



BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF WEST PARKSIDE

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20th, 2014

Attendees: Elsidieg Abashera, Kwaku Agykum, Yolanda Allen, Andre Andrews, Zemorina Brandon, Paul Brauer, Florence Churchill, Boubacar Diallo, Shonte Eley, Pam Evans, John Haye, Cassandra Hayes, Lucinda Hudson, Edward Koch, Dennis Lee, Juliana Muganza, Marjorie Ogilvie, Miller Parker, June Pelzer, Mitch Person, Elizabeth Pilar, David Smith, Sarah Stirzel Cuzzolina, Carolyn Walker, and Robert Zakian

I. Call to Order 8:34am by M. Ogilvie

Regrets: Fairmount Park Conservancy was unable to join us due to a Press Conference at Love Park announcing Free Trees.

II. New Business

- A. Lucinda Hudson from Parkside Association of Philadelphia announced that the tax credits for the Centennial Village development on 52nd St were approved.
1. This is the third time that PAP has applied and now has been approved.
 2. They are hoping construction work will begin Spring 2015

III. Old Business

A. Gubernatorial Forum – March 20th at 8:30am

1. spread the word – the event is open to the public
2. Confirmed attendees: John Hanger, Ken Krawchuk, Jo Ellen Litz, and tentatively Katie McGinty.
3. Sarah Cuzzolina will follow up with Dennis Lee.

B. Up Close & Personal with Governor Rendell Have you RSVPed!!!

1. This is the first in the Up Close & Personal series.
2. Thursday, March 6th, 11:30- 1:30 am
3. Lunch and book included
4. Suggested donation \$60 (members)/ \$75 (non-members)
5. Great opportunity to network and met Gov. Rendell
6. Limited Seating available – RSVP with Sarah at 215-879-8500

C. Taste of Freedom Awards Luncheon at the Union League at 11:30 on Friday, March 28th

1. Congratulations to Lucinda Hudson for the Senator Roxanne Jones Award
2. BAWP is purchasing a table – if you would like to join the table for \$200 please contact Sarah Cuzzolina at 215-879-8500
3. This luncheon is the part of the Philadelphia Freedom Festival which runs Feb. – July. And honors Octavius Catto. Most events are free and open to the public.

For more information on the events visit: <http://manncenter.org/philadelphia-freedom-festival>

- D. Pump Track Ribbon Cutting – May 10th
 - 1. 1st inner city pump track
 - 2. Ribbon cutting is also the Kick Off to Love Your Park week
 - 3. This is an opportunity for BAWP to think of businesses that can connect to the pump track such as restaurants/food.

IV. Round Robin

- A. Dennis Lee – Remember to vote May 20th Elections!
- B. Mitch Person – Today’s Promise, Tomorrow’s Future is Open and enrolling children.
- C. Lucinda Hudson – Filling up a theater for “*If you Build it*” documentary film about North Carolina. \$8.00 ticket at the Bourse theater – must sell 65 tickets.
- D. Shonte Eley – West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution – Progressive Change CDC is hosting a round table discussion with Millennials. 15 people on March 8th
- E. Juliana Muganza – West Philadelphia Financials Services Institution – Leadership training for the youth in the 6 surrounding neighborhoods. If you have a recommendation contact Juliana at WPFSL.

V. Discussion Moment – Lead by Marjorie Ogilvie

What do you think should be the main function of the Business Association? What would help your business?

- A. J. Haye – Look into improving Merion Ave. there are Cinder Blocks along the sidewalks that affects business for both Merion Ave and Lancaster Ave.
 - a. D. Lee – We need more eyes and for people to report back - Please call BAWP with these concerns. The thought is that BAWP should Advocate for Business Owners.
 - b. M. Ogilvie – Another way to share this info is by joining a committee. There are four committees:
 - i. Governance
 - ii. Issues, goals, & Gov’t relations
 - iii. Membership, PR, and Advertising
 - iv. Events
- B. Y. Adams – As a business, there has been issues with how the snow is being plowed, requiring clients to park in an unsafe way on the road.
 - a. M. Parker – Voting is important. If this area shows that it has numbers, elected officials will respond, because we vote. Bring people to the table, grow our numbers, and grow our voice.
 - b. S. Cuzzolina – Membership is available to any businesses in the area or working with the area. Please join and support us, so we can advocate for you and your business.
- C. L. Hudson – If we advocate for a business then we should expect them to service the area and hire from the area.
 - a. D. Lee – Maybe BAWP should establish criteria that we would request business to review and follow when locating in the area. Then BAWP would support the businesses in zoning.
- D. P. Brauer - The Business Association allows for a relationship with the Community

- E. P. Evans – Business Association should agree on businesses the community needs and seek those businesses out to locate here.
- F. P. Evans - Develop and offer business growth plans for smaller businesses including customer service etiquette.
- G. P. Evans – BAWP should also offer walk away sheets – a list of places to call that can be at our finger tips when we see a problem.
 - a. C. Walker – In response to job needs - our organization is always looking to train public adjusters, they simply need a strong work ethic.
 - b. D. Lee – So maybe BAWP should offer a job fair.

VI. Closing Remarks

- A. There are update meeting Calendars available on the table and on the website to download (www.BAWPPhilly.com)
- B. Check out the website because it does have information on pertinent events of the area and gets updated daily.
- C. Membership form is available online and donations can be made through PayPal online.

Meeting was called to close by President, Marjorie Ogilvie at 10:00am.

Next Meetings:

Governor Rendell Luncheon
Thursday, March 6th, 2014
11:30 AM to 1:30 Pm
PBTC – 6th floor

Gubernatorial Forum
Thursday, March 20th, 2014
8:30 – 10:00 AM
PBTC Main Office