

Passyunk Square Civic Association  
General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, June 5, 2018

President Sarah Anton began the General Membership Meeting of the Passyunk Square Civic Association (PSCA) at 6:40 PM in the South Philadelphia Older Adult Center. Board members in attendance included Sarah Anton, Kristi Buchholz, Theresa Rose, Bill Gross, Alysea McDonald, Christine Knapp and Jeff Brown. Absent were: Andrew Stober, Henry Sullivan, Monica Montiel and Suzanne Tavani.

Sarah thanked everyone for attending and indicated that this was the last General Membership Meeting of the 2017 – 2018 season. Although there will not be any membership meetings in July or August the Newsletter and Zoning Committee meetings will continue throughout the summer. The Zoning Committee is always held on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Maron's Hall. The June 12 meeting will hear cases at 706-725 Latona Street, 1227 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 1315 S. Alter Street.

Sarah reported on up-coming PSCA activities. The Stoop of the Month program will continue on a quarterly basis. If anyone notices any beautiful stoops they should recommend them. Winners will be announced in September. The spring stoop winners are 1132 Gerritt Street, 608 Annin Street and 1105 Gerritt Street. PSCA is participating in the City's Clean PHL's illegal sign program, which pays .50 per sign up to a maximum of \$250.00.

Sarah explained that a majority of the funds that PSCA raises goes to pay for a trash contract. We use the same contractor as does PARC and they have recently changed their contractor so we are changing as well. We're also changing the way the contract worked. In a few weeks we are going to try having the contractor use a team instead of an individual, to clean the streets every other Friday. We're asking neighbors to help us monitor the contract by taking before and after photos of their blocks.

The Percy Street project is also proceeding. We received a grant for the 1300 block of Percy Street from the Community Design Collaborative. If anyone is interested in getting involved see the flyers on the table or speak to Theresa Rose or Bill Gross.

Sarah then asked the Board members to introduce themselves, which they did. She mentioned that there is a list of all PSCAs committees on the table and we are interested in anyone who may want to volunteer for any committee. PSCA has a lot of work and can use all the volunteers we can get. Sarah reminded people to sign in on the sheet being passed around. She mentioned that June 16 is community gardens day and some of our neighborhood gardens are participating. Capitolo Playground is also having its flea market on June 16.

Sarah opened the floor up for any questions. Jeff asked about the street construction schedule. Sarah replied that there is information about it on a table in the back. She also stated that the Passyunk Post is back and on top of the street paving and other things.

Sarah then turned the meeting over to Allison Fritz, Anna Kissle and Jen Hombach of the South Philly Food Co-op. Allison defined a co-op as being a group of people coming together and individually owning an organization to meet a need such as food or housing. The co-op takes on

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the life and energy from the people in it. The South Philly Food Co-op has entered into a lease to have a full service grocery store in a newly constructed mixed use building at 2031 S. Juniper Street. The first floor is 3,333 square feet and will contain the co-op while apartments will be located on the two floors above. The grocery store will source from local farmers. It will have meat, dairy, bulk goods, dry goods and even ice cream. It will create jobs and retain money in the neighborhood. Profits are reinvested in the store or get passed back to the members. Members get to vote on a board of directors and have a say in what the store offers. Membership is a \$200. To date, 907 families have signed up and over \$700,000 has been raised towards the opening of the store. Members are required to volunteer eight hours every year; however, the members are considering voting to eliminate the volunteer requirement. The co-op only has one paid consultant, everyone else volunteers. It was first organized in April 2010, then it incorporated and conducted multiple surveys to determine what people wanted. Currently it has leased the store and is launching a search for a general manager. Although there are over 900 members it is striving for 1200 since it needs a six to eight month cash flow. Members can also make loans of \$1,000 and choose the term and interest rate of the loan. Most co-ops receive loans from ten to twenty percent of their members. The co-op also has fundraising events and, even though it's not a non-profit, it can apply for grants. Allison asked people to join South Philly's only cooperatively owned grocery store.

Next Sarah turned the meeting over to Karine Shamlian of Clean Markets on behalf of the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW). Karine explained PGW's Energy Sense Rebates and Grants program. PGW offers rebates and grants to residential, commercial and industrial properties. The goal is to make the properties energy efficient, which improves the comfort, saves money and increases the value of the property. Rebates are offered for high efficiency furnaces and boilers. However, they must have a minimum efficiency of 94%. For residential buildings there is a rebate on the first furnace of \$500 and \$250 for any additional units in the building. The rebate for the first boiler is \$1,500 with \$800 for any additional units. People can apply on-line or mail in the application. PGW requires some basic information along with the application including a copy of the AHRI certificate verifying that it meets the 94% efficiency requirement and a copy of the most recent PGW bill. Rebates are turned around in four to six weeks. Commercial rebates are available for boilers, hot water heaters, storm trap replacements and food service equipment. The benefits include boosting comfort, tenant retention, worker productivity, lowering the operating cost/square foot, and increasing the property value.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Submitted by Jeff Brown