

SHCA Board Meeting, May 14, 2013

The meeting began at 7:37 pm. Minutes taken by Monica Ferguson

Board Members/Officers present: Andy Lochrie, Mark Wagenveld, Judy Powers, Pauline Borkon, Monica Calkins, Andrew Cole, Monica Ferguson, Barry Grossbach, Rich Guffanti, Ed Halligan, Lee Huang, Elaine Nelson, Michael Shashaty, Pamala Williams, Matt Wolfe

Absent: Bob Behr, Bret Feldman, Anne Froehling, Lee Gayle, Susan McQueen, Marie McCullough, Justin McDaniel, Eric Santoro, Mark Young, Jackie Waiters.

Education

Monica Calkins reported on the activities surrounding the School District's proposed budget and cuts. A number of walk-outs have been organized in protest.

At the May Fair, 400 signatures were gathered on a petition to address the proposed cuts.

Monica read a draft letter addressed to Jannie Blackwell and Mayor Nutter expressing Spruce Hill's position on the proposed cuts – that they are unacceptable. The letter was approved by the board.

The former principal of Wilson School, Sonya Harrison, was chosen to be the principal for the Lea School.

A motion was also made and approved for the education committee to provide book scholarships to the Wilson School as we have done in the past.

May Fair

Judy Powers presented a preliminary financial report from the May Fair. The net income so far is \$4941.20 and she estimates another \$700 from the return on our deposit and additional income. Given the weather, the board agreed this year's fair was very successful.

Questions regarding the equipment and supplies expense category and whether we should consider having vendors supply their own tables and chairs were raised. The largest costs are the tents at \$110 each. The consensus was that the vendors attracted to the May Fair would be willing to pay more to reserve a spot and that not providing tables and chairs might attract vendors more similar to the Uhuru flea markets.

Zoning

The first public meeting regarding the project at 43rd and Baltimore Ave will be May 20th at 6:30 at the International House. An online forum will become active after this first meeting. David Brubaker will be monitoring the content of the forum on behalf of the SHCA. Currently, drilling is underway to determine the composition of the soil. The owners of the property are primarily interested in creating student housing but the developers are attempting to obtain

community input regarding plans for the site and have until July 15th to come up with an alternative proposal. For more information, go their website: 4224baltimore.com.

Communications/Membership

Rich Guffanti provided statistics on the website and email use. There was a much larger number of hits on the website during the first two weeks of May than usual. There has also been a request for Spruce Hill to provide information on how the money it receives is spent.

Rich also provided information on costs for Spruce Hill decals, which seemed expensive. Pamala and Barry both indicated they would send him information on additional vendors who might be less expensive.

The membership committee has been promoting a one year free membership for new members. Lee Huang suggested as a group Spruce Hill reach out to new members and those with expiring memberships to find out what activities they may be interested in. Rich offered to send the committee heads the names of new members who expressed an interest in their committee. Barry reminded the board that Spruce Hill is not sending out any mailings aside from solicitations for money. There was general agreement on the board that at least an annual report or newsletter could be very useful to inform the membership of our activities. However, as of yet, no one has volunteered to take responsibility for creating such a report or document. The membership committee has also discussed a phonathon to existing members who have not yet paid their dues. However only 56 members are past due.

Block Grants

A motion was approved to appoint Sue McQueen as the head of the Block Grants. Proposals will be evaluated by her committee then presented to the board for approval.

New Business

Judy requested up to \$700 for a new computer which was also approved by the board.

Approval of the minutes from the April board meeting was deferred pending clarification of an amendment put forth by Matt Wolf during April's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.