



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE POST

Serving the Community from Broad to 7th and Walnut to South Streets since 1935

Issue 4/Summer 2005

FLOODING IN WASH WEST CONTINUES

Recent heavy rains led to numerous home floodings throughout Wash West, repeating the pattern of damage seen at the end of last summer. We ask residents and business owners who have been affected to complete our flooding survey (online at www.washwestcivic.org/flooding.html) so that we can address the issue comprehensively with the Water Department and other city agencies.

Washington Square West Civic Association in Action

The civic association's activities over the summer have included successful fundraising and outreach, as well as concrete steps toward improving life in Wash West. Here are some of our recent accomplishments.

2005 Open House Tour a Success

This year's Wash West Open House Tour, which was held on Saturday June 11, featured 13 residences and gardens throughout our community and an entire floor of apartments at the St. James on Washington Square. Thanks to the property owners and to the community members who volunteered their time as tour guides, the event raised over \$4000 to support the work of the civic association and the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. WSWCA is particularly thankful to Nancy Hughes and the staff of the St. James for their generous hospitality, and to Show of Hands Gallery for underwriting the costs of printing the tour brochure.

WSWCA Sponsors Street Cleaning

As it has in past years, WSWCA again provided street cleaning on the main streets of Wash West. Street cleaning took place on Tuesdays during the months of June and July, and covered both sides of each street served. Association volunteers posted no-parking signs on Saturdays preceding each cleaning day. Cars that remained parked in cleaning zones were ticketed by the Parking Authority, but no cars were towed. WSWCA thanks all neighborhood residents for cooperating in this effort.

Town Watch Expanding

The Wash West Town Watch completed another orientation session for new volunteers on June 15. Participants in the orientation learned observation, identification and reporting techniques that enable quicker and more effective police response. All volunteers in the program also received Town Watch identification for use when contacting the police emergency line. Anyone interested in joining the Wash West Town Watch should contact Tim at twb2@verizon.net or WSWCA Safety Committee Chair Bob Hornsby at bobhornsby@gmail.com for more information. Dates of future orientation ses-

sions will be announced via the e-Post, WSWCA's twice-monthly electronic newsletter.

Fall Planting of Street Trees

The WSWCA Greening Committee is beginning work on a fall program of street-

continued on page 7

MEMBER REWARDS CARD ENCLOSED



The Washington Square West Civic Association is proud to offer its members our new Member Rewards Card. Present it at participating local businesses and reap the benefits of membership in your Civic Association. For a complete list of participants, see the enclosed card or visit www.washwestcivic.org/rewards

UPCOMING MEETING DATES OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings are held on the SECOND Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

**Jefferson Alumni Hall
1020 Locust Street, Room 139**

- **Tue., Aug. 9th: NO MEETING**
- **Tue., September 13th**
- **Tue., October 11th**

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Philadelphia Inquirer

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WSWCA MEETING MINUTES JUNE 14, 2005

Present: J. Applebaum, C. Baker, M.J. Barrett, S. Batcheler, A. Earling, C. Engelke, E. Ferry, B. Hornsby, J. Jordan, J. Matteo, M. Schultz, H. Wittich

Absent: I. Gold, J. Menegakis, L. Metzger

I. GREETINGS

President Judith Kaplow Applebaum called the meeting to order and welcomed the community.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Board Member Joe Matteo asked that community members who wished to volunteer for the Civic be in touch with him; various projects are available.

B. Judith Applebaum announced that the November Board Meeting would be held the third Tuesday of the month, November 15th, to avoid a conflict with the general elections on November 8th.

III. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

V. COMMUNITY ISSUES

A. GARDEN OF THE ARTS: Laurie Fitzpatrick, a resident of the 1300 block of Rodman Street, made a presentation on her still-evolving plan to form a non-profit organization to acquire the property at Broad and South Streets (presently used as community gardens) and convert it to a public park and open green space. The plans are still in formation and she is hoping to start fund raising to acquire the property in the next few weeks. She has already

received a letter in support of the concept from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Neighborhood Garden Association. It was suggested that she work with the Avenue of the Arts and the Kimmel Center. It was agreed that WSWCA would send a letter in support of the general concept of green space, although the proposal at this time is too incomplete for a letter supporting a specific project. In addition, the Board will send a letter to PIDC, which has is presently marketing the property, to ask PIDC to be mindful of the community's desire for green space in selling the property.

B. KENMART TENANTS:

The Kenmar tenants at 10th and Pine have formed a Tenants Association and have submitted a list of 18 issues which they are requesting the owners/property managers to address. To date, fire alarms have been repaired (which it is alleged had not been certified as required by Code for the past six years). Other issues concern trash which is reportedly stored illegally in the basement and in the sidewalk storage container.

The Board is attempting to set up a meeting with officials from Licenses and Inspections to address the community and educate tenants what standards they should expect landlords to meet and what their remedies are for infractions. It is also hoped that a representative from the Tenant Action Group can meet with the community to talk about legal rights of tenants.

C. DILWORTH HOUSE:

Paul Boni of Society Hill Civic Association had requested WSWCA to support the Save The Dilworth House; however, a letter of support was sent several months ago.

D. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

1. In response to an inquiry from a community mem-

ber it was reported that the Civic is waiting for a grant from Community Development Corporation to address street cleaning and that, in the meantime, the Litter Patrol should be called to deal with sidewalk and curb trash. In addition, it is suggested that homeowners be responsible for their own areas and sweep the sidewalks and curbs as needed. Another option for those concerned with trash issues is to contact the Project Sweep which can be found on the City's website.

2. The development of the Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) is on hold temporarily due to the illness of the Coordinator.

3. In response to recent heavy rains, the Water Department visited again and indicated that there are no blockages in the sewers of the WSWCA neighborhoods suffering from the flooding. The Water Department does admit that replacement of all sewers is necessary and that, while the City has some money for the project set aside at this time, the work cannot be scheduled for two to four years due to the complexities of scheduling the work and coordinating with other city departments and utilities.

VI. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Sarah Batcheler reported that there had been a joint meeting on June 16th with the Society Hill Zoning Committee to discuss a proposed development of the Ayer Building on Washington Square at 7th and Walnut Streets. There is a proposal to convert this art deco office building to 65 condominiums with retail on the first floor and the addition of a three-story penthouse on the top. The presentation was preliminary but there were numerous concerns expressed by those in attendance, particularly to the penthouse, as well as objections to the materials, the proposed valet parking, the

continued on page 4

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Minutes, continued from pg. 3

proposed glass canopy on the front and the proposed balconies to be added to the south side of the building. The developers will make a further presentation on June 28th at the Governmental Affairs meeting of WSWCA to which the Society Hill Zoning Board is invited.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

A. The Washington Square West House and Garden Tour took place on June 11th; it is reported that 113 tickets were sold. One-half of the net proceeds will be paid to the Wash West.

B. The Culinary Arts Festival will be held on Sunday, June 26th, and a membership table will be operated by WSWCA; extra copies of The Post will be disseminated and other membership incentives will be available.

VIII. GREENING COMMITTEE

A. Sartain Garden fencing has not yet been put in place due to difficulty in obtaining a contractor for this comparatively small job.

B. Chair Michael Schultz indicated that the gardening rules are undergoing revision and that the proposed revisions will be presented at the July Civic meeting.

IX. SAFETY AND SECURITY

A. Chair Bob Hornsby has organized a training session for the Eyes and Ears Town Watch training for June 16th at 7:30 pm in Alumni Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Jane Barrett, Acting Secretary

WSWCA MEETING MINUTES July 12, 2005

Present: J. Applebaum, C. Baker, M.J. Barrett, A. Earling, B. Hornsby, J. Jordan, J. Matteo, H. Wittich

Absent: I. Gold, J. Menegakis, L. Metzger, C. Engelke, E. Ferry, M. Schultz,

I. GREETINGS

President Judith Kaplow Applebaum called the meeting to order and welcomed the community.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Board Member Joe Matteo asked that community members who wished to volunteer for the Civic be in touch with him; various projects are available.

B. Judith Applebaum announced that the Preservation Alliance is looking for buildings to nominate for historic preservation. If you know of any buildings you wish to nominate, please call the Preservation Alliance at 215-546-1146. Their offices are located at 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 2110, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

C. John Jordan told the group about a meeting he attended about a special Murals Project sponsored by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and ViaCom (to name a few) to promote knowledge about HIV Aids testing. The proposed mural is intended to heighten public awareness over the health risks of not being tested and planned for the vicinity of the 1200 block of Locust.

III. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

V. COMMUNITY ISSUES

A. LIGHTING PROJECT:

Judy Appelbaum briefed the board on the current state of funding for the lighting project. A \$100,000 grant from DCED has been deposited into the Association's account. Councilman DiCicco has been able to secure additional money so that, pending the receipt of actual installation costs, the pilot project should include the 900, 1000, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Pine Street. Judy is currently looking for additional funds to help extend the project's scope to include an additional block.

B. STREET CLEANING:

The Association has acquired funding for further street cleaning within the Wash. West area.

D. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

1. A group of concerned citizens from the Washington Mews Condo Association voiced their concerns over increased flooding within their units. The Board recommended that they consider contacting other interested residents (whose names are available through WSWCA) to pool their resources to hire an independent Urban Planner to perform a Water Shed analysis of the areas recently experiencing excessive flooding. Once equipped with this analysis, the residents can file a class action suit requesting the City to resolve the flooding problem.

2. The 300 block of Juniper St. has been given the honorary name, "Eiton's Way."

VI. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

A. HAMILTON BUILDING (Thomas Jefferson University, 1100 block of Locust St.):

Thomas Jefferson University has requested a letter of non-opposition from the WSWCA board. The Board

continued on page 6

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Minutes, cont. from pg. 4

has agreed to write the letter with a proviso stating that there may be no additional building on the open green space for a period of 20 years.

B. AYER BUILDING (on Washington Square at 7th and Walnut Streets):

Cecil Baker reported that there has been a follow up meeting with developers, residents and the Society Hill Zoning Committee to discuss the proposed development of the Ayer Building on Washington Square. The Board has agreed to write a letter of non-opposition indicating that we do not oppose turning the building into condominiums, however; we do oppose plans for the proposed glass canopy on the front of the building and the proposed screen or veil planned for the balconies (both of which we believe should be removed from the plan); that the planned balconies for the south side of the building be reduced in size; and that the height of the penthouses be restricted to the current height of the mechanical penthouse.

C. AC REPRODUCTION:

AC Reproduction wants to move into the old Mid-City Camera Shop site on Walnut Street. They are requesting a Change of Use for the building, but will make no alterations to the actual building. The Board has approved issuing a letter of No Opposition with the proviso that if any alterations are made to the building, they will need to consult with the WSWCA Board.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

A. Member Rewards Cards will be sent out with the next mailed post.

B. The Culinary Arts Festival was held on Sunday, June 26th. Although hampered by a rather poor location, we were successful in spreading the word about the benefits of joining the Washington Square West Civic Association. All agreed that prior to signing up for a table next year, guarantees of a better location are required.

VIII. SAFETY AND SECURITY

A. 17 active members of the Safety and Security Committee attended the training session Chair Bob Hornsby organized on June 16th at 7:30 pm in Alumni Hall.

B. A follow up meeting has been scheduled for July 26th at 7:30 pm in Whole Foods. Please attend if you want to learn more about the Safety and Security Committee.

C. Town Watch Integrated Services, a national organization, has organized a nation-wide Night Out for Tuesday, August 2nd. The theme is 'Eyes Are On the Streets'. The plan is to for neighbors to gather on the street, be it a street party or just an informal gathering of neighbors, to show that people are on the streets and watching. If you want to get involved, the WSWCA has forms. There will be a Kick Off meeting on Monday, August 1st from 6-9 pm in the Walmart parking lot off Columbus Avenue.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillary Wittich
Acting Secretary

WSWCA FLAGS FOR SALE

Our beautiful Washington Square West flags measure three feet by five feet and come in a striking "Old Glory" red with a white Civic Association logo. The design is visible on both sides of the flag.

Flags are priced at \$30, which is below our cost. Six-foot poles are \$7.00. Metal brackets are \$3.00. To purchase, please make your check payable to: WSW Civic Association and send to the Civic office at 1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, 19107. Arrangements will be made for delivery or for you to pick up your flag at the Civic office.

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Action, cont. from pg. 1

tree planting. During August the committee will contact all homeowners who have submitted requests for tree-planting assistance to survey planting sites and discuss needs.

Lighting Project Underway

Last but not least in significance, WSWCA has reached its funding goal for the pilot phase of the Wash West relighting project. Work on new, more pedestrian-friendly street lighting will begin on schedule this fall, and should be completed by Thanksgiving. The pilot phase of the project will relight Antique Row on Pine Street. We believe the new lighting will greatly enhance both the safety and the appearance of our streets, and appreciate the community's continued support as this project comes to fruition.

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2005 Membership Form

**Washington Square West Civic Association
1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-545-3260, Fax 215-545-9150, email info@washwestcivic.org**

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ **(Work)** _____

Email _____ **Fax** _____

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Individual	\$20.00
Household	\$30.00
Individual Patron	\$100.00
Small Business (1-15 emp.)	\$30.00
Medium Business (16-35 emp.)	\$60.00
Large Business (36+ emp.)	\$100.00
Other Contribution	\$ _____

**1209 Locust Street
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**215-545-3260
215-545-9150 (fax)
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I 130 Spruce Street Condo Assoc.	Giovanni's Room	Sisters
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Accent on Design	Hellenic Travel Center	St. George Senior Housing Corp.
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The Bottom Line, Inc.	Martin & Company, LLC	Uniquely Philadelphia, Inc.
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BUMP	Mercy Hospice	Valanni Restaurant
Cecil Baker & Associates	Mitchell & Ness Nostalgia Co.	Venture Inn
Center City Animal Clinic	ML Innovations, Inc.	Walnut Street Theatre Corp.
Center City One Condo Assoc.	More Than Just Ice Cream	Wash West III Condo Assoc..
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