



OLCAA Board of Directors: Meeting Minutes

Date: May 17, 2017

Location: Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

Time: 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Recorded by: Vernita Hall

Purpose: Annual OLCAA general meeting

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Adjournment: 9:30 PM

Attendees: OLCAA Board; OLCAA Board nominees; OLCAA committee chairs; community members.

Speakers: David Montvydas, Septa Chief Engineer (with three associates); Capt. Ernest Ransom and Lt. Denise Duccilli, 35th Police District; Dr. Anthony Jones

Chair: Joe Cruz, OLCAA Vice-President

1. Remarks by David Weston, OLCAA President

2. **Financial report:** Thurgood Matthews

A financial report for the prior fiscal year (2015-2016) was distributed in hardcopy to the OLCAA membership. 232 OLCAA members were enrolled last year.

3. **Introduction of Board nominees**

Eight nominees offered a two-minute introduction of themselves to the gathering.

- Tie Bradford (absent; Eric Brice gave an introduction for this nominee)
- Freida Williams
- Thurgood Matthews
- Bernadette Tanksley
- Vernita Hall
- Iris Brunson
- Martha Lewis
- Rosa Reyes

4. **Vote for the OLCAA Board**

Ballots were cast for the election of eight Board members.

5. **Presentation by SEPTA: Rehabilitation of Rock Cuts**

David T. Montvydas, Chief Engineer, Engineering, Maintenance, & Construction, SEPTA

As a consequence of Hurricane Sandy, SEPTA applied for and received \$90 million in federal grant monies from the Sandy Resiliency program. With these funds SEPTA is scheduling construction projects to secure and reinforce deteriorating rock faces along the right-of-way of their railroad lines. They refer to these rock faces as “rock cuts,” and their reinforcement and stabilizing as “hardening” of the rock cuts.

Work impacting East Oak Lane directly will be performed on the area known as the “Melrose rock cuts,” extending north from 66th Avenue to just south of the Melrose train station, and is scheduled to begin August 2017 lasting through October 2017. Construction will take place at night between the hours of 8 PM to 5 AM, from Friday night/Saturday morning through Monday night/Tuesday morning. Amelioration efforts are targeted for the west side of the railroad lines only; the east side will be scheduled as a larger, later project.

SEPTA apologizes in advance for any inconvenience to East Oak Lane residents (noise, light, etc.), and will prioritize minimizing impact to commuter rail service. The loudest noise generation will occur during the first three weeks of work, during the rock scaling (knocking off the face of loose rock to reach the solid surface underneath). They anticipate minimal traffic disruption under railroad bridges (such as the Cheltenham Avenue underpass) and impact from construction-generated vibrations; and have pledged on-going mitigation of dust (with watering down where necessary), as well as diligence in maintaining a clean worksite area and daytime removal of construction dumptrucks and loaders from East Oak Lane streets.

Mr. Montvydas respectfully fielded numerous questions from the membership. Concerns can be addressed to him at dmontvydas@septa.org, his office (215-580-7490), or his assistant (215) 580-7784.

6. **Presentation by 35th Police District: Capt. Ernest L. Ransom**

**Capt. Ernest L. Ransom, Commanding Officer
Lt. Denise Duccilli (his assistant)**

The Captain discussed the recent frequency of theft from autos in East Oak Lane, and that many instances owe to preventable circumstances, such as leaving vehicles unlocked, and leaving valuables and computer/phone devices in plain sight within the vehicle.

Because of the seriousness with which the 35th views this frequency, Lt. Duccilli stated that targeted vehicles are being fingerprinted by police. She advises car owners to wash their vehicles frequently, so that fingerprints may be reliably obtained.

Capt. Ransom recommends the installation on your properties of surveillance cameras, and their (free and confidential) registration with the police SafeCam surveillance network, in order to partner with police in helping to record, identify, and prosecute criminal activity.

The Captain clarified that citizens should report suspected stolen cars to 911. If the reported vehicles are determined to be abandoned rather than stolen, those issues are referred to Neighborhood Services, with about a 20-day turnaround for removal of the vehicles.

Capt. Ransom and Lt. Duccilli respectfully fielded numerous questions from the membership.

7. **Presentation by Dr. Anthony Jones: racoon infestation**

Dr. Jones, a community block captain, warned that racoon infestation is a pervasive problem in the City of Philadelphia, but an issue whose cost is currently falling to homeowners for resolution, at a price of from \$250 to \$750 for professional trapping and removal.

He encourages residents to call 311 to report sightings of racoons, groundhogs, or opossums, so that the City can record and track the locations of these wild animals. The City will act to remove the animals only if they are wounded or rabid. In the meantime, take precautions; the animals are wild, possibly aggressive, may carry fleas and ticks, and pose a danger to pets.

8. **Report from Beautification Committee, Kelly McShain-Tyree, Chair**

Kelly reported that Mr. Landscaper has, every two weeks, been effectively servicing the landscaping needs of common areas of East Oak Lane: Broad & 66th Avenue, the Chelton Avenue underpass, the Godfrey Avenue wall. Further, the committee oversees maintenance of 12 urns (\$200-\$400 per quarterly planting), signs, and furniture; and assists/partners with community maintenance projects, such as the Philly spring cleanup, and civic areas such as the Oak Lane Library, firehouse, Elwood School, and the Old York Road business corridor.

She reminds the community that OLCAA membership fees and other donations fund these important efforts to beautify the East Oak Lane community.

9. **Election results**

All eight nominees were elected to the OLCAA Board.