

# Girard Estate Neighbors Association (GENA)

## MINUTES

### General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Start: 6:30 P.M.

End: 8:30 P.M.

*NOTE: the meeting was originally scheduled for the Donatucci Library, but had to be relocated due to a heating failure there. Many thanks to the generosity of LaStanza Restaurant for providing us with a room on very short notice.*

**Attendance:** 23

**Guests:** Lt. Michael O'Donnell, Phila PD ; Lt. Jeffrey Rabinovitch, Phila PD; Robert Marino, President of the Delaware Valley Region of Valley Green Bank

#### **Agenda Items:**

A. Gaetano Piccirilli recapped recent events, such as the Christmas in the Park event, and introduced three new initiatives:

- 1) GENA will incorporate and seek 501(c)3 status. Benefits of this include limited liability and increased ability to apply for grant funding.
- 2) GENA is forming a blight task force to address major noncompliance issues. For now this will be an effort by the Zoning Committee, but we hope to eventually have it act as a separate committee.
- 3) GENA will explore the possibility of allowing a coffee stand to operate in Girard Park. The idea is that a responsible business operating in the park would help to make it safer and cleaner. First step: see if Parks and Recreation would be willing to allow it.

B. Tom Janke, Treasurer, provided a Treasurer's report:

Previous balance and donations \$6536.00

less

Xmas event	\$2131.89
Election expenses	\$123.29
Banking fees	\$ 53.51

Balance is \$4256.31 (Citizens Bank as of 1/31/04)

C. John Longacre , Zoning Committee Co-Chair, expanded on the blight task force and explained that GENA Zoning has been working cooperatively with Councilman Kenyatta Johnson to deal with trash and nuisance issues caused by local businesses.

Because of several accidents and near-accidents on the two-way portion of Shunk west of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, that portion of Shunk has been returned to one-way (westbound) status. Signs have not yet been posted, but the City has them scheduled to go up

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soon. This means that vehicles leaving the shopping area that includes Shop-Rite and the Post Office will no longer have access to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street via Shunk.

D. Mark Leuzzi, Vice President, asked people to be proactive in calling Kenyatta Johnson to report nuisance businesses and noncompliance. The more people that call, the more responsive the city will be.

Mr. Leuzzi also issued a call for volunteers to form a Park Committee.

E. Events Committee Chairman Mike Fera introduced himself and announced plans for an Easter Egg Hunt in Girard Park, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 12. There will be an Easter Bunny and two age groups.

F. Lieutenants Michael O'Donnell and Jeffrey Rabinovitch, new additions to District 1 Police, responded to community concerns about the recent tire thefts, drug activity and purse snatchings in the neighborhood.

G. Mr. Robert Marino of Valley Green Bank gave some information about his bank and explained its interest both in lending to the community and in taking in deposits. He mentioned that the bank currently offers a money market rate of 1.05 percent.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

TBA.

### **Next Public Meeting:**

TBA. Please watch the GENA Web site for information.

[www.girardestateneighbors.org](http://www.girardestateneighbors.org)

**Prepared by:** Paul Rossi, Secretary