

**GREENHILL FARMS CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Philadelphia, PA 19151

A Greenhill Farms Civic Association general meeting was held via ZOOM on Sunday, March 27, 2022. The meeting was coordinated by Board member Dennis Lee with assistance from Lynn Nichols and presided over by GFCA President, Mary Rose Cunningham. More than twenty GFCA members participated in the call.

The following agenda items were addressed and discussed:

**May 14, 2022 GFCA Block Party:**

After a two-year Covid hiatus, the annual GFCA Block Party will take place starting at 2:00 P.M. on May 14, 2022 on 71st Street between Sherwood and Brentwood Roads, with a rain date of May 21, 2022. Food items being provided by GFCA will be coordinated, as in past years, by Carolyn Brady. Board member Greg Maddox will preside over grilling, also as in past years, one of his sons will serve as DJ for the proceedings. For those community households who have not yet paid dues via mail, personal delivery, or through VENMO, there will be a registration table, as in past years, for payment of dues and updating members’ information. Neighbors are invited to bring food as well, although everyone is urged to bring their respective dishes as early in the afternoon as possible. Arrangements for paper goods will be handled by Trudy Sheau and tables and chairs, as required, will be arranged for by Gretchen Bedford. The event will be the subject of a City permit and will be insured.

**69th Street Construction Activity**

Ms. Cunningham advised that the unauthorized parking of vehicles and storage of construction debris along 69th Street resulting from the ongoing PennDOT City Line Avenue project has ended as a result of complaints from GFCA and others, as well as the office of State Representative Morgan Cephas. Nevertheless, Ms. Cunningham will continue to monitor the situation and reach out again to PennDOT in the unfortunate event these activities resume.

**RCO Status for GFCA**

There has been informal discussion of GFCA becoming a Registered Community Organization (“RCO”) under the zoning provisions of the Philadelphia Code. RCOs are community groups that are concerned with the physical development of their community. RCO status would enable GFCA to get advance notice of projects under review by the Zoning Board of Adjustment or the community members can comment on planned developments in their neighborhood and get notified by the Planning Commission whenever a zoning variance or special exception is requested. After further discussion, it was agreed that GFCA will pursue RCO status and GFCA members Lance Rothstein and Kenneth Woodson will spearhead this effort.

**Status of the Former Latvian Baptist Church**

As discussed at the previous GFCA general meeting, a Philadelphia church has purchased the former Latvian Baptist Church on Sherwood Road. Although there has been some perfunctory preliminary landscaping at the site, GFCA folks coincidentally came across contractors preparing to make a sidewalk cut in preparation for installing a driveway at the premises. Upon being advised that City permitting was required for these kinds of alterations to the property, the contractor insisted a permit was unnecessary. However, the work was not pursued, and the new owner’s current plans are unknown. During discussion, it was observed that a driveway on the north side of the property, presumably to serve the needs of disabled or elderly parishioners, might not be viable and that perhaps some type of lift along the existing front steps might be better. Attempts will continue to be made to get a better handle on the new church’s plans with the end of establishing a relationship between the neighborhood and the congregation.

**Fencing to Rear of Circle**

Ms. Cunningham reported that there is still no funding for the project in Morris Park which was the basis for preliminary efforts – without permission or any preliminary consultation - to install fencing to the rear of properties in this area. Nevertheless, representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation have indicated that the project will proceed when – and if – funding is in place. GFCA will continue to take the position in its dealings with the Department that this project cannot proceed without input from GFCA. Ms. Cunningham will continue to keep the Board advised on this issue.

See you on May 14th!!

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/ Steve Johnson

 Secretary, Greenhill Farms Civic Association