

Passyunk Square Civic Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 2, 2018

President Sarah Anton began the General Membership Meeting of the Passyunk Square Civic Association (PSCA) at 6:43 PM in the South Philadelphia Older Adult Center. Board members in attendance included Sarah Anton, Suzanne Tavani, Kristi Buchholz, Theresa Rose, Bill Gross, Henry Sullivan and Jeff Brown. Absent were: Andrew Stober, Alysea McDonald, Christine Knapp and Monica Montiel.

Sarah indicated that there were sign-in sheets on the tables as well as copies of the e-newsletters. She mentioned that the PSCA Membership Meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month except July and August, beginning at 6:30 PM in SPOAC.

Suzanne reported that the Zoning Committee meetings are always held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Maron's Hall. This month there is only one case, a proposal to convert an old funeral home in the 1300 block of Ellsworth Street into a multi-family dwelling. Suzanne said if anyone has any zoning questions they should go to zoning@passyunk.org and we will get back to them.

Sarah said that PSCA is highlighting a clean-up in the 1100 block of S. 11th Street on October 20. This is organized by the neighbors but PSCA is helping. If any block wants to clean-up on their own PSCA can help. We have supplies such as brooms and recycling bins. Visit us at cleanstreets@passyunk.org. A question was raised regarding the time and area covered by the 11th Street clean-up. Sarah replied that it is from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon and people will meet at 11th and Latona. She explained that the City runs a spring clean-up but if any blocks want to clean on their own, PSCA can assist.

The annual Home Tour, Sarah stated, will be held on November 10. It is an opportunity to see neighborhood houses. There will also be a hard hat tour of the Exile Theater building. Tickets are \$20 on-line in advance or \$25 on the day of the tour.

Sarah reported that there are tree events in November. The big one is November 17 when 23 trees will be planted. There is also a yard tree give away coordinated by East Passyunk Crossing on October 14. The City will give a free tree and bag of mulch. Sarah mentioned that school and park events are listed in the newsletter.

A neighbor inquired about the language exchange. Sarah explained that it is held the third Thursday of each month starting this month. Ricardo Silva handles it and rotates between different neighborhood restaurants. It is a chance for Spanish and English speakers to learn each other's language.

Sarah made a special announcement that the City is preparing an RFP for redevelopment of the Municipal Services Complex at 11th and Reed. If people are interested in hearing about it, please put an asterisk by your name on the sign-in sheet. There will be a special meeting regarding the redevelopment with the Councilman.

Daryn Edwards, co-chair of the Planning Committee, reported on the Percy Street Project. He mentioned that the Community Design Collaborative (CDC), which provides services to non-

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profits, have provided volunteers for this project. The CDC pairs volunteers with groups that want to get the work done so that they can solicit grants for development. He stated that he is on the CDC board and there have been two meetings held with Percy Street stake holders this summer. They looked at what could possibly happen on Percy Street as well as on Passyunk Avenue between Reed and Federal Streets.

Daryn introduced three volunteer interns from the Community Design Collaborative: Christine Lowery, Chris Landow and David Armbruster. They made a presentation and began by explaining that they prepared a conceptual design, which could be shopped around to funders to start the ball rolling for implementation. In order to do the actual development, however, other people will have to be hired. They indicated that they had two lenses, Percy Street and Passyunk Avenue. They prepared a master plan as well as smaller scale design implementation. The Community Design Collaborative helps put together a document that can be used for fund raising to implement the proposal, they explained. Maps were shown which indicated: existing conditions, location, land use for the focus area, focus sites, traffic, water and drainage and cultural fixtures. Among the items considered for Percy Street were lamps, utility poles, bollards, photos, and the mural by Isaiah Zagar. Two major community meetings were held. One was to talk about the CDC's understanding of the site and to obtain community input. Another meeting was to share the design and get feedback. Among the popular themes were: green walls, porous pavements and dynamic florescent lighting. As a result they added lots of light to bring people to the alley for things such as street festivals. They are considering stream lighting and neon glow. They were also looking at connecting Percy Street with other streets and dangerous intersections (Passyunk, 11th and Reed and also Passyunk, 9th and Wharton).

In response to their survey they learned that the neighbors' major concerns included trash, traffic and safety. People wanted more green space and pedestrian friendly streets with better lighting. Their guidelines were for Activities Space Day and Night, Strengthen Connections and Support for Community Goals. The focus area plans included a master plan which identified common elements and focused on two intersections. Among the proposals were safer opportunities. They wanted to take the land not used by cars (and not take away parking) to make shorter pedestrian crossing at the corners.

For Percy (Electric) Street they looked at feedback and constraints. Key elements of the plan included: safety lighting, art illumination, paving materials, storm water planters, murals and lighted existing bollards. They suggested having events in the alley and proposed eliminating curbs so as to make the street feel more spacious. Possible fold up or pop up seats was also discussed as well as linking Percy Street to Passyunk Avenue.

Logistically, they took common elements and grouped them for the kind of grant that can be sought with funding in stages. They suggested a maintenance plan. The total budget estimate was \$1.5 million.

Questions raised included who would be responsible for the maintenance of the facilities. The reply was that it would require a commitment from the property owners. Who would pay for the electricity? The Streets and Water Departments would have to cooperate was the response.

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Which properties are residential and which commercial? The ends of the blocks are generally residential while the commercial buildings are in the center of the block.

The first planning community meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 15 in the Capitolo Playground building. They will map out what the community wants to look at.

Suzanne felt the plan was a great thing and was applicable to any street in the area. The response was that it was intended to apply to other alleys in the City.

A question was asked about the cost to improve each intersection but no breakdown had been prepared for that. It was explained that this is a vision for the community to use to start raising funds. Henry mentioned that the intersection at Passyunk, 12th and Morris cost about \$800,000. Liz felt that the key is to have a grant person who knows how to obtain funding.

Sarah introduced Heide Levy from the Community Design Collaboration who managed this process. Sarah also mentioned that prior to the beginning of the PSCA Membership Meeting there is a Police Captains meeting for the 3rd PSA.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:51 PM.

Submitted by Jeff Brown