

**Spruce Hill Community Association**  
**Board Meeting Feb. 10, 2015**  
**257 South 45th Street**  
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty

**Present (60%):** \*Calkins, Monica; \*McCarty, Mary Ellen; \*Richman, Andrew; \*Santoro, Eric; \*Wagenveld, Mark; Bush, Julie; Feldman, Brett; Guffanti, Richard; Halligan, Ed; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Line, Laura; Maier, Brennan; Nelson, Elaine; Powers, Judy; Waiters, Jackie;

**Absent (40%):** Borkon, Pauline; Ferguson, Monica; Grossbach, Barry; Henderson, Haven; Huang, Lee; MacQueen, Susan; Note: \* = Executive Board

**Guests:** Maurice Jones; Jennifer Duffy; Amara Rockar; Mike Murphy; Cope II, Fred R.; Lori Waselchuk

**Welcome and Introductions** (Monica Calkins)

Minutes from January approved.

**Guest Speaker** - Principal Jennifer Duffy, Lea Elementary, accompanied by Amara Rockar, West Philadelphia Coalition for Neighborhood Schools

Ms. Duffy held an informal question and answer session with SHCA members. She provided an update on work done since her appointment, such as school building facility repair work, getting acquainted with staff and various roles. She provided an update on green initiatives at the school. These included a stormwater management grant from the Philadelphia Water Department to enhance the playground by adding a porous play surface, rain garden, trees, porous pavement and to remove concrete.

When asked about school accommodation, Ms. Duffy said that the school is trying to keep small class sizes and build teacher capacity. Lea has an average of 22 students a class, the maximum is 33. Lea is attempting to make the most out of limited resources. She says that there is flexibility in taking students from outside of its catchment, although there are none now.

When asked about her community partnership vision, Ms. Duffy is seeking input from community for redesign, wants to build a global perspective in curriculum and prepare students for college and career. She aims to bring in partners that align with the school vision.

When asked about existing support from UPenn, Ms. Duffy talked about the strongest contribution is help from student teachers and consultants.

Ms. Duffy would like to expand the frequency and diversity of Lea's art, music, technology and language programs.

When asked about her vision in working with the SHCA, Ms. Duffy described a need for volunteerism, fundraising and spreading the word about events and activities that embrace the community. Funding is also needed to expand the before/after school program.

Monica Calkins suggested form a community education committee for Lea School and inviting a representative from SHCA to serve on the committee along with representatives from other community organizing.

**Guest Lori Waselchuk** from University City Arts League spoke to SHCA board to garner support for the upcoming Art in the Open event to be held the UCal and St. Andrew's church interior. Ms. Waselchuck

requested volunteers for three events (Feb 20th, Feb 28th, March 1st) to borrow a ladder, and asked for financial support. The board voted in favor of donating \$500 for the art show.

## **Committee Updates**

**Zoning** (Barry Grossbach) - Barry wasn't present for the meeting but provided an update via email.

Thursday, February 19th--7:30 pm-- 4224 Baltimore Ave.  
6:30 pm-- FreshGrocer and 4100-02 Ludlow Street

Zoning has also been requested for 400 S. 45th--renovated apartment building on the southwest corner of 45th and Pine. Spruce Hill has been designated as the convening RCO, and I have informed the applicants that they will need to get a continuance. They have a hearing scheduled on March 5th and we just heard from them on Friday. Garden court is also an RCO for this site, and they will meet with us when we set up a meeting.

Another "hat"--MayFair food trucks; all are now booked up for the Fair on the 9th. Foods will range with items to satisfy ravenous meat eaters and dedicated veganites (I think I just invented a word!). I guess I should have checked to see if I was supposed to do this, or if the Executive Committee had other ideas for this year. Let me know. I can "unbook" or "unleash" them as long as I know soon. Didn't mean to step on anyone's toes here.

**Education** (Sylvia Hammerman-Brown/Laura Line) - Sylvia updated the committee about an upcoming meeting with PAS where they will discuss the waiting list, playground and ways SHCA can help. Help will be needed from the association for the PAS 5k race. The committee is planning to develop a lessons learned report about school enrollment at PAS. They want to do a demographic analysis to help predict future needs.

## **Executive** (Monica Calkins)

Nomination for Board Appointment

- The board has four vacancies. Craig Santoro was nominated. The board will vote next month.

Outreach – Approved and Requests

- Vote to approve funding for UCAL Art in the Open - \$500, approved
- St. Mary's Nursery School is requesting donations for Spring for Our School fundraiser. Mary Ellen McCarty suggested we raise the donation because the school is a co-op, providing affordable care options in the neighborhood. We need to consider what was given in the past, as well as what we have given to other neighborhood organizations. Andrew Richman will determine exactly what was given in the past, and the Executive Committee will review. As per our outreach policy, the Executive committee will return to the board for a vote if they recommend a contribution greater than \$300. .

**May Fair** (Mark Wagenveld/Judy Powers) - Planning is on schedule. Event will be held on May 9th. The committee brainstormed about ways to make the fair more fun for kids. A petting zoo was suggested by Eric Santoro and trapeze show was suggested by Mary Ellen McCarty

**Operations** (Mark Wagenveld) - No update

**Greening Block Grants** (Sue MacQueen) - Sue was not present

**Bird Sanctuary** (Julie Bush) - The Bird Sanctuary is now recognized by the Audubon Society. Julie negotiated a reduced monthly storm water runoff fee given the lack of impervious surfaces in the lot, which was granted by

the city, however they would not waive the fee entirely.. Since SHCA owns the property, Julie requested that this monthly fee not come out of the Bird Sanctuary budget and instead be covered separately under Operations. The board voted unanimously that the storm water fee should be paid under operations. Julie also suggested setting up a separate banking account to hold the Bird Sanctuary budget. This will make purchasing seed easier. However, alternative methods were also suggested. There was no resolution but she will work with Andrew Richman to figure out a plan to make purchasing easier.

**Communications** (Rich Guffanti)

Membership: -Paid membership is up by 1% (2) Since Jan 1, 2015 and is at 257.

Two emails and one snail mail are routinely sent to lapsed members. One email sent out to email participants who are not members.

Website: Online Payment is unchanged at 24% of our members.

This Jan we had 68% visits more than in Jan 2014

Email List: The list is unchanged with 60% of the members on it.

Board usage is at 2/wk down from our 2014 average of 3.4/wk

Facebook: Facebook has grown by 3%/mo (13) since Jan 1