

Spruce Hill Community Assn
Board Meeting March 11, 2014

Minutes taken by Marie McCullough

Attendance:

Present (52%): Borkon, Pauline; Calkins, Monica; Feldman, Brett; Grossbach, Barry; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Henderson, Haven; Huang, Lee; Maier, Brennan; McCarty, McCullough, Marie; Mary Ellen; McDaniel, Justin ; Nelson, Elaine; Powers, Judy; Richman, Andrew; Santoro, Eric; Shashaty, Michael; Wagenveld, Mark; Waiters, Jackie;

Absent (48%): Cole, Andy; Ferguson, Monica; Gayle, Lee; Guffanti, Richard; Halligan, Ed; MacQueen, Susan; Williams, Pamala.

Meeting started at 7:35

February minutes unanimously approved

Zoning: Barry Grossbach

The committee approved a plan for a new frontage entryway to the City School at 42nd and Baltimore on the Baltimore Avenue side, and rejected an application to convert 3 two bedroom apartments into 6 one bedroom units at 517 S. 41st Street. An open zoning committee meeting to hear proposals for development of the lot at 43rd and Baltimore will be held on Wednesday, March 26th from 6:30-8:00pm at USP's Rosenberger Hall, Room 101.

Education: Eric Santoro

Penn Alexander Elementary has no wait list this year. All 74 students who registered are getting in. Four children who had problems with proof of residency may get in if they can resolve the problems. The Education Committee met with Karen Lynch, who said students have been moving into upper grades off the wait list.

Eric Santoro also met with Principal Sydnor about the playground. The land is owned by Penn, but the playground is owned by the district. The school is looking to parents and community groups to help spearhead playground improvement fundraising from PIC and other community groups that use the playground. (Also trying to find out the identity of the playground's namesake, Samuel Schwab.)

The Education Committee also met with two U of Penn officials, who clearly have no interest in expanding capacity at the elementary school. The officials said they thought Lea Elementary would soon be overcrowded, although it's not clear why.

In answer to a question from Judy: Not all Penn Alexander grades are at capacity, but the total enrollment is about 550 and Penn pays for 545 students.

May Fair: Mark Wagenveld

Food vendors for the May 10 event are lined up. Music groups are being recruited. In a week, Mark will send letters soliciting non-food vendors.

Judy Powers said she is seeking new ideas/donations for the raffle. Bob Behr traditionally solicited electronic items from UC Pinball. Two years ago, Keswick Cycle donated a bike, which brought in money from a separate raffle. Ideas are welcome, as well as suggestions for new businesses that we could approach for small donations.

Communications: Rich Guffanti

Website

Website Payment is used by 15% (40) of our members and 36% of our board.

Visits are up in February (241) when compared to the January's 184 but below 2013's monthly average of 338. The average visitor stayed 26 seconds longer (3:08 vs 2:42) and visited the same number of pages (3).

Email List

The Email List added 8 (326), and is stable with 59% of the members on it. One board member is not on it: Haven Henderson.

Membership

The membership is stable at 268. Email & snail mail reminders have been sent, and we are waiting for responses. Three board members have an expired membership: Pauline Borkon, Lee Gayle, Susan MacQueen. Eric Santoro is the second board member to become a Lifetime member (\$300). Barry Grosbach was the first (2010).

Facebook

Facebook has grown by 7 or 3% since January first.

Greening Block Grants: Sue MacQueen

Monica Calkins presented Sue MacQueen's recommendation to approve a block grant of \$880 for the bird sanctuary. \$330 for signage, \$330 for plants, \$100 for plant tags, and \$100 for an air jackhammer rental. The grant calculates that neighbors have committed to \$2100 worth of in-kind labor for cleanups and donations of water, etc.

The grant was unanimously approved.

Business Attraction: Lee Huang

Lee said the committee will meet on May 27 to analyze data collected from the survey. The plan is to have an interactive map on the SHCA website showing existing and desired development

Meeting adjourned at 8:45