

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

Present: \*Richman, Andrew; \*McCarty, Mary Ellen; \*Santoro, Eric; \*Wagenveld, Mark; Alvarez, Veronica; Bosse, Alexa; Bush, Julie; Feldman, Brett; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Halligan, Ed; Line, Laura; Liu, Roseann; McGarvey, Vicki; Nelson, Elaine; Potter, John; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Craig; Wagner, Elise; Taylor, Waiters, Jackie;

Guests: Hinchey, Jess; McGettigan, Mary; Lyons, Mike; Then, Thuy; Vitale, Jess; Deike, Levi; Mistry, Jeshal; Fulmen, Brittany; Police Officer Gary F Cooper;

Absent: \*Calkins, Monica; Carr, Tyree; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Massey, Philip; Moore, Richard; Borkin, Pauline; Maier, Brennan

**Introduction** (Eric Santoro):

Minutes approved

Introduction of Jess Hinchey, Volunteer Coordinator at AmeriCorps/Refugee Corps

**Guest Speaker** (Jess Hinchey, Volunteer Coordinator at AmeriCorps/Refugee Corps)

The Cor's mission is to help resettle new populations of refugees in Philadelphia.

Work involves mentorships and home set up.

There is a strong need for volunteers to help to clean up homes, give money and donate supplies.

Household items can be donated to headquarters located at 1216 arch st. 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Questions/Answer session:

Q: We can help spread the word about the need for volunteers, but is there anything else we can do?

A: We want to spread the word about and talk about refugee rights. The goal is to work with more community organizations.

Q: How do you find people (what is the process)?

A: We work with US government and UN who help people through the process and connect people to certain areas based on appropriateness. NSC ([nscphila.org](http://nscphila.org)) is working to bring communities together in cities and match people with others from their native country. For

example, there is a thriving Eritrean and Ethiopian community in West Philly. There is a need for ESL instruction, teaching, basic living skills, marketing or administration.

Q: Are any people bilingual – French speaking

A: Yes, there is a big need for bilingual speaking volunteers

Q: How many people are coming to Philadelphia?

A: About 600-700 a year. Temporary housing is provided and the organization works with landlords for funding.

Q: Do you have pick up services?

A: No

Q: Is Philadelphia a popular destination?

A: Many locations are chosen for the people based on suitability or if they have family in area.

**Exec Update** (Eric Santoro):

- Next meeting scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> is moved to May 3<sup>rd</sup> to cover the may fair final arrangements.
- Community donations this month – Board approved three:
  - \$250 UCAL annual action
  - \$250 PAS musical
  - \$10 ad in the PAS yearbook

**May Fair** (Mark Wagenveld / Ed Halligan):

Completed Tasks:

- Publicity is ongoing, vendors, music and entertainment are booked.
- Music produced by Julie Lipson from Ants on a Log and set up a facebook page
- UPenn drum line will be there
- Square dancing
- Lots of interest from vendors
- Ed gave out the permits – Ed won't be at the fair but will help to block off street.
- No parking signs
- Lighter on food vendors this year, will have 5 varieties of food & pop shop sales
- Laura line creating signs for sponsors and merchants
- Tee shirts will be sold
- Yard signs going on all members yards

Needs:

- mailing out to the members
- mail out the raffle tickets
- Larger signs to print and laminate (Mary Ellen volunteered)
- send the raffle sign up around again
- Insurance company wants a flier
- Volunteer sign up

**Zoning Committee** (Barry Grossbach):

Next meeting tomorrow, April 13th.

4200 block of Walnut St. – Would not work with them until they got the dumpsters off 43<sup>rd</sup> street. Now they are renting space from adjacent properties and dumpsters are off street

46<sup>th</sup> and Spruce – Developer is coming back with revisions from last meeting. Developer is trying to negotiate with neighbor and is willing to work with us, so we will work with them the best we can. Garden Court is involved as well. Barry emphasized the importance of working with them without being obstructionists – operate in good faith to get something done that all people can live with. As of right is always a problem.

Mary McGettigan brought up the importance of a historic designation. The board was reminded of last meeting with the Preservation Alliance. Discussed the possibility of a moratorium or temporary ban on demolition as a stop gap measure.

RCO boundary expansion - Barry asked the board for resolution to expand the boundary south. See map below. All in favor – motioned passed.



Trolley portal is approved. Hopefully the construction will start at the end of the summer.

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

Sylvia is out sick

Gift for PAS retirement gift – floating ideas

Monica could not be here tonight – interviewing a reviewing candidates for the new principal - coming up quickly.

**Block Improvement Grants** (Mary Ellen McCarty):

Created and distributed a block grants interest form. No responses came in. Barry suggested possibility of working south of Spruce Hill towards the USciences area to offer block assistance to West Shore. He suggested reaching out to Guy Laren to talk about a potential partnership. Mary Ellen will bring this up with the committee as an idea and topic for discussion.

Rain Check Workshop on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm  
PHS does the advertising but we can post to website and facebook

**Bird Sanctuary** (Julie Bush) – Nothing to report  
Elected to CDC board - Big congratulations to Julie!

**Business Attraction Committee** (Jon Potter) – no updates except for new businesses:  
Lu lu café is open and doing well – bubble tea by Monarch Hardware  
Shuffling of children’s music schools – Green Tambourine to cedar park, Flute and Friends next to Nesting House  
Dotties Donuts – doing well

**Operations** (Mark Wagenveld) - Nothing to report  
Andrew – phone bill went crazy – all directory assistance - will look into it.

**Crosstown Coalition** (Monica and Barry)  
Trying to get anti-slap suits passed  
Parking data available  
Need to create a bigger link for crosstown  
Soda tax brought up – not a civic association issue – will create a forum for debate soda tax

**New Business**  
Dangerous intersection – crash data on open data philly

4334 baltimore ave – owner is not moving on the project. Move to let barry talk to council about the project concerns.

There was a wave of burglaries in the area in the neighborhood – 18<sup>th</sup> district

**Meeting adjourned**