

**Spruce Hill Community Association
Board Meeting February 21, 2017
257 South 45th Street
Minutes taken by Rana Fayez**

Present: Alvarez, Veronica; Gong, Bo; Bush, Julie; Calkins, Monica; Carr, Tyree; Fayez, Rana; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Johnstone, Evan; Liu, Roseann; McGarvey, Vicki; Nelson, Elaine; Potter, John; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Craig; Santoro, Eric; Wagenfeld, Mark; Waiters, Jackie

Absent: Bosse, Alexa; Line, Laura; McCarty, Mary Ellen; Medley, Leslie; Moore, Richard; Richman, Andrew

Guests: Dave Brindley, Anna Gersie, Rachel Hanson, Gabriel Rocka, Kaitlyn Rybacki, Brian Schneider, Mercedes Shelansky,

Introductions - Eric Santoro

Minutes from January meeting Approved.

Guest Speakers - Dave Brindly:

Guest speaker Dave Brindley from www.notinphilly.org - launched in Walnut Hill on this side of the river. It's a project of the Pennsylvania Resources Council anti-litter initiative. The idea is to organize cleaning sessions with neighbors signing up for their own blocks. Estimates 15 minutes to clean a block in West Philly/University City. Some people signed up in Spruce Hill, interested in expanding to other neighborhoods in West Philly. Hub Bub gift card raffle to combat litter in the neighborhood. "We will get to Spruce Hill" Right now only in Walnut Hill, Garden Court, Cedar Park. Participating with UCD, PMC block captains, neighborhood associations.

Exec - Eric Santoro

Leslie will be the new Safety Chair as Ed Halligan is stepping down.

Donations that are \$250 or less can be approved by executive board but the board members must vote on amounts greater than \$250. Approved donations to St. Mary's Nursery for \$250 for spring for our school fundraiser, matching last year's donation.

We've gotten a lot of requests to advertise for political movements, we're non-partisan, our tax status, we try to represent the entire community we don't want to isolate any potential members based on political beliefs. We refer them to other organizations.

Hanging inclusive neighborly signs in windows is okay, even though it has a subtle political message. If we hang something in our window, the board should have something to say about it. We want the messages to be inclusive.

Debate between a sign that just says “welcome” in different languages vs. a message in two or three languages. It will be an executive decision.

Zoning - Barry Grossbach's

We just had a couple of things on the docket, discussing the extension of the property next to Clarkville on 44 and Baltimore. 4303 Baltimore Ave. it's a small space and it's tough to find operators of commercial venues that are willing to take the chance at this time of year, an additional operation that may or may not succeed. The city commercial operators are taking a breather. It has three apartments. There won't be a commercial operator in that building.

4100 block of pine street got an application for apartment units. The application seemed rather innocuous but the owner owns the twin new construction buildings on Baltimore Ave. Barry found the buildings unacceptable after he looked at other addresses of other buildings owned. The owner doesn't manage the buildings and he doesn't know what he owns. Barry did not accept the application, developer understood. They got a continuance.

The carwash on 4100 block of chestnut street is up for sale. Dealing with proposed development for that spot, does not require zoning. All they have to do is go before the committee on design review, it won't stop them if they hate it. There are other some elements to it where they get bonuses for the development. They had to go through RCO process (that's meeting with us), two meetings. Tried to influence the design, it's going to be a 17 story building. It's zoned CMX-4. (Passive right?) 240 units, 80 parking spots. 7 1BR, and 9 studios. Ground level commercial and public space. Only plans now, sale has yet to go through.

Shared resolution about the police (or non-police station) with the Enterprise Center, they're trying to setup a meeting with elected officials. Letter went out to Mayor 3 months ago, Blackwell delivered it to him. He has not responded. Assumption maybe police don't want to be out here, most of them live in NE or South Philly. Mayor is listening to complaints about that. Barry thinks West Philly is better for community policing. 400 N Broad is also a prospective building.

Education – Monica Calkins and Sylvia Hamerman-Brown

Met to establish goals for the year, which include increase input from the community related to Penn Alexander. Will take to school advisory council agenda and forward it out to the

community, comes out before each meeting. Many things are internal to the school but some apply to the broad community. Monica will communicate back to SAC. There was a change in the waitlist, one we could advocated for. It will no longer expire at the end of the year so grades 1-8 will now roll over. Good for people waiting for a long time so they won't have to re-enroll at the end of the year. You don't have to wait for August to register. The wait list is shrinking but probably grew a little bit with this announcement. No lines in August. This was a great solution because it eliminated a line which was one of the concerns, but it didn't go to the lottery. The alternative was to have a repeated lottery every year, people could be waiting and waiting and never get in. So we feel this is a good outcome.

Invitation, UCAL is going through a strategic planning process, increase community input and engagement. Monica met with the strategic planning consultant. Talks about ways to increase collaboration with them. Vicki maybe participating with the engagement committee, increasing exposure and accessibility to community members. Ways they can use their space more during the daytime. They thought about programs for retirees or other people who need space for workshops and other things. Early thinking. They may do a survey, we can send out to our listserv. Subgroup of people in our neighborhood may be aging in place. Someone suggested talks. Survey to follow.

Sylvia: lead school principal Savage will be coming in March to speak with us.

We have a pretty big initiative putting a lot of upfront investment, we're developing a stakeholder group to have a community meeting before school lets out for the summer. It'd be good to engage different groups. Outdoor space that surrounds Penn Alexander that the school uses but community groups also use. Looking to engage commuting perspective.

Eric: 5 student observers from the University of the Sciences joined the last meeting.

5 day exclusionary rule for kids who have not been vaccinated: they will not be allowed in school, they have 5 days. Currently, you have up to 8 months to be brought up to date if there's a doctor's appt or etc. , the whole school year. It will be announced in a few weeks (maybe March?)

Engagement – Vicki McGarvey

No meeting since last. Started informally amongst networks. Want to make space available for meetings and community groups. Two groups so far (Spruce Hill Alliance, UC moms group) if you belong to groups or know groups that need to meet, please refer to Vicki. We need to have some sort of coordinated process. More on that later. Names of groups should appear on the calendar.

Business Attraction - Jon Potter

New Donuts on Chestnut near 39th street, opening on 27th of Feb. Beiler's (lots of oohs and ahs) Hamilton Court across the street is going under a lot of renovation. Plan is to include a lot of retail. Nail salon opening up on Baltimore.

Preservation –

Justin is traveling. Eric gave info: Mission statement now on the website (see website) for Historical Preservation Committee. Meeting on Feb 28th, contact him if you're interested.

Bird Sanctuary - Julie Bush

Didn't hear from Girl Scouts if they've gotten national approval. Mid-May might be when they're ready to install, not May 13th because of Mayfair. Looking at May 20th. Hoping for another bird sanctuary cleanup day on that day. Community event. Big deal for Girl Scouts, they'd like a Block Party on Friday June 9th. Neighborhood welcome.

Mayfair - Mark Wagenveld

Arts League is having their 50th anniversary. This year, they have an idea where they would setup four tables and invite people to make art creations. They will hang them on a clothesline between two trees in the park. They always have their fundraiser on the same day as the fair. Barry: Food trucks, business going through rearrangements

Crosstown - Monica Calkins

Mirroring income streams from other organizations like Queen Village.

Organization of neighborhood organizations across the city. Periodically they bring us things they ask us to support, issues that cut across neighborhoods in the city. Testifying as to local controlled parking authority. Councilman David Oh is testifying, would retract the city's delegation function from ticketing and parking. If legislation would pass, this would be taken on by the Streets Department.

Should Crosstown Coalition testify with this data? We're in favor of having a seat at the table but we're not endorsing one side over the other until we clarify (voted).

Zoning regulation letter will follow, it's coming via e-mail vote must happen relatively quickly

Give \$500 donation to David Brindley and a free table at the Mayfair, Craig getting in touch

Meeting adjourned: 8:51pm

