

## Meeting Report

**DAG Meeting July 3, 2008**

**Attendees**                      **86 persons**

**Topics**                              **General Discussion**  
**Presentation -Riverfront Development**

**General Discussion**      Mixed use tower, 1800 Arch Street, 2M square feet: The zoning for the site would need to be changed to C-5, and the C-5 zoning rules would need to be modified to permit construction of the project. There is neighborhood opposition and lack of clarity about the process for approval.

Historic woodblock paving on Camac: Replacement pavers are failing due to inadequate installation. Historic Commission is working with other City departments to address the issue. This issue is reminiscent of other problems the Historic Commission has had with the repair of historic paving, such as repairs completed by SEPTA.

**Presentations**                      Action Plan for the Central Delaware

Members of Penn Praxis provided an overview of the plan in an informal question and answer session. The Action Plan, a follow up to last year's effort, identifies those steps that must be taken over the next ten years.

The discussion main points included the following:

- 1) The elements action items intended to attract people to the water by providing a network of public amenities. These amenities will change the way the public views the riverfront and spur private development.

- 2) The plan includes a 7 mile waterfront trail, with initial phase funded for construction this year. It includes a plan for open space with the restoration of Pier 11 funded for this year by Mayor Nutter.
- 3) Penn' s Landing Corporation will be restructured, Mayor will control board through appointments and require meetings be public.
- 4) The new entity will promote public private partnerships; and could coordinate maintaining the right-of-way, public events, safety, graphics and signage, much more. Successful projects done through public private efforts were shown, including Sculpture Park in Seattle and the Chicago waterfront.
- 5) Interim re-zoning will be needed to protect the waterfront from inappropriate development. Planning Commission will review legislation; it is unclear who is taking the lead on this right now. The Mayor indicated interim zoning should be complete by fall of ' 08.
- 6) Transit is a part of the plan. There is agreement to keep the existing tracks down Delaware Ave for potential future use by street cars. PATCO is now funding some transportation expansion into Philadelphia. The idea is to connect all public transportation with the city.
- 7) PennDOT should be part of the discussion but the reworking of I 95 is not on the table yet.
- 8) Other discussion points included the merits of extending streets to river, need to manage traffic, need to promote pedestrian and bicycle use, Philly CarShare, public/private transit, the need for a 100-foot greenway, and restoration of meadowlands.

9) DAG members wondered what will be done with the land vacated by the Food Distribution Center.

*Submitted by Barbara Ruth*