



**LSNA Board Meeting
Via Zoom
September 8, 2020**

Present: Dennis Boylan, Edward Dougherty, Colleen Walsh, Susan Berrigan, Mandy Bucceroni, David Cardy, Michael Eckstein, Sandie Farrell, Jim Fennell, Jovida Hill, Michael Hoffberg, Tom Hogan, Frank Janitor, Sheryl Johnson, Sean Kardon, Rich Leimbach, Drew Murray, Fran Pollack, Louise Quattrone, Jim Ruddick, Diane Sales, Robert Strunk, Andy Toy, Pat Toy, Michael Volpe, Nancy Weinberg, Earl Wolf, Linda Wong.

Not Present: Karen Belding , Floss Barber, Wendy Blume, Hessam Mirsaeedi, David Searles, Paul Stavrakos, Alan and Tara Williams, Sven Shroeter, Bob Sutton, John Kroll, Joan Decker

Zoom meeting called to order by President Dennis Boylan at 7 pm. Quorum report.

Approval of July minutes *Motion to approve both sets of minutes , motion approved, seconded.*

Announcements:

President Boylan reviewed 'Zoom Meeting Protocol' to allow for a smoother-running meeting and allow our various speakers to proceed without interruption. In all likelihood, it will remain a Zoom world for LSNA for quite some time in the future. All other LSNA business - the committees, the meetings with City officials, developers, etc. - is being conducted via Zoom.

Membership renewals remain in progress. This is a 'strength-through-numbers' organization, and all who meet with us are impressed at what we have built here. (Plus a strong treasury never hurts in enhancing your flex.)

Many - though not all - of our museums have re-opened and your support (and just to take an enhanced breather from the lockdowns) is encouraged. They certainly wish to see you. A particular shoutout to a re-imagined Sisters Cities Park and a very engaging series of both permanent and rotating events/exhibits there. Their children's Exploration area in the back is a Must Visit, for adults, too, and there is a very inventive fabric exhibit now there by a recent Moore College of Art alum.

We have heard that PHS was oversubscribed for a Flower Dividend they were directing towards members and they intend to make adjustments to the September 12th event. We will keep you abreast.

Kudos to Sarah Stuart and David Searles and others for their work on the Winter Street Greenway project that will bring a fabulous dog run to the area in front of the of Board of Ed building, and then a very novel children's play area to the park on the north side of the Franklin Institute. In the context of the pandemic and the larger halting of a lot of projects in the City, this surprised everyone that it was still on and that construction is near-to-commencing. Both parcels are now fenced in.

Signage, which is always - and appropriately so - a top concern in the neighborhood, has generated the need for a Special Meeting regarding the Giant Food store on 23rd street. That's slated for September 21st, where Giant and its representatives will present. That is a board meeting open to all, but with a particular emphasis on the nearest of neighbors.

Finally, a terrific series of photos from the past two months gone by courtesy of Jim Fennell, Sean Kardon, and several others.

Representative Brian Sims (182nd District, PA House of Representatives), presented to the board and guests on his view of the legislative and City landscape over the past several months. A good portion of his remarks was directed towards his own legislative priorities, towards the bills he's advanced or also sponsored, just to delineate where his personal and governing priorities were. This portion covered a good deal of his remarks as the legislative season has been quite busy. In the Q&A portion with

LSNA members, Rep. Sims was asked about the Encampment and about his overall interactions with City leadership. While keenly aware of the Encampment and the stresses it has brought to bear on the neighborhood, he nonetheless said that jurisdictional prerogatives make this a City matter where the State does not have a voice. An exception might be on the Health and Welfare side, but he is not aware of any State inquiries to that effect. In a further answer to this and related questions, he allowed that his access to City officials, the turn-around on reach outs to the City for answers on behalf of constituents, is going through a stressed period and hasn't been this bad in a while. No further explanation for that.

Drew Murray, past president of LSNA, and a long-time activist in the neighborhood followed and made a pitch on behalf of his candidacy for Rep. Sims' seat. Drew stressed several issues but reserved particular attention to the non-response by the City on the Encampment. In the Q&A portion, Drew stressed the need for more Republican voices from the City to better advocate for the City in what is a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

City Commission Lisa Deeley followed with an update on the expanded voting procedures for the upcoming General Election and fielded numerous questions on the Mail-In Ballot provisions, the proposed Satellite offices, and drop boxes where ballots can be dropped off in lieu of the USPS. Elements of this were presented as an in-progress situation, with further voting enhancements and expansions in the works. Stay tuned.

Jane Golden, the head of the city's justly-lauded Mural Arts program presented, along with several of her colleagues, on a proposed mural that would go up on both sides of the 'tunnel' area on 21st Street between Arch and Market. The theme is building productive lives after incarceration, in a Before and After motif featuring Philadelphians with compelling personal stories, all in an effort to change these built-in or implicit biases we all walk around with. The artist whose conception this was spoke on behalf of the project and then engaged in a very lively Q&A. The proposal - which was previously introduced at an earlier meeting of the Planning and Design Committee - was greeted with strong support. Ms. Golden indicated that because of the technique in play as well as excess capacity in the Mural Arts system, that this project would happen very quickly and could well be in a completed form by Thanksgiving.

Consent Agenda:

President Boylan reported on the continued - and frustrating - pace of negotiations regarding the Encampment at Von Colln Field at 22nd and the Parkway. In spite of several seeming concluding points earlier in the summer, it's clear that the City wants to continue negotiating towards a peaceful departure. In the meanwhile, he stressed the need to document any incidents of lawless, indecency, or clear public health violations. In petitioning the City, anecdotal accounts won't cut it. If it can't be measured, it didn't happen.

Progress is being made on a Citywide response to the proliferation of ATVs and loud motorcycles, in seeming processions, along the Parkway and elsewhere in the neighborhood. A Safety Review Committee, an adjunct to City Council, will be meeting in early October and LSNA will be in attendance.

On the Zoning front, the consideration of several large projects advanced to the Zoning Board of Adjustment review process and LSNA would have been represented at those meetings to state the final case for LSNA's perspectives on these projects. President Boylan noted the particularly effective articulations of Sven Schroeder and Rich Leimbach in those meetings. The project at 2301 JFK Blvd. was one example, and the project at the Trader Joe's parking - aka The Murano project - another. Regarding the latter, LSNA, along with CCRA, is in the final stages of negotiation there to arrive at a Community Benefits Agreement that attempts to codify some of the negotiated understandings that came out of our collective advocacy on these projects.

Finally, the need - apparent in the work of several of these large projects in the neighborhood - for a comprehensive traffic study for the fuller neighborhood was stressed. Preliminary work in making the case for that - with Council President Clarke's office, with the City's Planning Department - has started.

As as last item, attention was drawn to the recent vandalism at Baldwin Park, likely an outgrowth of the Encampment, in which the center bars to nearly all the benches were unbolted and removed. Most all of the arms were subsequently located (by Joe Walsh), but not the locking mechanisms. Further, a new lock method has been identified that requires

special bolting that prevent further removal. A motion was made to advance \$600 from LSNA's coffers for this project. The motion was seconded and gained unanimous approval.

CONSENT AGENDA SEPTEMBER 2020

LSNA Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

7:00 PM

Meeting conducted using the Zoom application.

Agenda

6:50 Board Member Login/Sign-In

7:00 Call to Order:

- Quorum Report
- Approval of July Board Meeting Minutes

7:05 Announcements:

- Membership renewals
- Recycling and trash schedule
- Museums reopen
- Sister Cities Park reopen
- PHS Flower Dividend September 12, 2020
- Winter Street Greenway construction start
- Special Meeting on Giant Food Store signage September 21, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
- Newsworthy events & photo diary (Jim Fennell, Sean Kardon)

7:10 Representative Brian Sims (PA 182nd District)

7:30 Drew Murray

7:50 Lisa Deeley City Commissioner on Election 2020

8:05 Mural Arts (tentative)

8:15 Consent Agenda

8:20 Zoning Report

8:30 President's Report

- Parkway Encampment
- Motorcycles & ATVs
- Street/Traffic Study: 20th-23rd / Market to BF Parkway

8:45 Old Business, if any

8:50 New Business

8:55 Adjourn

PLANNING & DESIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

02 September 2020 / via Video Conference

Attendees:

Sven Schroeter, Jim Fennell, David Searles, Sam Little, Rich Leimbach, Dennis Boylan, Ed Dougherty, Bob Sutton, Drew Murray

Discussion Summary:

1. Signage at the Giant Supermarket (Riverwalk by the PMC Property Group)

A very detailed package of schematics and representations was shared by the vendor responsible for designing and hoisting the signage for the new Giant supermarket that will occupy several floors in a Mezzanine configuration at the Riverwalk complex that PMC is assembling on 23rd Street, north of the SEPTA train tracks, and south of the existing River's Edge complex. The package was notably detailed and showed all instances of signage on the several sides of the building. As this affects the surrounding neighborhood in several directions, a fuller board consideration of the signage will follow later in September at a CDR presentation a meeting that will also allow for broader questions about the Giant launch.

In all, the Committee was very supportive of the presented plans for signage. This approval include coloration and appearance, the proportions with respect to the neighborhood and the immediate neighbors, and the sign design itself. It worked; it didn't overpower. This included the signs on the western edge that would be visible from the Schuylkill Banks River trail and from across the river on the Expressway at the 30th Street Station complex.

There were only two concerns raised, in the form of questions, that will be presented to Giant and the sign vendor in advance of the CDR meeting that follows. They were:

- 1) On the northern edge of the complex, closest to River's Edge and to the pending project (also by PMC) at the corner of 23rd and Cherry, will that particular light have a timer that means the light is extinguished during late-evening hours that all parties can agree upon? A similar request was not felt as strongly in the case of the western and southern edges of the building, but in the case of this installation, looking directly at the residents at River's Edge, a dousing of the lights till either the morning hours was requested.
- 2) A related signage question regarding the advertising of specials or weekly bargains in the windows. These are the images of, say, avocados in the large windows that announce this week's deals. The hope was that any such signage would be close to the entrance, on the 2nd floor level, and not visible down at street level on 23rd Street.

2. Proposed Mural, Underpass, 21st Street, Between Arch and Market

The Committee had reservations about the initial design proposals it was asked to consider, which were admittedly less-than-full in their development. But rather than interfere on what was - at least at this stage - an artistic decision, the Committee asked that the project get more development attention. The leadership of Mural Arts agreed and is hopeful to present a fuller proposal at a later date, possibly the Sept. 23rd special board meeting alluded to earlier.

Next PDC Meeting

TBD in view of the Covid-19 stipulations.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Searles & Sven Schroeter, Committee co-chairs
with appreciation to Ed Dougherty for contributing meeting notes.

Announcements:

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49. The next meeting is October 13th. There were 88 participants.