

Spruce Hill Community Association Board Meeting Oct. 14, 2014

Minutes taken by Marie McCullough

Present (72%): Calkins, Monica; Cole, Andy; Ferguson, Monica; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Halligan, Ed; Henderson, Haven; Huang, Lee; Maier, Brennan; McCarty, Mary Ellen; McCullough, Marie; Nelson, Elaine; Powers, Judy; Richman, Andrew; Santoro, Eric; Wagenveld, Mark; Waiters, Jackie; Shashaty, Michael;

Absent (28%): Borkon, Pauline; Feldman, Brett; Gayle, Lee; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; MacQueen, Susan; McDaniel, Justin ; Williams, Pamala;

Guests: Bill Burrison, Fred Cope

Meeting began at 7:35, September minutes unanimously approved.

Guest Speaker

Ryan Spak, manager of UCD's Project Rehab, gave an update on the project. It helps owners of blighted, vacant properties to rehabilitate the buildings, thus putting properties back on the tax rolls. The latest successes: 716 S. 49th St, 4726-28 Chestnut St., 1122 S. 46th St. Ryan said the project has generated \$12 million worth of taxable properties.

Committee Reports

Zoning--Barry Grossbach:

The former Best House, 43rd and Baltimore, has been sold and the new owners have plans for a restaurant/bar (2nd floor to be converted into a dining room). It will be run by the owners of Local 44. A zoning change will be needed.

South 42nd St: across from Parent Infant Child Center, a former social service house has been sold and the new owner is seeking a variance to create apartments.

40th and Pine: the Historical Commission has approved demolition of the existing mansion, and construction of a 5-story apartment building.

4224 Baltimore Ave: Despite urging from the community and Friends of Clark Park, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell is reluctant to introduce legislation to allow the large residential and commercial complex proposed for 43rd and Baltimore, across from Clark Park. The developers are considering whether to go to the Zoning Board.

The purchase of the vacant Wilson School building fell through.

Halloween Parade--Ed Halligan:

About 1,000 kids participate. Ed got the parade permit. He also arranged for an insurance policy rider to cover possible accidents and has talked to some businessmen who have offered to underwrite this new expense. The police district plans to send two officers. Penn police will also cover the parade and provide parking permits.

Nominations committee--Mark Wagenfeld:

For the upcoming November board elections, the slate will include: Eric Santoro as VP (replacing Andy Cole); Andrew Richman as treasurer (replacing Judy Powers); As vice president for operations, Mark requested, and the board unanimously approved, \$1,350 to protect and improve the SHCA center's boiler and combine tenants' gas meters.

Mary Ellen McCarty as secretary (replacing Marie McCullough). Nominee for general board seats are Judy Powers and Julie Bush who now takes responsibility for the bird sanctuary and its volunteers.

Education--Eric Santoro:

Fundraising for the PAS playground has so far raised about \$2,000. The short term goal is \$7,000. The committee plans to meet Oct. 28 to set goals for the school year, with respect to PAS and Lea elementary schools.

Executive--Monica Calkins:

A speaker is needed for the annual SHCA elections meeting in Nov. Barry said he will seek a speaker connected with the development at 4224 Baltimore Ave. The location of the meeting is not yet set, but the options are the Chinese Christian Church, the Christian School, or the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia.

Monica also asked for written reports from committee chairs to include in the annual SHCA newsletter.

Communications--Rich Guffanti:

Membership: Paid Membership down by 12% (31) since Jan 1 and is at 225.

21% (47) of our membership has joined since Jan 2014.

Emailing the automated list has brought in 3 new members.

Two board members have lapsed memberships: Williams, McCarty

There are 28 Lifetime Members.

Website: 25% (56) of our members paid online, a 60% (21) growth in 2014

Compared to 2013, visits are up 21% and users are up 27%.

Email List: The list gained 9 since January (2%).

46% are members and 54% are non-members.

Currently 93% of our members have email but only 67% are on our list.

Three board members do not have email.

Board usage is at 3.2/wk up from 2.5/wk in 2013.

Facebook: Facebook Likes has grown by 27% (77) or 8/mo since January first.

New Business:

Barry said the UCD State of UC presentation will be a 4 pm at World Café Live. Also, the transit portal has so far raised \$1.4 million towards construction, including \$650,000 from UCD. Donors who give certain amounts can have a brick or a bench dedicated in their name(s).

The Penn police officer noted that an arrest has been made in connection with several burglaries. She also urged that residents be careful about locking their doors, because the burglarized homes had unlocked doors, enabling the thief to walk right in.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.