

**Spruce Hill Community Association**  
**Board Meeting January 12, 2016**  
**257 South 45th Street**  
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty

Present: \*Calkins, Monica; \*McCarty, Mary Ellen; \*Richman, Andrew,\*Santoro, Eric;\*Wagenveld, Mark; Alvarez, Veronica; Bosse, Alexa; Bush, Julie; Carr, Tyree; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Halligan, Ed; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Line, Laura; McGarvey, Vicki; Moore, Richard; Nelson, Elaine; Potter, John; Santoro, Craig; Waiters, Jackie

Absent: Borkin, Pauline;Feldman, Brett; Maier, Brennan

Guest: Wolfe, Matt; Taylor, Nicole

Meeting start time: 6:00pm

The following minutes are for 3 consecutive meetings;

- Executive Board Check In Meeting
- New Board Member Training
- Regular Monthly Board Meeting

**Executive Board Check In Meeting - 6pm**

Attendees: \*Calkins, Monica; \*McCarty, Mary Ellen; \*Richman, Andrew,\*Santoro, Eric;\*Wagenveld, Mark

A meeting was called to discuss the May Fair and how to fill Judy Power's roll. Judy's did a lot of the important May Fair preparations such as writing letters to members for fundraisers, preparing raffle tickets and prizes, and tracking down winners. She organized the main booth and the cash boxes and tickets, handled the merchandise, recognition poster and tables.

The May Fair takes a lot of preparation and work during the day. How should we fill the void? The exec board had an open discussion about the value of the May Fair and ultimately decided that it was worth the effort. It has a value and purpose – gives to community and provides a catalyst for contributions. It was decided to bring it up in the monthly meeting to get more people involved and serve on a subcommittee.

Some questions discussed:

- Do we go with the current structure?
- How do we itemize the tasks?
- Can we assemble a working team under mark?
- Should we restructure it?
- Ways to tweak it?
- Methods for streamlining raffle to make less work?

## New board member training 6:30

### Round table Introductions

Monica Calkins: Bringing new members up to speed

- Brief history of spruce hill – shca founded in 1956 – improve the quality of life for neighborhood
- Core committees - enact the mission of spruce hill
- Overview of Place Making Principles -  
<http://www.sprucehillca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Community-Vision-Placemaking-Principles.pdf>
- Handed out a copy of the Bylaws -  
<http://www.sprucehillca.org/documents/SHCA-Bylaws-Revised-2005.pdf>
- SHCA represents a diverse community and opinions, it is a democracy, but is not a political organization. It supports general policies in a non-political way – letters of support and opinion without supporting a particular way or person.
- Area Boundaries Map
- Membership – open to all
- Board has the right to vote.
- Introduced the executive board
- 2 open spots on the board
- SHCA is insured for personal liability
- Covered Board member expectations:
  - Understanding policy and voice opinions and consider the community first
  - Actively vote
  - Vote by email
  - Meeting participation
  - Listening politely to opposing views – respectfulness
  - Serve on at least one committee – voluntary
  - Recruitment
  - Transfer knowledge if you leave
  - Voting on donating to other orgs
  - MAY FAIR
  - Annual dues
  - Events
  - Ambassadors for spruce hill
- Committee Appeal
  - Business attraction committee
    - Proactive about attracting and welcoming new businesses who come to the neighborhood
  - Education committee
    - Ensures we are meeting the educational requirements of the community
    - Lea, PAS any other schools
    - PAS playground
    - Meets every other month
    - Looking for more members

- Getting volunteers to help the school and funding
- Lottery system – broach issues and waiting list issues
- U sciences collaboration
- May Fair
  - Big event every spring
  - Need some new helpers and organizers
  - Someone to take over the raffles
  - Vendors for the tables
- Operations committee
  - Building rental and use of space
- Zoning committee – When a developer builds or alter a property not to code they present to the zoning committee to gain support.
- Block improvement grant – forming a new committee
- Treasury – 501c4, income comes from rental movement events etc..
- Bird Sanctuary – handout from Richard
- Safety committee – standing committee – keeping in touch with law enforcement  
Permits for events

### **Regular Monthly Board Meeting 7:30**

Eric Santoro

- Big thanks to monica
- Round table introductions / name and block
- Welcome new members
- Minutes approved

Guest Speaker Jesse Blitzstein – The Enterprise Center

Talked about what they do. Connect residents to resources in the area. There is a committee component that is representative of service area. Some of the services provided are to help with housing issues, foreclosure prevention and home repair resources, and connect people to the right programs. They needs help to get the word out about the services – listserv and facebook. Also need committee members starting later in 2016. They have a 2 year contract.

### **Committee Updates**

**Communications** (Richard Guffanti) - Reported on Facebook and membership dues. Distributed a Bird sanctuary hand out. Mary Ellen McCarty is webmaster – contact her with changes. There was an open discussion about internet resources (website and facebook) Who takes ownership? Mary Ellen brought up that both are designed for multiple editors and contributors. She does not want to be the only web contributor and the exec board recommended she has editing access to help her with her role as secretary. Eric suggested a second discussion at a later date.

**May Fair** (Mark Wagenfeld) - There is a huge need for new people to become more involved. Will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Emphasized that the fair is a process not a day. Food trucks book up early Barry is working on the food.

**Zoning Committee** (Barry Grossbach):

Talked about things coming up.

- 40th Street Trolley Portal project in the near future – landscaping, trolley diner, full service restaurant, UCD project, 2 floor diner – Same people as Trolley Diner in Mt. Airy
- Orens brothers – north end of spruce hill 4400 chestnut st. near Ludlow – complicated because it involves aligning alleys.
- 40<sup>th</sup> and Pine lot – wait to see if court upholds developer or protestor – entering the 11<sup>th</sup> year
- Meeting this Thursday – Hooka bar special exception.
- 43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore – owner needs to come up with financing.
- Clarkville has sparked interest in the eastern section of Baltimore.
- Post Brothers – donated \$8000 for the Lea School playground completion!
- Historical designation – Cedar Park is beginning work on a conservation district. Perhaps a better strategy would be to start many smaller historic districts (pockets) – Osage will be the model.

**Education** (Laura Line, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown)

Had three meetings with PAS.

Playground meeting – Ann Kreidle, Megan Whitnall, Sarah Davis. There was a conversation about the community aspect of the project and the project expansion to the entire grounds, greening opportunities, science teacher is interested in the rain garden and next steps – community design collaborative help is of interest but it is competitive. Need to meet with Penn to talk about it. Olin is interested.

Waiting list – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders admitted.

Streets smarts program wants to meet at another location, not the school.

New Idea - Perhaps the committee can call the day of the lottery to inquire about the outcome?

**Operations** (Mark Wagenfeld) - Nothing to report

**Block Improvement Grants** (Mary Ellen McCarty) - Nothing to report

**Bird Sanctuary** (Julie Bush) – we are feeding the birds

**Business attraction** (Jon Potter) – new openings: Clarkville, Jinx, Popshop on Woodland – cakes and pies too, Philly Homebrew

**Miscellaneous** - If anyone is interested in the Crosstown social, we have extra tickets. Contact Monica.

**New business** – Barry requested a list of each person's contact information.