

Passyunk Square Civic Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 5, 2019

President Sarah Anton opened the General Membership Meeting of the Passyunk Square Civic Association (PSCA) at 6:35 PM in the South Philadelphia Older Adult Center. Board members in attendance included Sarah Anton, Suzanne Tavani, Bill Gross, Theresa Rose, Henry Sullivan, Andrew Stober, Christine Knapp and Jeff Brown. Absent were: Kristi Buchholz, Alysea McDonald and Monica Montiel.

Sarah asked the Board members present to introduce themselves, which they did. She then introduced committee chairs who were present. She mentioned that a sheet of PSCA committees is on each table and if anyone is interested in working on one, we are always looking for help.

Sarah turned the meeting over to Officer Ace Delgado and he introduced Sgt. Hanley who is new to the district and South Philly. Ace is bringing her to the active groups in the district. Hanley reported that during the week from January 28 until February 5 there were six robberies in the district and no burglaries. There were seven thefts from auto so she reminded people to: make sure their cars are locked, park in well-lit areas, be aware of their surroundings, not to leave cars running to warm them up and not to leave any valuables or packages in the car in sight. Hanley mentioned if anyone uses Craig's list, they could use the 3rd District Police headquarters for a safe exchange. Also, use Lead on Line to find out if things that you are purchasing have been stolen. Hanley explained that packages delivered and left on someone's front steps are being stolen. Ace indicated that if people are not home they can use Amazon and UPS lockers for deliveries or have packages delivered to their work or to a neighbor. He mentioned that recently a woman was walking down the street with a trash can and taking packages from front steps. If anyone sees someone with a trash can walking down their block they should call the police. Hanley stated that the new 3rd District Captain will hold a Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6:00 PM so that neighbors can meet him. He wants to hear their concerns. Ace explained that when people share things with the police they remain anonymous. Hanley said anyone can get the weekly police bulletin by email. In response to a question about drug needles, Ace said that he will distribute what to do if someone sees needles. He hoped that, with the City cleanup of the drug area around Front and Lehigh, drugs are not brought down to this district.

Sarah turned the meeting over to Katie Longo of Rep. Fiedler's office. She reported on Mobile Real ID. Katie explained that as of October 2020 the Federal government will require a higher level of ID for people to fly domestically and to enter a Federal or military facility. Current state driver's licenses will no longer be acceptable although Passports will continue to be. There will be an event tomorrow evening, Wednesday, February 6 from 5:00 until 8:00 PM at Columbus Playground, which will enable people to pre-verify for a Real ID. Residents need to show proof of identification and should bring three forms of identification such as a birth certificate, Passport, Social Security card, and two other forms of ID including their current driver's license and a current utility bill. After March 2019, people who have pre-verified can go on line to complete the forms and pay the fee to obtain a Real ID. Katie said if there are any questions, people should call Rep. Fiedler's office at 215-271-9190.

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Sarah reported that there will be a special meeting at Gold Star Park on Monday, February 11 at 7:00 PM to talk about the tragic death of a neighbor. Christine Knapp said that representatives of the City including the DA's office and the Parks and Rec Department, will be present to process the thoughts and feelings of neighbors and hear their ideas regarding safety.

Susanne Tavani gave the Zoning Committee report. She stated that the Zoning Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in St. Maron's Hall. This Tuesday, February 12, they may hear five cases; however, some of them may not have their documentation ready. Although scheduled, 713 Dickinson Street may not have its documentation and neither may 1334 Ellsworth Street. However, 1350 Passyunk is scheduled and the Midwood development at 9th and Washington, which has met numerous times, is set for a final vote. The new building at 1340 S. 13th Street came before the Committee about one year and a half ago and received approval for the Exile Theater to remain there. Since then the developer has entered into an agreement with an entity that would turn the 22 units into a hotel. They will be making an informational presentation at the Zoning Committee meeting. With regard to the Municipal Complex at 11th and Wharton, Sarah indicated that the City put out an RFP for development and has received bids. PSCA has been invited to participate on the review committee and will do so. Currently there is nothing to report. Sarah stated that PSCA will keep the neighbors posted; however, some information will remain confidential.

In response to a request, Sarah mention that PSCA signed an application to support a Neighborhood Slow Zone and will report back on its status. If our neighborhood is selected there will be an intensive community process. Sarah said anyone who is interested in zoning and planning can contact planning@passyunk.org.

Gracie from Kun-Yang dancers gave a brief presentation. She mentioned that new dance classes are beginning and the first class is free. She said that they rent out their space if anyone is interested. Also, the Kun-Yang dancers will have a show at the Annenberg Center in April.

Sarah reported that there will be a neighborhood night at Exile Theater on Saturday, March 2. If neighbors are interested tickets are reduced to \$30.

Sarah mentioned that a team is working to develop Percy Street as an arts walk. They are doing murals and illumination and applying for grants for some of the work. Theresa Rose is helping and will report back next month. A Friends of Percy Street group is being formed to assist with this development. Sarah stated that PSCA was awarded two "On The Table" grants, one for Percy Street and the other for the Language Exchange. She explained that PSCA has a monthly Language Exchange at a neighborhood Mexican restaurant, where people speak and try to improve their English and Spanish. Christine is working on a Spanish language meeting in the neighborhood. Jackson School also has bilingual meetings, Sarah said.

In response to a question regarding street cleaning, Sarah stated that PSCA had a pause in its street cleaning contract. PSCA used the same contractor to clean streets as PARC and when they switched providers we took a pause and were without a street cleaning contract for months. We will begin again in February (Friday, February 15 and Friday, March 1), using the same contractor as PARC does. They will clean the numbered streets on a bi-weekly basis. More

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information regarding this contract will be presented at the next PSCA Membership Meeting. Sarah said that PSCA is looking for neighbors to help by telling us if the street cleaning contract is working. A question about dumping arose and Sarah told them to call 311. Ace mentioned that if people see short dumping they can also call 911 so that the police can get to the culprit fast. Ace asked that people take a photo of any short dumper's license plate. Sarah indicated that neighbors can go on-line to cleanstreets@passyunk.org regarding street cleaning issues.

A question arose regarding sewer work on Wharton Street and Sarah referred him to the Water Department. In response to a neighbor mentioning a hole in Passyunk Avenue, Sarah told her to call 311.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Submitted by Jeff Brown