

# Chestnut Hill Community Association Board Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of August 22, 2019

## Members Present

Tony Banks, Jason Bissonette, Susan Bray, Catherine Brzozowski, Kathi Clayton, Patricia Cove, Andy Kite, Keith Kunz, Laura Lucas, Jenny McHugh, Karl Martin, Jason Pierce, Jean Wedgwood, Craig Hosay, Richard Snowden, Bradley Wells

## Members Absent

Lindsey D'Angelo, Lucie Daigle, Lynn Schroeder, Anne Standish, Hillary O'Carroll, Joyce Lenhardt, Larry McEwen, Marilyn Paucker, Dan Pulka

## Others Attending:

Anne McNiff, CHCA Executive Director

Boris Karol

Brendan Sample, CH Local

Jordan Lapidus

John Derr, CH Local

Daria Lapidus

Leisha Shaffer, CH Local

Robin Sommer

Joel Barras, CH Local

Austin Smeak

Walter Lapidus

Laura Lucas, Board President, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

## **President's Welcome**

- Approval of Agenda: After the roll call, it was moved that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Approval of July minutes: It was moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Laura reported that she, Anne McNiff, and John Derr met with the Chestnut Hill College Director of Communications, Jim Barry to discuss partnership opportunities. CH College is very interested in exploring the options

## **Physical Division**

- 8136 Germantown Avenue – the business owners who are requesting a variance were introduced. Patricia Cove, DRC member, reviewed the following recommendation from the DRC:

*The Development Review Committee recommends that the CHCA support the variance with the following provisos:*

- opening hours should be 8 am to 8 pm, possibly extended to 10 pm
- the premises, including the exterior areas are cleaned in the morning and the evening
- a menu is provided to the DRC committee (it was and was accepted with understanding there will be no hot food except oatmeal made in a ricemaker and coffee)
- there is no takeout window
- existing restrooms are available to customers
- the applicant will work with Streetscape on Signage and exterior alterations, including, lighting, paint colors, additionally they will consult with adjacent neighbors about facade treatment decisions.
- approval is limited to this specific business (and not future take-out businesses)
- the Applicant will reach out to the two property owners on each side and across the street

A motion was made to support the recommendation, the board voted and passed unanimously to support the recommendation.

### **Executive Director Update**

- Membership Coordinator position – Anne reported that Emily Van Sant who had been the Membership Coordinator for several years, having been an intern for 2 years before taking the position, has left the CHCA, taking a full-time position in Center City. Emily will continue to volunteer as available and we wish her much success in her new position. The job description has been listed in the Local's classifieds, online on several websites, at CH Colleges job board, and in the CHCA e-newsletter. Interviews for the position will begin right away.
- Auto-renew status for membership – because we will be implementing several changes to membership levels in the beginning of 2020, it has been decided to hold off implementing auto-renewal and roll it out as an option with the new membership initiative.

### **Social Division Updates**

- Cathy Brzozowski updated the board about the Black & White Gala and requested that they all help solicit sponsors.
- Andy Kite was introduced as the new Chairman of the Holiday House Tour. He briefly reviewed the work that had begun on the event.

### **Community Partner Updates**

- **Austin Smeak** from the local Chestnut Hill boyscout troop attended the meeting to learn more about civic engagement in his community. Austin will work with the CHCA to determine other opportunities to utilize the troop in volunteer activities
- **Water Tower Planning Group** – There will be a block party September 20<sup>th</sup> for neighbors and the community from 6-9pm.
- **CH Hospital** – Cathy reported that the hospital is adding many new positions including starting a transplant program and a research program.
- **Springside Chestnut Hill Academy** – Construction is complete on the new lower campus buildings. The plan is for the buildings to be open for students when school starts.
- **CH Business Association** – the Business association has 2 openings for CHCA representation on their boards. Let Laura know if you are interested. Reminder that Fall for the Arts Festival is on September 29<sup>th</sup> and First Friday activities will start again in September

**Thank you to Springside Chestnut Hill Academy for hosting the July meeting.**

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm and went into executive session to discuss Membership strategic planning.