

Spruce Hill Community Association
Board Meeting February 9, 2016
257 South 45th Street
Minutes taken by Andrew Richman

Present: *Calkins, Monica; *Richman, Andrew; *Santoro, Eric;* Wagenfeld, Mark; Alvarez, Veronica; Bosse, Alexa; Bush, Julie; Carr, Tyree; Feldman, Brett; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Line, Laura; Massey, Philip; McGarvey, Vicki; Moore, Richard; Nelson, Elaine; Potter, John; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Craig; Wagner, Elise; Taylor, Police Officer

Absent: *McCarty, Mary Ellen; Halligan, Ed; Waiters, Jackie; Borkin, Pauline; Maier, Brennan

Introduction (Eric Santoro):

Review and Approve Minutes from January meeting - Monica Moved, All Approved

Committee Updates

Zoning Committee (Barry Grossbach):

UCD received approval from Art Commission on first go round for the Portal Project. UCD has been denied zoning. Brett Feldman will represent UCD before the ZBA (will recuse before Spruce Hill) and will get a hearing date shortly. The RCO meeting will be next. 4 RCO's are involved. Spruce Hill is the convening RCO. Woodland Terrace has not hired an attorney to represent them on the portal project. An individual on the block has contracted for legal representation. The block is not involved. Barry described the outdoor seating at the project. RCO meeting may be last week in February or first week of March. The site is currently zoned as residential.

17 and 19 S. 44th and 46th streets. 44th and a property on Ludlow Street. Owner plans to build as of right on 4 sites and wanted to setup a meeting with Barry. Barry suggested that he come our next zoning committee meeting and the owner has agreed. Owner is trying to coordinate with Orens brothers. Brings radical changes to the north side of Spruce Hill.

Zoning Committee has approved the Hookah Lounge on the 4400 block of Chestnut with some restrictions.

Ronald McDonald house expansion will begin with the demolition of the two houses on the side of Ronald McDonald house in February. They have invited neighbors to a lunch to come hear the plans.

UC District has received \$750,000 to support landscaping and other community rehab projects.

West Philly High project is going forward.

46th and Spruce - There will be a meeting soon. A neighbor has hired an attorney and has not been in touch.

Demolition has started on a house on 45th street. Board discussion on ability of people to pull demo permit. We should be documenting before and after shots of these properties.

Crosstown Coalition (Monica and Barry):

Asking for approval of memo related to land use - institutionalize civic input in the land use legislation process. Wants to make sure that communities are in on the ground floor on land use legislation. Barry thinks that #6 on the memo is important in terms of keeping communities informed. John Potter - is this memo building on a system of RCO's that doesn't function well already? Barry - more of a notification process is proposed here

- Eric - motion to adopt, Craig second, passed

Education (Laura Line, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown)

PAS principal sub-committee

- Th sub-committee for PAS principal search will meet tonight. Monica has a meeting tomorrow with the committee that Penn has put together. Monica will bring questions tomorrow about the search. A consulting firm has been hired.
- The more community involvement the better. PAS has set up meetings with PIC, Arts League, etc.
- No one at the meeting had any involvement in the process for the search for Principal Sydnor.

Education Committee will meet 2/23/16 at 8 p.m. at SHCA office. Laura will send e-mail out.

Playground Renovation - Penn has given us approval to move forward once new principal is part of the process and to make sure Sean Connelly from the District is looped in.

May Fair (Mark Wagenveld / Ed Halligan)

Nothing new to report, will get rolling in March.

Green Line will contribute for the production of music.

Operations (Mark Wagenveld) - Nothing to report

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

Bird Sanctuary (Julie Bush)

Purchased more seed. Planning to put up new signs, and may solicit donations from neighbors who border the Bird Sanctuary.

Girl Scouts who did Bird Houses a couple years ago are interested in another project at the Sanctuary.

Business Attraction Committee (Jon Potter)

Additional facebook access has been granted;

Dottie's Donuts (vegan) will open at 45th and Springfield - Have been using the space in the past for baking operations, now going to open a retail storefront.

8 Limbs Academy - Opened 1 year ago on 4500 block of Baltimore and have been ultra-successful and are actually expanding into the car storage section of the building.

Physical Therapy will open behind PFCU on 5000 Block of Baltimore w/ some sort of gym facility (not in spruce hill)

4300 Baltimore update? want a restaurant facing the park; Penn Vet might want to have a facility there; 2nd floor will be gym (nothing about this is new).

New Business - Eric

Vicky suggested Roseann Liu for a new board member. Has connections to the neighborhood through PIC through years and just moved into the neighborhood. Her interest is in education committee. Eric nominated - AR Second. and we will vote on her at the next meeting.

Phillip Masey - 1st time to the meeting. Philip is a professor at Drexel and moved in across the street. question: How can we keep our streets clean in a better way?

- Monica - spruce hill has supported block cleanups. UCD will assist in block cleanups.
- Eric - for construction cleanup - call 311
- Rich - communication with neighbors is important.

Rich Guffanti - passed out block lists for membership. encourage people not on the list to join

Officer Taylor: brought SEPTA safety pamphlets and UCD walking escort info

Meeting adjourned