

Fairmount Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

I. Call to order

Larry Reynolds called to order the regular meeting of the Fairmount Civic Association at 7:32 pm on 1/26/2017 at the City School.

II. Agenda Items

Meeting location: City School Fairmount Campus. Refreshments provided at a discount by Luigi's Pizza Fresca restaurant.

- a. Larry Reynolds addressed the FCA stating that he would like the meeting to henceforth be called a 'community' meeting, implying that this forum is an open public meeting. It was encouraged that interested parties should join the FCA (in order to enjoy refreshments and other activities)
- b. Melissa Sanchez, Principal of the City School Fairmount Campus: Offered the FCA community to reach out to her (call the school) and notify her of any situations where they could better contribute to the Fairmount neighborhood.
- c. Confirmation of 2017 Budget: bylaws require membership approval
 - Tim Butters handed out 2017 budget and a comparison to 2016 budget. Most items of proposed budget are inline with past years, and were discussed by Tim.
 - i. Larry proposed \$200 added for Terrance Street Garden (as per tradition).
 - ii. Budget passed.
- d. Councilman Alan Domb: Newly elected councilman addressed the FCA. Philadelphia resident since 1977. After a successful run in business, Councilman Domb ran for council to add business efficiency to the city.
 - Securitization: There are currently \$492m in delinquent back-logged RE taxes in Phila. A securitization method has been shown to be successful in NYC, and can be adopted. The plan calls for partnering with the land bank and cleansing records. In NYC, 55% paid after first

notice, 30% entered payment plans, less than 1% resulted in foreclosure. 55% of funds are going to schools.

- EITC (earned income tax credit): A Fed program to deliver tax credits to those earning 22\$/hr with or without children. Has been extremely underutilized in the past (\$100m unclaimed), and can be filed back 3 years. There are centers throughout the city where taxes for those who qualify will be filled out for free. Councilman Domb urges everyone to spread the word as much as possible.

e. Councilman Bill Greenlee:

- NFL Draft: Councilman Greenlee will take part in bigger meeting regarding use of Parkway (TBD). There is a festival in the making, and more detail will be available by Feb meeting. Draft will be held during the last weekend in April.
- General use of Parkway will be discussed in future meeting. More activity to be announced.

f. Larry Reynolds was invited to an exploratory meeting being held to review the existing policy regarding dedicated spaces for electric vehicles. Larry solicited feedback from FCA. Existing policy is available on the city's website.

g. Zoning and Development

- 2533 Poplar: Construction of 3 story structure went through L&I without variance (as of right). There were inquires, but being by right means that it was not brought to the attention of the FCA.
- 837 N 21: Addition of greenhouse proposed to replace a 2nd story deck. No change to footprint of property. Immediate neighbors voiced concerns to privacy, light, and open space. Owner states that the variance is on record for the previous structure. Given neighbor opposition, Larry suggested that applicant to request a continuance with ZBA, and immediate parties reach a conclusion.
- 926 N 29: proposal to change single unit (964 sq ft) property to 2-unit property, which was previously denied due to CMX1 zoning. Immediate neighbors have expressed opposition, and meeting

attendees expressed doubt that the ZBA will allow the basement to be transformed into living space.

- 2717 Parrish: proposal to extend 2nd floor to be over an existing 1st floor extension. Current extension is already in violation (nonconforming), and proposal will further reduce open space. Larry stresses that immediate neighbor feedback is essential here. There were no immediate neighbors present for comment.

h. Crime and Safety

- There have been reported mugging incidents on 22 & Brown, and more in Spring Garden Area. These were related incidents and the suspects were caught.
- Package thefts are on the rise – you should be diligent if expecting a package.
- 9th District staff to visit during the Feb meeting (Captain and community relations officer).

i. Bocce group starts up in April (held on Tues, Wed, or Thurs). Questions and interested parties to contact Sam Holloschutz (link on FCA website).

j. Next Meeting February 23rd

III. Adjournment

Larry Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Scott Dressler

Minutes approved by: [Name]