

**Spruce Hill Community Association  
Board Meeting September 13, 2016  
257 South 45th Street  
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty**

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

Absent: Carr, Tyree; Feldman, Brett; Borkin, Pauline; Maier, Brennan; Liu, Roseann; Wagner, Elise

**Introductions** - Eric Santoro

Minutes approved with small changes

Bridge Program guest speaker cancelled – Eric will send around more information about the Bridge Program by email.

**Historical Preservation topic** – Barry Grossbach

Eric and Barry met to talk about the feasibility of creating a SHCA historic preservation committee. They reported that it would be a good idea but one that would require setting clear goals before it started. We need to decide whether SHCA should establish a historic district or conservation district. The primary issue is tackling the demolition problem and decide what SHCA's roll is and relationship to other city initiatives and groups.

Barry attended a meeting hosted by the historical society (Elizabeth) and working in an ad hoc basis. Barry would rather not work in a piecemeal basis because it is just a stop gap. The problem is citywide and we are prepared to help solve it.

PCPC is working on an ordinance that will impose a 60-90 day waiting period before a demolition can occur. That would give RCOs time to do something.

Preservation Alliance is concerned and the jeweler's row case brought the issue forward. We need to coordinate with other citywide entities because we can't do it alone – need some stop to demolitions.

Some issues or constraints to making this happen:

- Developers are likely to oppose - to be expected but having an ordinance will allow a chance to preserve some properties
- Kenny has not stepped up in this matter.

- Many people don't care about it and feel that demolition is the property owner's right. Nothing to do to stop it.

Barry told Paul that SHCA would support anything to curtail demolition and ally with other groups. We can actively promote this and take a position, then think about putting together a committee – we are willing to help.

Lobbying the council person was suggested. Barry thinks that we should work together first before we go forward.

Julie Bush suggested a two pronged approach - Working to change city policy and also working to form a conservation district.

Barry discussed past efforts to organize block meetings on each block, which helped a lot with push back from neighbors who feared losing the right to choose paint and alteration choices.

We need a less onerous restriction on a historic district.

UC Historical Society should be relied on to take the lead on preservation initiatives.

One suggested getting help from Oscar. Can he train us to take the historic preservation file? Help us do some nominations?

Do we all agree on the need to prevent demolition? YES

3 ideas

1. stop demolition method – speed bump
2. take away incentive to demo
3. zoning – reliant on the councilwoman

Motion called to designate Barry to work with Paul to iron out issues – All Vote yes -Approved

We should invite Elizabeth and Paul to a SHCA meeting.

Committee brainstormed ways to work effectively with councilwoman.

Someone asked about the police building at 46th & Market. No one really knows what is happening. Committee discussed whether or not we should way in. This is an important issue that we can possibly help our councilwoman.

## **Committee Updates**

**Mission statements - (Eric & Monica)**

Committees should refresh mission statement items and goals, expectation documents. The executive committee will offer help and guidance.

**Exec - (Eric Santoro)**Exec passed two donations

Mark Wagenveld is working with Friends of Clark Park to purchase and engrave a park bench in memory of Cindy Roberts. Each would donate 800 or so. 50% of price of park bench. Barry moved to authorize spending up to \$1,200 so this wouldn't have to come back to the board if it were a little over \$800, as it likely will be. – Vote: Approved

October and November meetings are moved to the 3rd Tuesday rather than the second.

**Nominating Committee overview - (Monica Calkins)**

4 seats for nomination committee are - Monica, Mark, Jamie Vaugne, Vickie McGarvey.

If you are considering changing your role, let exec know as soon as possible.

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

The new PAS principal Michael Farrell is engaged and committed. Sylvia and Laura are meeting with him next week. They will ask if he is interested in presenting at annual meeting. The goal of the meeting will be to discuss SHCA and PAS communications and the playground. They will try to find out why some classes are very small and the status of the waiting list (how many people and how does it work?)

Lea Principal ShaVon Savage – looking for community involvement and are willing to come to the meeting – wanting to engage community. If anyone is interested, let Sylvia know. Sylvia will go to the meeting

**Halloween Parade – (Ed Halligan)**

We have the necessary permits. UCD will help again. Ed will work on the logistics on pep band transportation.

Volunteers are needed and they should wear SHCA shirts.

Mary Ellen was asked to change the facebook photo to Halloween theme.

**Zoning – (Barry Grossbach)**

46<sup>th</sup> and spruce is under appeal to PA supreme court.

Trolley portal construction to begin this Fall.

43<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Wine and Spirits store has loitering problems that UCD is helping address. Trying to keep things under control. Let Barry know if you witness any problems.

46<sup>th</sup> and Walnut – As of right development looks terrible. Developers are buying up other properties in the area. There is worry that more like this will spring up.

43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore - nothing is happening at this point.

**Business Attraction** – (Jon Potter)

Loco Pez is not moving forward due to inability to get a liquor license.

Walnut Hill Neighborhood Association has recruited a business attraction person who Jon will begin to work with soon.

Is there a dollar store going into the 46th & Cedar Ave wedge? - Jon thinks that the business will be owner operated. Jon will call to find out.

**Greening Blocks** – (Mary Ellen McCarty)

No new applications. She applied for a TreePhilly yard tree giveaway event with UCGreen and was denied based on a surplus of trees in the neighborhood.

**Bird Sanctuary** - (Julie Bush)

Volunteer Meeting next Wednesday will have an update next week

**Engagement Committee** - Vickie McGarvey

Slow start but is inviting people to to get involved

**Operations** - Mark Wagenveld

Nothing to report

**New Business**

Libby arranged for all of the books to be donated! They went to various people. Round of applauds!