

**Penn Knox Neighborhood Association community zoom meeting  
October 13, 2020, 7:00 pm**

Attending: Zarah Adams, Pat Albright, Georgette Bartell, Charlie Biando, Cory Budden, Andrew Chelius, Doris Davis, Grace Flisser, Elizabeth Green, Adam Kaufman, Jen Laverty, Shawn Megill Legendre, Maggie Manzer, Darisha Parker, P. Patrick, Sue Patterson, Angela Steele, Irving Vaughn, Terese Vekteris, Lynda White

**1. Welcome:**

Irving Vaughn welcomed all and noted that next month's meeting is on November 10 (the second Tuesday of the month) because of Election Day, and that beginning December 1, our community meeting will once again be held on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

**2. Officer transition and elections:**

Irving stated that we are in the midst of a transition of officers as he has taken over as Interim PKNA Chair since our former Chair, Brandi Levine, has relocated. We need to have an official election for Chair. Also, Irving has vacated the post of Vice Chair in order to step in as Chair, so we need to have an election for Vice Chair, as well. We will take nominations over the next month in order to present the nominees at our next meeting, on November 10, 2020. Nominations should be emailed to [pennknox.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:pennknox.germantown@gmail.com) or directly to Irving at [vaughnirving8@gmail.com](mailto:vaughnirving8@gmail.com). For now, all community meetings will be held through zoom.

**3. Recent clean-up;**

Irving reviewed the recent PKNA clean-up event, held on October 3. A small group cleaned up the vacant lot at Hansberry and Knox. Irving will talk to Councilwoman Cindy Bass to see what sort of help she can offer to clean that lot and to maintain it.

**4. Boys and Girls' Club:**

Maggie Manzer stated that the BGC is about to receive \$1.5 million dollars to continue its renovations, but hasn't received it yet. Perhaps it hasn't been processed yet. We are trying to touch base with the BGC so that we can be informed of how they're planning to spend it, and to get updates on developments that have an impact on neighbors and the community.

**5. Zoning Committee:**

Maggie stated that we have no RCO requests to address right now. The Committee needs 3-4 new members. They meet every other month. Contact Maggie, the Chair of the Zoning Committee, if there are problems with zoning variances, and such. The committee would vote on such questions. Terese Vekteris stated that there is a survey on the [pennknox.com](http://pennknox.com) page that anyone interested in serving on this committee should fill out. Also, those interested in being on this committee should contact Maggie at [pennknox.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:pennknox.germantown@gmail.com).

**6. By-laws Committee**

Adam Kaufman stated that he, Tina Lecoff, and Georgette Bartell are currently on the committee. Maggie and Grace Flisser are interested in joining. They will meet one more time to finish the draft they'd been working on in March 2020 when COVID-19 hit. This draft will be sent out to the PKNA mailing list prior to our November meeting so that we can discuss the draft

at that meeting. We will vote on it at the December meeting.

### **7. Finances:**

Maggie stated that we currently have \$1,390.00 in our account. We also have a new Zoom Pro account for PKNA so that we can Zoom community meetings such as this one. Everyone should help us support our Zoom account and many other expenses by paying dues: \$10 for an individual, \$25 for a household. You can pay dues online by clicking “Donate” on the pennknox.com website.

### **8. 156 W. Schoolhouse Lane building/historic designation issue:**

Irving met with the Head of School at PSD (the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf) and an architect who want PKNA to support the PSD in their attempt to pull down the front facing of the building on this property. They also want to build a parking lot. Irving told them that they would need to meet with us and give a presentation that would convince us that this is a good idea in order for us to decide to support them.

This is a highly contentious issue, as the PSD neighbors paid for this property’s nomination for historical designation - in fact, for now, while the nomination is pending, the property is protected from “development” or change. Maggie will contact Oscar Beisert, who was involved in nominating the property for a historical designation since he should be part of these meetings with the PSD. Sue Patterson said that the Pennsylvania Historic Commission must be involved since PSD seems to be trying to ambush us. Irving said that he will of course act on PKNA’s wishes and for the good of the community.

### **9. Open mike:**

We did some introductions of one another now that we had some time. Pat Albright invited women to a mindfulness zoom class at her organization that works for inclusion of all women, Crossroads Women’s Center at Maplewood Mall. We can contact Pat for information at pat@allwomenscount.net.

-Maggie made another call for nominations for officers. Later, she told us that Ian Hegarty will address us at our December meeting to give us an over-all understanding of how zoning issues are developing in Germantown and the larger Northwest.

- Grace made a call for people to put their addresses and contact information into the chat since we have no sign-in sheet, which we would have if we were meeting in person. She also called for volunteers to deliver newsletters since a new one will be coming out before the end of the year. A number of people put their names in the chat for this purpose!

- Angela Steele has written to the Chief Traffic Engineer in Philadelphia, Kristin Del Rossi of the Streets Department, to do a traffic study at Hansberry and Greene, across from the Post Office, since this is a dangerous intersection that could benefit from a crosswalk, if not a signal. It would help if we could also contact her. We can contact Angela at juststeele@gmail.com.

- Also, Community Legal Services, clsphila.org, who are located in the Municipal Services Building, Rm 980 at 14-1 JFK Blvd, 19102, is helping people who are targeted by those involved

in predatory home-buying. Sue said that Allen Domb is trying to put rules into place such that people selling properties wholesale would be required to be licensed.

Submitted by Grace Flisser for

PKNA Officers:

Irving Vaughn, Interim Chair

Maggie Manzer, Interim Vice Chair and Treasurer

Terese Vekteris, Communications Secretary

Grace Flisser, Recording Secretary