

Spruce Hill Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2006

Board Members Attending: Angel Pizarro, Keally McBride, Ben Jacobs, Diane Adler, Ed Halligan, Angela McIver, Fran Byers, Steve McCoubrey, Matt Wolfe, Elaine Nelson, Monica Ferguson, Barry Grossbach, Derek Riddle, Bill Burrison, Jacqueline Waters, Brett Feldman, Pauline Borkon, Bernadine Abad, Bob Behr, Cindy Roberts.

Apologies: Mamie Young, Bruce Anderson, Amanda Benner, Michael Beckman, Janet Finan, Dan Garofalo, Abby Gray, Nancy Khan, Mark Mills, Mark Moloznik, Scott Reynolds, Kathleen White

Also attending: Mary Goldman, education committee; PIO Stacey Livingston, UPenn Police.

Secretary/Treasurer notes

Pauline Borkon steps down as Recording Secretary, Angel Pizarro will replace her.

Treasury Committee urges folks to use the proper forms for re-imbusement requests.

Education committee

This is the first year that the Education Committee (EC) has approached Penn Alexander School (PAS) to be involved in PAS's community feedback process, historically dominated by the PAS parent association.

Talks during the summer with the PAS Administration showed a lack of concern with respect to the community's future kindergarten enrollment (KE) needs.

In response, the EC made an effort to survey the PAS catchment area, to assess such issues as PAS's impact on the area's real estate and demographics.

The survey showed that PAS is a major factor with respect to single family home purchase and the areas stability. The survey also implies that PAS assessment of the community's future KE may not coincide with the surveyed demographics of the region. See the table below for additional details.

Table 1: Education committee PAS kindergarten survey

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 324 households surveyed (5.4% of 6000 housing units in the PAS catchment area)❖ Approximately 174 surveyed were homeowners❖ According to ratio of PAS students to housing units, survey should have resulted in 2.9 students per coming grade year.❖ Actual results were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 13 students coming in 2006➤ 16 for 2007➤ 22 for 2008➤ 14 for 2009 |
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- 17 for 2010
- 8 for 2011 (partial year, class begins with Children born after 9/1/2005)
- ❖ Of 174 homeowners surveyed:
 - 45.9 % said PAS was a factor in their decision to move into catchment area (80 households.)
 - 53%, or 104 homeowners, said Penn's continued support of PAS is a factor in their decision to stay in the catchment area.
 - 85 households (26% of households surveyed) have purchased their house's since 2000,
 - 72% said PAS was a factor in purchasing their houses in catchment area,
 - 74% said Penn's continued support is a factor in their decision to stay.

Future directions for the EC:

- Present the survey results to PAS and present a coherent plan from SHCA
- Support community forums
- Promote extension of commitment of UPenn's financial support for PAS.
- Spread the EC's activities to the Lea and Wilson schools.

Other notes:

PAS kindergarten registration information is available and to be posted at SHCA headquarters.

Meetings for the future of West Philadelphia High School have been held periodically for over a year, and not many conclusions reached. Future site was voted on, but political issues may prevent any movement here.

Membership & Phone-a-thon

The membership committee wishes to thank all volunteers that participated in this year's phone-a-thon. The phone-a-thon goal of 100 commitments was met.

Actual commitments received fell short of last year's enrollment, by 120 members. Reminders were sent by mail in December.

In light of the less-than-spectacular response, the committee chair Matt Wolfe is seeking to reach out to potential new members through lists of voters in last election.

A request was made for the option of longer term memberships.

Communications committee

A request for \$400 for website construction was approved by the board by unanimous vote.

May fair

Bob Behr is stepping down this year as the chair of the May Fair, but will retain a role of "coach" for the new chairs.

Ed Halligan and Derek Riddle have volunteered to be co-chairs of this year's events. Their first request of the board is for feedback on family oriented activities. If you have or interact with children, your advice is needed!

The May Fair schedule for the time being consists of contacting larger donors this month, with letters to the general populace starting in April. Raffle tickets and donations will also start at that time.

It was noted that last year there were several gaps in the roster that had to be filled rather spuriously. The committee would like to avoid this situation for '06 and will be actively filling slots well ahead of the event.

SHCA 50th anniversary

An ad-hoc committee was formed to flesh out the details for commemoration of SHCA 50th. Meridith Sauer, Monica Ferguson, Bill Burrison, Richard King, Pauline Borkon will review some of the ideas generated at the November meeting and make recommendations.

Homeless Shelter survey

Responses have been coming in to the survey that we agreed to circulate on behalf of Councilwoman Blackwell's office. Survey asks about proposal to establish a homeless shelter at 4508 Chestnut Street. Mamie Young will compile responses and report to the University City Community Council.

Announcements

Preservation Alliance has a program to help low- and moderate-income homeowners pay for historically accurate exterior improvements. We will distribute in the next newsletter.

Jan. 18 meeting on proposed dog run for Clark Park

Feb. 2 Dickens Birthday celebration in Clark Park

Weatherization program at the center was useful; if offered, we will gladly host again. Need more time to promote if we have such a session.