

4th Wednesday-of-the-Month In-Person Membership Meetings
CANCELLED Until Further Notice

Virtual Membership Conference-Call Wednesday, August 26, 7PM

Greater Bustleton Civic League News

August 2020



President's Corner

Hello neighbor,

It's hard to believe the summer of 2020 is coming to a close. Good riddance. It was certainly not like any other summer we have had in the past. So many summer traditions rescheduled.

As you know, because of the coronavirus, our 4th Wednesday-of-the-Month, in-person membership meetings have been CANCELLED until further notice. We are working on providing Bustleton residents monthly update meetings in the easiest setup that accommodates our members. Please bear with us as we experiment with different meeting formats.

As mentioned, we will hold a Membership conference call this Wed., August 26, at 7PM.

To access the **August 26 GBCL conference call** 1st dial: **978-990-5268**, you'll hear some instructions, and then... 2nd, dial the access code: **1095085**, and then the # sign.

We will be providing a number of Bustleton related updates, a Red Lion Rd./UPS Warehouse update, as well as hearing a zoning presentation on a variance needed for an oversized shed. We hope you will dial-in for the call, as we inch back to normalcy.

Thank you,
Jack O'Hara, President

Greater Bustleton Civic league

- **UPS Warehouse / 1 Red Lion Road UPDATE**

We were just informed that the UPS project has been assigned a **Civic Design Review (CDR)** date of **Tuesday, September 8 at 1 PM**.

To be very clear, the city's CDR is an unenforceable, advisory only, project review conducted by design and development professionals appointed by the Mayor, along with community representatives. The CDR ceremony has absolutely no teeth to it with regard to implementing the recommendations that come out of the review.

However, since the community has never been actually notified of the project, or asked for our opinion, the CDR will be the **ONLY** opportunity for the community to see details from the traffic and environmental studies conducted in preparation. Prior to the CDR, UPS is also required to first provide a project overview directly to the community and their local community organization. The community presentation has never been scheduled.

City Planning instructions for the September 8 Zoom call are below:

- If you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone, please join online at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88145742464?pwd=M0lteXVpK3M1bnFOOFpwZmFkNEZvZz09>
- The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm.
- Zoom may ask you to add an extension to your browser before you log in.
- Webinar ID: **881 4574 2464**
- Password: **484730**

If you do not have a computer, tablet, or smartphone, you can join by telephone. You will be able to listen but not see the presentation.

- Dial **1-669-900-6833**
- Webinar ID: **881 4574 2464**
- Password: **484730**

Members of the public have multiple ways to comment on agenda items. When the agenda item that you are interested in is being discussed, you can use the “**raise hand**” feature in Zoom. If you are joining by phone, you may also use the “raise hand” feature by dialing “*9” during the public comment period. We will also field questions and comments by email. **Questions and comments must be received on or before the conclusion of the Civic Design Review meeting in order to be considered**. Please send emails to: CDR@phila.gov .

The UPS warehouse is hands-down the most harmful development to ever hit the Bustleton community. This project is barreling forward with still no involvement, comments, or guidance from any of our city or state elected officials. The same individuals that would attend our monthly meetings at the AHFCU are completely silent. Not one politician, has reached out to the GBCL to offer any actual assistance to our opposition to the dangerous conditions being created in our neighborhood. The largest construction project in their districts and, we're assuming, they still want us to believe they know nothing about it. We're still hoping one of them will do the right thing to step up and help their constituents.

(UPS Warehouse / 1 Red Lion Road UPDATE – continued)

The consistent position of the GBCL is that the community wants the jobs associated with any business that would occupy the property. We support development of the parcel. We even support the development of another warehouse. What we DON'T support is a package-delivery business, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, running hundreds of delivery trucks a day, with noisy back-up beeper warnings, though our residential neighborhoods. That position was arrived at after a considerable amount of research was done by the GBCL into the scale and impact a UPS distribution warehouse facility would have on our residential area.

Bustleton is not a rural area, nor do we sit in an industrial park close to a major highway. The current risks to Red Lion Road area residents, bicyclists, student corner crossings, will increase dramatically with the arrival of a 24/7 trucking terminal.

No other comparable UPS distribution facility exists in a community with residential demographics like that of 1 Red Lion Road.

Our hope over the next few months is that our elected officials will take some time to take a second look of the placement of such a facility in their district, and reconsider its suitability. The GBCL will conduct a membership call in the near future to solely discuss Red Lion Road. GBCL members will receive an invitation to the call. For now, please call or email your elected officials and convince them to just do the right thing. It's our only hope.

- **Medical Marijuana Dispensary** – While not in the GBCLs designated territory, a second dispensary is looking to open in our area west of Roosevelt Boulevard at **2453 Grant Ave.**, in the strip center behind Nifty Fifty's. Any questions and comments can be directed to Councilman Brian O'Neill's office at 215-685-0432, or to the stand-in RCO, Northeast Community Civic Alliance at (267) 975-8423.
Three years ago, the GBCL put in a lot of leg work researching the validity and community impact of one of the state's first dispensaries to open on Krewstown Road.
- **Fireworks** – The topic of fireworks has struck a chord with the many Bustleton residents who are annoyed with the quality-of-life declines they're left with to endure. Fireworks are frightening to our pets, people with autism and those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Want to help force a solution? We encourage you to sign the petition: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe64NF339fNCwRuaNiAl-xPh0Q51sVStIPJWyyxgf0I8D9ung/viewform?usp=sf_link Visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopPhillyFireworks/> or email for additional information: StopPhillyFireworks@gmail.com
- **Coronavirus** Cases in Bustleton/19115 is good news. The percentage of positive results from virus testing has dropped below the 20% mark over the last few weeks. At present, we appear to be heading in the right direction. Congratulations. Let's all continue to Mask Up.

- **Welsh/Grant Train Trestle guardrail repaired.** – It was more than a two-year effort by the GBCL to get protection for pedestrians from cars that would regularly crash into the guardrail. We also need to thank Andrew Broden from State Rep. Kevin Boyle’s office who was very helpful. The highway is owned by PennDOT but delegates upkeep and maintenance to the City. Involved traffic studies and multiple permits. Guiderail no longer worked. Guiderail being removed and replaced with a single face concrete barrier in front of the concrete collars and steel beams, estimated at \$105,000. City will maintain barriers and the end treatments. Cost shared by state, city and CSX.



- **Passing of Jim Stewart** – Jim was just a great guy. He was the GBCL’s elected, Corresponding Secretary, and we will miss him dearly. Many of the corny jokes in past newsletters were Jim’s. He was an involved Bustleton resident for many years, with many organizations, regularly volunteering for neighborhood projects. Whether it was GBCL trash pick-ups, or the Friends of Pennypack Park projects, Jim was always a part of it. Jim passed away July 29th, 2020.
- **Census 2020** – If you haven’t yet responded to the 2020 Census, you still have time to do so. You can respond online at <https://my2020census.gov/>, by phone at [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020), or by mail. Census takers have also started to visit the homes that haven't yet responded. Valid census data is used in many ways, from highway planning to Federal and state programs.
- **Lackman Playground refurbished by GBCL members.** Volunteers from the GBCL took part in some playground restoration. Many benches have been newly painted fire engine red.

ZONING - PRESENTATION & VOTE:

As mentioned earlier, the GBCL will conduct a virtual membership meeting, and will also review one zoning matter. At 7 PM, on Wednesday the 26th you will:

1st - Dial: **978-990-5268** - You'll hear some instructions, and then...

2nd - Dial the access code: **1095085** and then the # sign.

Attendees will be in listen mode only, but submitting your opinion is paramount. An attorney for the applicant will give an overview. Please send any questions and opinions, before or after the call, either in support of or opposing, to gbustletoncl@gmail.com or call **215-676-6890**.

Over the following week we will respond to any questions and accept votes, after all questions have been satisfied. After all submitted comments and questions have been addressed, the community's majority opinion will be tallied, advertised and then sent to the ZBA.

Address: 9566 Walley Avenue

Proposed Change- Accessory structures (sheds) must not exceed 130 sq. ft. in size whereas the proposed accessory structure is 355 square feet.

(The structure setback from the party line will also be examined and clarified).

Current Zoning: RSD-3 residential

Applicant: Andrey Bohrovnikov (Owner)

Date of ZBA Zoom Hearing: Tuesday, September 15 at 3:30 PM. Register your name for the Zoom hearing at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0YCr-8pyQ-W_4o0Fc57Bsg or simply call +1 (646) 876-9923, enter webinar ID **820 8829 2595** and password **634842**.