

Spruce Hill Community Association
Board Meeting January 10, 2017
257 South 45th Street
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty

Present: Alvarez, Veronica; Bo, Gong; Bush, Julie; Calkins, Monica; Carr, Tyree; Fayez, Rana; Guffanti, Richard; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Johnstone, Evan; Line, Laura; Liu, Roseann; McCarty, Mary Ellen; McGarvey, Vicki; Medley, Leslie; Moore, Richard; Nelson, Elaine; Potter, John; Richman, Andrew; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Craig; Santoro, Eric; Wagenveld, Mark; Waiters, Jackie

Absent: Bosse, Alexa; Grossbach, Barry

Guests: Douglas Bupari, Matt Pershe, Glenn Bryan, Ed Best

The board meeting was preceded by New Board Member Orientation.

Introductions - Eric Santoro

Guest Speakers:

Glenn Bryan - University of Pennsylvania Office of Government and Community Affairs, Assistant Vice President of Community Relations

Mr. Bryan was welcomed by the board and began by talking about his respect for Principal Farrell. Mr. Bryan has a 24 year history with UPenn and acknowledged Spruce Hill Community Association's leadership in being very influential in for UPenn. UPenn is proud to be part of Spruce Hill.

He also talked about the Lea School's great staff and the importance in keeping a principal at a school – it really does matter.

Mr Bryan talked about UPenn's interface with school district and community being very important.

Mr. Bryan talked about some new projects and initiatives coming to UPenn including:

- The Center for Health and Technology coming soon to Civic Center Blvd – last parcel – first building to have daycare center for employees.

- A new hospital pavilion at the Penn Tower location – 500 rooms – adding new hospital beds – 2021 estimated completion year.
- Working to combine schools and focus on community health and wellness in the neighborhood and throughout west philly.
- Many new building and construction projects.

Mr. Bryan invited all to come to monthly meetings at 40th & Walnut St Free Library - 8am with breakfast – First Thursday – many community topics covered at the meeting. Meeting does not occur in June, July & August.

Introduced Ed Best from Pennovation Works

Mr. Best talked about the Pennovation Works campus and its mission of creating a citywide resource space that focuses on innovation and inclusion. Pennovation Works give an opportunity for people to commercialize ideas – not just UPenn’s ideas, the community is a huge part.

About Pennovation:

- 30,000 square foot facility – coworking, innovation, incubation
- 23 acre site
- Selected the site off Grey’s Ferry because UPenn’s campus is maxing out of developable space, there was a need for parking.
- A new site for community amenity nearby the campus.
- site will grow to 1 million square feet or larger
- open to anyone – affordable 49 a month and up. You can succeed and fail multiple times in the environment – designed for this kind of exploration
- 32 lab benches – hefty wet lab environment
- 200 co-working desks and many meeting spaces

Some examples of startups and programs:

- Penn Vet Working Dog Center
- Benjamin’s Desk - responsible for curating how we put together resources for participating groups

Please Visit - during the day people can come in to take a tour.

Other Development news:

- 40th and Pine project is moving forward – developer is on board and will break ground in June – Apartment Building

- 40th and chestnut 2nd phase of the hub – moving forward soon – more information soon

Question & Answers:

Q: Will Fresh Grocer become an Acme?

A: Will be a different operator – end of March we will be able to be announced

Q: Will it be 24 hours?

A: Yes

Q: Why is Harvest closed?

A: Harvest is closed temporarily due to grease fire

Retail changes – the gap will close at the end of January

Q: Why are we seeing less retail in new Penn developments?

A: Retail is changing and becoming more selective. For Penn – it has been more important use all the spaces to educational resources. Difficult to attract retail – how do you compensate – we believe that there is still a need for retail – but may be adjusting the strategy.

Q: What will happen to the Gap location?

A: May bridge the lease with some kind of pop up business.

Q: Question about future development on Pennovation and the opportunity for private developers?

A: part of the Lower Southeast Plan – working with partners

Q: That much square footage – will this attract retail and food options?

A: This will be added as the site grows. Have a shuttle and are improving the site plans.

Q: Are you looking at other case studies?

A: Connecting access – not just penn, it is community at large. All the development Bringing more traffic – actively looking at different transportation options

Q: 46th and Market – now not going to be a police station, is Penn interested in this site?

A: It is a political issue. No information on what is going on there.

Exec - Eric Santoro

Minutes distributed and October & November – approved

Ed Halligan has left the board and Safety Committee Chair – There is a need a new Safety Committee Chair. We need volunteer to step up.

Zoning - Eric Santoro in Barry Grossbach's Absence

46th and Market - Renovation plan for the large building at 46th and Market into the new Police Headquarters is being changed and there isn't a clear explanation. Councilwoman Blackwell wants to fight for the completion as originally planned and is seeking our support. A written resolution was read out loud for committee consideration. *"The Spruce Hill Community Association is in full support of the long stated effort to relocate the city's police headquarters to 4601 Market. City government announced this objective, spent around 50,000,000 dollars of taxpayer money on the effort, and now has an obligation to follow through and make this project a reality."*

A round table discussion about the issue of the whether the PPD should follow through with the original plan and what that means for Spruce Hill and West Philly.

All were in favor of moving forward with the resolution with the exception of Andrew Richman, who abstained from the vote.

Vote: Approved

Education – Monica Calkins and Sylvia Hamerman-Brown

PAS Wait list – Monica went over the current waitlist numbers for each grade. She talked about how two years ago when kindergarten enrollment turned to lottery system, the waitlists changed began to require annual renewal of applications rather than rolling over year to year.. SHCA supports a revolving wait list with no requirement to reapply.

For grades 1- 8 there are two options – rolling waitlist or grade 1 – 8 lottery. Recommendation for a lottery from the PAS SAC will be presented to Philadelphia School District.

SHCA advocates for inclusion of all applicants living in the boundary.

PAS Playground – Two meetings with Principal Farrell, Ann Kreidle, teachers and Alexa Bosse (SHCA board member) focused on creating a steering committee for the group and a task force

that will look at a few models for what the space could look like. Meet monthly. Will have a monthly meeting.

Sylvia – Lea Principal – She hopes will present at this meeting in the future

Details on the next SAC meeting.

Q: Has safety been thought of in the space planning or a priority with the school?

A: Yes - there was talk about the fencing and cameras

Mayfair - Mark Wagenveld

Looking for involvement and new ideas – planning will begin in March

Mark needs an understudy

Raya asked about the music – local person recruits the bands.

Business Attraction - Jon Potter

46th and Baltimore on the wedge – new signs - hair and ice cream

The space next to Clarkville is for lease – looking for a new business to occupy the space.

Another Mood Café is opening

Preservation – Justin and Leslie are meeting already.

Bird Sanctuary - Julie Bush

Extensive plans by the Girl Scouts.

From Julie's email on 12/18 about the proposed project:

The troop is four (4) seventh or eighth grade girls from Troop 9412. They have chosen the Bird Sanctuary for their silver award project. They explained that thousands of girl scouts across the country get their bronze award, but only hundreds get their silver award. This is a really big deal and requires a min. of 50 hours for each girl - totaling a min. of 200 hours for this project.

Their overall goal for the Bird Sanctuary is to concentrate on improving it for young birders and first time birders. They have divided their project into physical improvements and community outreach.

The physical improvements will be an information kiosk (chalkboard and corkboard) to post recent bird sightings and information about birds, plants, etc. This will be on a welded steel "branch" post in a concrete footing and the "sign" portion of the kiosk will have a roof on it. They will also make 3 benches (same ones they installed at the Penn Alexander outdoor classroom). And they are going to make a bird related lending library. They will stock it with books related to birding and geared toward new and young birders. And, they are going to design pavement stickers that will mark the entrance alley to the Bird Sanctuary. These will be artistic in nature (maybe oversized bird prints) and they will give clues about the appropriate behaviour for birding (no crowds, loud noises, etc.)

For the outreach side, they are going to reach out to local schools. I believe they have already reached out to St. Francis de Salles. They will work with the art students to create posters advertising the Bird Sanctuary. They are also going to create a brochure about the Bird Sanctuary. We discussed bringing school groups to visit, but from personal experience, I encouraged them to limit the number of students to around 15 at a time if groups are interested.

The other outreach effort is a website and instagram account. They will design and manage the content of the social media outreach. They explained that any photos posted would be only of the Bird Sanctuary - they have been very conscientious regarding the privacy of the neighbors surrounding the Sanctuary.

They have a team of experts helping them with different aspects of the project. Their timeline has implementation at the end of April. I am hoping to organize a large clean-up/planting event to coincide with their implementation day.

Last year \$2,000 in donations – The committee needs to meet to talk about how to use it.

Engagement – Vicki McGarvey

The committee currently has 11 people and has met two times.

A mission draft was read to committee. Four goals were discussed:

- Evaluate SH Center to make it more inviting for community use
- Create and advertise to increase community members
- welcome packets
- list of events for all the different audiences – do one this year

Crosstown - Monica Calkins

Email vote to support the Crosstown resolution to oppose signs on municipal buildings

Jan 23rd – 6:30 – 8:30 crosstown event 16th and Market with food and drink

New Business - None

Meeting Adjourned.