bales, Jason Bissonette, Bob Boyer, Mike Chomentowski, Dan Compton, Haviva Goldman (Jenks Academy), Jason Huber (Teenagers Inc.), Andy Kite, Joyce Lenhardt, Laura Lucas (President), Karl Martin (Treasurer), Larry McEwen, Drew Meschter, Arianna Neromiliotis, Marilyn Paucker (VP Social Division), Bob Rossman (VP Physical Division), and Jean Wedgwood (Secretary)

Board Members Absent: Patricia Cove (CH Historical Society), Will Detweiler (Immediate Past President), Sam Earle, Jenny McHugh (Springside CH Academy), Jack McMeekin, Remy Pizzichini, Christopher Plant (CH Business Association), Dan Pulka (VP Operations), and Richard Snowden (CH Parking Foundation)

Attendance: 17 present (quorum) and 9 absent = 26

Others Present: Larry Hochberger (Associate Publisher), Melany Nelson (Executive Director, Northwest Victim Services), Connor Nichols (CHCA Intern), Ryan Rosenbaum (Executive Director), Martha Sharkey (Executive Director, CH Business District), and Randy Williams (President, CH Historical Society)

Laura Lucas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., Karl Martin conducted the roll call, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes. The Board meeting minutes from 9/22/16 were approved.

Report from the VP-Social Division. Marilyn Paucker reported that the Black & White Gala (held on Saturday, October 8) was a terrific evening. We had about 150 guests; this was a building year. The food and band were great; gin was donated. The event netted about \$14,000. Marilyn also encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Harvest Kitchen Tour (to be held on Saturday, November 5), benefiting the Chestnut Hill Center for Enrichment.

Special Guest Speaker. Melany Nelson, Executive Director of Northwest Victim Services, described the important services (all free) provided by her organization. They are celebrating 35 years of service. Funding comes from various sources, including the Chestnut Hill Community Fund, and they have strong support from multiple police districts.

Annual Fund Drive. Dan Pulka, VP for Operations, reported that the Fund Drive Committee's first meeting was held last week and they are working on finding an honorary chair. The goal is to raise \$100,000, and Dan would like to see 100% participation from the Board. He also mentioned that we sold all 300 of our Harry Potter scarves, netting \$3,000 for the CHCA.

Residential Quality of Life Project Updates

- **Pastorius Park Pond.** CHCA leadership met with Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Friends of Pastorius Park, and community members. The City has agreed to pay \$40,000 to dredge the pond. The Friends group has been supportive and thankful.
- **Jenks Academy (Ardleigh Street side).** Larry McEwen reported that there has been a series of meetings trying to get certain things to happen. It's been a battle with location of the trash. The school does have a new contract, but sometimes the dumpster ends up on the sidewalk. The CHCA has asked the Philadelphia School District (PSD) to have an alcove; PSD will come back to us with the cost. Also, the ramp is being constructed; the stones that were removed will be used to align the ramp. Ramp will have a gate and will be used for deliveries. PSD has a nice planting scheme featuring crab apple trees, but has declined to use granite for the new steps. The project, which started about two weeks ago, will take 60 days. Haviva Goldman said that trash was put on the sidewalk on one occasion when they needed the driveway to prepare for Harry Potter events.
- **Water Tower Recreation Center.** The Center's Board is exploring a plan to improve spacing and functionality.
- **Benezet Street.** Laura Lucas reported that a gas main broke there some time ago, and the City has not yet finished the repair work. There are a number of City groups involved in getting that together. Arianna Neromiliotis mentioned that the Woodward Co. has been equally active in getting the street repaired.

Report from VP-Physical Division. Bob Rossman reported that the Development Review Committee did not meet this month. He mentioned that 8236 Germantown Avenue (The Co-Op Shop hair cutting) requires a use variance (they were cited by the City) and will come to next week's Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee meeting to discuss the refusal.

Report from VP-Operations. Dan Pulka reported on plans for the Holiday House Tour, to be held on Saturday, December 3. We are seeking additional sponsors and volunteers.

Harry Potter Festival. Mike Chomentowski reported that the "Muggles Read-a-Thon," held last Saturday and now in its third year, was still great in spite of the rain that delayed the reading by two hours. Martha Sharkey described this year's Harry Potter event as "epic": an estimated 45,000 people attended, merchants did well, and there was great feedback. The CH Business District (organizer of the event) will work to improve certain aspects for next year (for example, parking arrangements).

Report from Membership Chair. Andy Kite reported that we had a successful membership drive at this year's Fall for the Arts festival, which was held on Sunday, September 25. Membership is up slightly since last year but down slightly since the beginning of this year.

Report from Treasurer. Karl Martin reported that this year's budget is tracking ahead. Much of it is timing, but some of it is legitimate positive tracking.

Report from Executive Director. A form calling for volunteers was circulated. CHCA Intern Connor Nichols introduced himself.

Community Announcements

- Randy Williams, President of the Historical Society, mentioned the Architectural Hall of Fame Gala to be held on Saturday, November 5. Next year is the 50th anniversary of CHHS.
- Jason Huber, Executive Director of Teenagers Inc., mentioned that their annual event, A Taste of Chestnut Hill, will be held on Sunday, November 20. They're looking for people to attend and teens who can serve.
- Larry McEwen mentioned that Re-Tree Chestnut Hill has organized a tree-planting event to be held on Saturday, November 19. It will take about four hours to plant 37 residential street trees.
- Martha Sharkey mentioned that "Halloween on the Hill" will be held from 1–4 p.m. on the Avenue. "Small Business Saturday" is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. "Sugar Plum Saturday" will be held on December 10, following the Holiday Parade. Wednesday "Stag and Doe Nights" will feature late shopping on the Avenue on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21 from 6-9 p.m.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no Board meeting in December.
- Board member Gregory Burns has resigned and has taken a job in Las Vegas.
- Jack McMeekin, Bylaws Committee Chair, has held a few meetings of the committee. They are trying to modernize our bylaws and have them more closely resemble those of other non-profits, including the possibility of having the fiscal year end on June 30 rather than the current March 31. Joyce Lenhardt requested that a copy of the proposed bylaws be sent to Board members prior to voting.
- Larry Hochberger reported that the Local is having a tough year. Classified advertising is down, but some of this was offset by income from the Welcome books and the Harry Potter special issue.
- Ryan Rosenbaum encouraged everyone to check out the new CHCA website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on 11/16/16 by:

Jean Wedgwood
CHCA Secretary

Initial draft of minutes prepared by Ryan Rosenbaum and edited by Noreen Spota.

Approved by the Board of Directors without amendment on 11/17/16.