

SHCA Board Meeting, January 8, 2013

Meeting started at 7:40. Minutes taken by Marie McCullough

Present: Monica Calkins, Andy Cole, Monica, Ferguson, Lee Gayle, Barry Grossbach, Rich Guffanti, Lee Huang, Andy Lochrie, Sue MacQueen, Marie McCullough, Justin McDaniel, Elaine Nelson, Eric Santano, Michael Shashaty, Mark Wagenveld.

Absent: Bob Behr, Pauline Borkon, Brett Feldman, Anne Froelich, Ed Halligan, Judy Powers, Jacqui Waiters, Matt Wolfe,

Guest: Penn Police officer Stacey Livingston

Minutes from October and November approved.

Committee Reports

Operations: Mark Wagenveld said the new bathroom and ceiling repairs are complete. Cost was about \$2,800

Communications: Rich Guffanti said an online payment option is fully operational. Because it looks like a business transaction rather than a charity contribution its continued use is in doubt. The board was asked to use it to pay their annual dues so they could decide on its fate. Unless the board has some direct experience with the online membership payment form he will not be convinced we should keep it. Yet it has been used by only four board members to date. At this point no informed discussion can take place.

We are getting 8 hits/day to the website. Membership is 281.

Andy Lochrie suggested adding to the minutes any mentions of Spruce Hill in local print or online outlets. In the past month, UC Review featured an article on the zoning code Revisioning workshop. SCHA's Facebook page has 160 friends so far. New board members agreed to "like" the page. Andy, who helped create the Facebook page, said he will make Rich an administrator so Rich can utilize the page.

Education: Monica Calkins said the ed committee and Penn Alexander elementary school are trying to develop better communication mechanisms. A FAQ is being prepared for parents and other interested parties. Justin McDaniel has been working to develop a new Penn Alexander website and listserv. There was an extended discussion of the ongoing over-enrollment and wait list problems at the school. [NOTE: On Jan 18, the school district announced that applicants for kindergarten would be chosen based on a lottery.]

A new grass roots group, the West Philadelphia Coalition for Neighborhood Schools, has been formed to promote public education, particularly at Lea Elementary School. Lee Gayle will be the SHCA board liaison to the coalition.

Andy L. noted that the district has announced it will close Wilson Elementary, with students possibly moving to Lea. Discussion is ongoing about what to do with Wilson's new playground, built with funds raised by SHCA Education Committee. Lea does not have a playground and plans to hold a meeting to discuss raising money for one.

New Business

Officer Livingston said there have been several hold-ups of individuals near the Copabanana Restaurant, and one at a foot card at Walnut and 38th in broad daylight. She and Andy urged the use of Penn police escort service for anyone out at night. The West Philly Local website is posting police videos in hopes of helping to catch the perpetrators.

Andy L. says the city's 311 mobile phone app can be used to submit a photo of problems such as illegal dumping.

Announcements

Friends of Walnut Library is looking for more adult volunteers to play chess with children in the chess club.

Cedar Park Neighborhood Assn plans to hold an informational meeting on the Actual Value Initiative in early February at Calvary Church. A motion was made and passed that SHCA join as a sponsor of the meeting.

Clark Park: Friends of Clark Park has asked for \$500 for improvements. A motion is made and passed that SHCA contributed \$500.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05