

**Spruce Hill Community Association  
Board Meeting  
June 13, 2006**

**Board Members Present:** Barry Grossbach, Matt Wolfe, Nancy Khan, Steve McCoubrey, Elaine Nelson, Bernadine Abad, Fran Byers, Pauline Borkon, Cynthia Roberts, Jackie Waiters, Bruce Andersen, Scott Reynolds, Kathleen White, Ed Halligan, Ben Jacobs, and Derek Riddle

**Absent:**, Diane Adler, Angela McIver, Meridith Sauer, Angel Pizarro, Michael Beckman, Bob Behr, Brett Feldman, Monica Ferguson, Janet Finan, Dan Garofalo, Richard King, Keally McBride, Mark Mills, and Mark Moloznik

**Excused:** Mamie Young, Amanda Benner, Bill Burrison, Abby Gray

**Visitors:** Officers Tumolo and Perry (UPPD), David Hess, Posel Management Co., Mary Goldman

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**7:45 PM** – Cindy Roberts, President of SHCA, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests in attendance.

**Minutes** - Minutes from the May 2006 meeting were not available for review. Angel Pizarro has resigned as the recording secretary and a replacement is being sought. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact Cindy.

**Treasurer's Report** – by Derek Riddle

- Approximately \$6,600 in assets that has recently been carried on the books has been removed to reflect a complete spend-down of these funds. These funds were held in trust by the West Philly Partnership and used to pay for a book-keeper's (Ursula) salary for approximately the past 5 years. In addition, an advance payment of \$2,000 was made to UCD to secure Ursula's continued service.
- \$12,000 designated for Baltimore Avenue in Bloom has been transferred to UCGreen.
- Derek Riddle will be vacating the Treasurer's position before the September meeting. Emphasis was placed on finding a replacement for the position that Derek reported to require about ½-2 hours per week of work.
- A treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by the board. A request was made for the next Treasurer's report to show greater detail and full summary of income and expenses rather than a "highlights" version.
- Of particular concern was a \$12,467 entry for building maintenance since relatively few capital improvements were made in FY 06.

**MayFair Report** – by Ed Halligan

- Turnout at the event was good despite the early afternoon rain.
- Committee members have already meet with Bob Behr for a post-event debriefing to evaluate successes and recommend appropriate changes for next year.
- Ed reported a need to get the Spruce Hill Trust to deposit checks faster.
- Overall, fundraising efforts were the highest on record (approx. \$9,000 corporate and \$4,800 individual) while SHCA booths were down from \$2,000 to about \$900 mostly due to the rain on the day of the event.
- Food vendors also were hit hard by the rain, yet still had to pay \$200.00 vendor fee.
- Event netted approximately \$9,000.
- Main recommendation was to start earlier next year with the planning (i.e publicity, booth rentals, book collection, etc.)

## **Communications Committee – by Ben Jacobs**

- New Spruce Hill Community Association website is up and running.
- A mock-up of a re-designed 2 color tri-fold brochure was presented to the Board. Current draft retains similar text to the current brochure only with a new layout. Lowest bid printing cost = 2,000 for \$900.
- In addition, it was proposed that an accompanying color postcard be created as a quick intro piece. Lowest bid printing cost = 3,000 for \$400.
- Discussion followed regarding the overall layout, content, and greater inclusion of photos. Resolved that board would allow the communications committee to proceed with production and approved the expenditure of \$1,500 to cover printing costs.
- Next SHCA newsletter deadline is July 1, 2006. Send any news items to Ben Jacobs.

## **Education Committee**

- *Wilson School:* A long-time teacher that has been a valuable partner for SHCA will be retiring, but will continue to work with the gifted program and try and continue a partnership in some form. All 2006 graduates will receive a gift of a book from SHCA. SHCA was also able to finally acquire some text books that had been previously requested but were difficult to find. The school's library has recently been restored/re-furnished, but they are in need of volunteer librarians, especially during August, to help re-organize the collections.
- *West Philly High* – The selection committee has proceeded with site selection and prioritized the site as such 1) the current football field, 2) the current school site, or 3) 4601 Market Street. There is a great desire to stay in the same neighborhood and develop the small school concept.
- *Penn/Alexander School:* Annie production played to a sold-out audience for 2 days. Penn funding is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of a 10 year agreement. The education committee is committed to staying involved as new contract discussions develop.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**

- Block party scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> in front of the Spruce Hill Center. Planning for the event will happen over the summer, hopefully with the participation of SHCA block representatives.

## **New Business**

- Cedar Park Neighbors are continuing their regular summer music series of Jazz at the Firehouse every Friday evening. Although the Cedar Park Neighbors Association is moving towards taking over full financial responsibility for the program, they have asked SHCA to sponsor or co-sponsor one performance for the coming season. Board approved the expenditure of \$1,300 to sponsor 1 concert this summer.
- University City Community Council which is comprised of the presidents of all the neighborhood community groups is making an effort to become re-invigorated. Cindy Roberts has attended recent meetings to represent SHCA.

## **Announcements**

- Free firewood is available in Pauline Borkon's backyard. A large cherry tree was recently taken down by Matt of All Green Tree Service.
- Barry asked that Board members be alert to any zoning notices posted over the summer. Currently there are 4 zoning cases coming up and 1 in continuance for 2 years.
- The old Mercy-Douglas site at 4508 Chestnut Street is no longer under consideration to become a homeless shelter as originally proposed by Lutheran Settlement House. However, a new proposal from PennNursing to use the building for their Life Program is expected to be

announced soon. This option will still need to pass through the SHCA zoning committee before any formal agreement is reached.

- Business practices of a few stores in the 4300 block of Locust Street continue to raise concern. The Dept. of Licenses and Inspections has been notified of Varsity Pizza's use of the public sidewalk and street for their tables and dumpsters. Large exterior beer signs have recently been removed from Pasqualli's.
- Bernadine Abad announced the start-up of her new business venture called Intellectual Pursuit. The non-profit organization will provide academic support services such as tutoring SAT prep, testing, etc. to Philadelphia school children. Board members were invited to attend a wine and cheese reception at Belmont Mansion on Friday, June 23, 2006 from 7-9PM.
- The Rite-Aid store at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut is closing. New tenants are being sought for the 1,800 ft<sup>2</sup> site.
- The Walnut West Library will be holding its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Thursday, June 22 from 3-7PM.

**Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15PM

*Recorded and submitted by Nancy Khan*