

GENA  
Zoning Committee Meeting  
May 14, 2014

Zoning Committee members present:

- Dan Bartoli
- John Longacre
- Toki Rehder
- John Christinzio
- Allan Moore
- Mark Leuzzi, Jr.

Board Members present:

- Gaetano Piccirilli
- Paul Rossi
- Loretta Rossi

Community Members present:

- Michael Strauss (Tap Room on 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Pete Fry (Tap Room on 19<sup>th</sup>)
- John Gallante
- Maria Nevelson
- Christy Vasquez
- Mary Anne Killian
- John J. Gold
- Livia Cristella
- Gina and John Amenta
- Bess Zirilli
- Joe Criniti

Agenda:

19<sup>th</sup> Street Taproom

- Owners are seeking support for their application for a café license for all of the outdoor seating
  - There also have a long term plans to plant trees and install bike racks
  - They will bring the tables in at 10 pm
  - Since taking ownership of the bar, they have not received any complaints of noise from neighbors
  - After discussion, the GENA Zoning Committee decided to write a letter of support

Nail Salon on Porter

- 19<sup>th</sup> and Porter
- Amended application is now into the City
- Nail salon is a permitted use, owner can open nail salon as of right

Website: [www.girardestateneighbors.org](http://www.girardestateneighbors.org)  
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- At meeting organized by Jody Della Barba of GEAR, the owner agreed to move the door and agreed to close by 7 pm
- Owner will live upstairs with his wife and kids
- GENA will monitor the design, including improvement of stucco wall. Owner has indicated he plans to put ceramic tile on the outside of the building
- GENA will monitor complaints regarding toxic fumes or chemicals at the site

### Zoning Overlay

- As a longer term solution for addressing the oversaturation of certain types of businesses in Girard Estates, GENA will explore the creation of a zoning overlay
- This overlay would provide guidelines regarding which businesses GENA will oppose under any circumstances
- Plan: propose zoning overlay to Kenyatta Johnson and hold meeting to solicit neighborhood input
- Pawn shops, nail salons, check cashing establishments can be addressed in the zoning overlay
- John Christinzio will provide Queen Village and Chestnut Hill overlays as a model

### Shunk Street

- As a result of a petition signed by many of the residents around Girard Park, signage was installed preventing egress from the shopping center onto 22<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Many drivers are ignoring the signs or are going through the Save-A-Lot parking lot instead
- Businesses are calling Kenyatta's office to complain
- The purpose of this pilot program was to prevent the dumping of traffic from the shopping centers into the residential blocks near Girard Park. Traffic was causing a dangerous hazard to seniors and children near the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> and Shunk
- Drivers are still getting used to the change. GENA will evaluate the results of the pilot at the next zoning meeting.

### Blight letters:

- The first set of blight letters to property owners will go out this week
- Targets are owners whose properties are in significant disrepair and/or pose a hazard.
- GENA will work with property owners who need assistance fixing their property.

### Other Business:

- New Members: Maria Nevelson agreed to serve on the Zoning Committee. A vote on her membership will be taken before the next meeting.
- Tree at 1908 Shunk Street - property owner needs help trimming it

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- Members discussed the importance of ensuring that any efforts to improve Girard Estates are applied in a way that is not seen to be targeting any particular ethnicity. Business owners of all backgrounds should be encouraged to open businesses in Girard Estates but steps must be taken to encourage a diversity of business types. Business Improvement District may be a long term solution.

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