

**Spruce Hill Community Association
Board Meeting March 21, 2017
257 South 45th Street
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty**

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

Absent: Gong, Bo; Bosse, Alexa; Fayez, Rana; Liu, Roseann; Rosof, Libby;

Guests: ShaVon Savage, Lea School Principal, Jeannette Brugger, Ian Moran

Introductions - Eric Santoro

Minutes from February meeting Approved. Mary Ellen will change some things based on Monica's notes.

Guest Speaker - *Jeannette Brugger, City of Philadelphia Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator*

Chestnut Street Parking Protected Bike Lane Project

Jeannette presented about a planning project underway to construct protected bike lanes along Chestnut street from 34th to 45th streets.

Ms Brugger discussed the safety issues along Chestnut Street and ways that bike lanes can play a part in increasing safety, reduce accidents and deaths. She talked about the Vision Zero initiative in Philadelphia which sets a goal to eliminate traffic related deaths in Philadelphia completely by 2030. She discussed various ways to eliminate traffic fatalities including bike lanes.

She distributed a draft plan for Chestnut Street, attached, which included the new lane structure changes proposed which she is hopeful will be approved in 2018.

Questions/Answers

Q: Walnut street's buffer zone allows for loading. Will this allow for loading?

A. It does allow for loading by designating loading zones

Q: Who signs off?

A: Council has final say. Will be holding public meetings and would like SHCA to come out to support.

Comment: Shca had previously given letter of support to Walnut hill on the issue.

Q. Bus and bike share a lane – why do the biggest arteries combine the lanes?

A: Trying to build a network – limitations to Market Street and we cannot prevent bikes from traveling on any road.

Comment: Slowing the traffic down is good for everyone. Peds, cars and bikes

Comment: It is inappropriate for Chestnut Street to be a 3 lane road so close to residential.

Q: What will the 45th street transition be like?

A: It will be a turn lane that will T off.

Comment: Chestnut street commuting is scary. I'm excited about it.

Comment: I'm in support.

Bike and bus will be separated.

Q: Will parking be reduced?

A: May be a some parking reduction.

Q: What do you need from SHCA?

A: We are just starting the process now. Wants to continue the conversation.

Guest Speaker - *ShaVon Savage, Lea School Principal*

Sylvia introduced ShaVon and thanked her for coming to speak to us. She highlighted Ms. Savage's background in education, business and law and her impressive ability to wear many hats.

Ms. Savage Introduced herself and gave a brief update on where Lea school is are for this year and where Lea is heading.

This is her first year at Lea. Her background is in charter schools, UPenn Law School, with a focus on school law.

At Lea she has been focused on stabilizing the school building and programming. Lea has a 530 -540 steady student population, offering PreK- 8, after school programs, arts and languages. Lea receives support from UPenn. Its mentoring programing big /little is making great strides. Overall there has been a lot of progress.

Next year some goals include retaining students and staff, enhancing special education.

Questions/Answers

Q: Why so many principals – will you be here next year?

A: Yes, I want to remain at Lea for a long time.

Q: Why the turnover?

A: Many reasons – The turnover has caused some issues

Q: Do you receive support from UPenn? what?

A: We are working at aligning penn support to be a multi tiered support system in needed areas such as academics, play support, reading, student teachers, social work department, nursing intern, netter center.

Comment: It is important to get penn to be contractually obligated to fulfill needs.

We are continuing to developing the relationship.

Q: What are the other orgs you partner with?

A: Garden Court Community org helps. Others include:

Big brothers and sisters

Home school association

Volunteers

Donations from community

West Philadelphia coalition of neighborhood schools

Q: Will you continue to increase collaboration with PAS?

A: Yes and we hope that includes more families – student councils swap, joint field day, teachers working together – reading language arts in middle school, Farrell is helping to bring families together.

Q: Are you still running summer camp program?

A: Yes but not this summer due to renovations to rooms k -2.

Q: Technically the boarders don't match – how can shca best help?

A: Many students travel in so our community is expansive, large autistic support staff, esl. Looking for volunteers, resources, speakers, anything really.

Comment: SHCA is open to help upon support – volunteer and funding for field trip

Q: Question about the use of RPM method for autistic students?

A: discrete trials – using the school district advised methods which focus on repetition.

Guest Speaker - Ian Moran, Food Trust

Ian appealed to the board to gauge interest on the potential for SHCA to co-sponsor or be the community partner for a Night Market which is a popular event all over the city. A mobile market pops up in different parts of the city and closes off streets so the community shop and get together on a summer evening.

The proposed Spruce Hill market will close traffic on Walnut Street between 38th and 45th Street in the evening of (6pm - 10pm) June 29th.

The food Trust runs the Clark Park Farmers Market and Ian coordinates the night market 24 events in several different neighborhoods.

The Food Trust works with local businesses and community in neighborhood, and helps facilitate the event.

Need a community partner – really helps

Q: The board was concerned about the amount of work required.

A: Don't be scared off because it is mostly about information distribution. Food trust does it all but they need us to help with promoting the event.

Comment: The Market promotes the community association as we are on all the promotional material.

Q: Have you talked with university?

A: UCD is not able to co-sponsor, UPenn supports but cannot co-sponsor

Barry can be the community liaison.

Alcohol policy – alcohol is served at the event but it is very Family friendly

Welcome America themed

MOU will need to be documented, but the Trust is waving the financial commitment.

Comment: you should talk to the mosque on walnut.

Committee updates

Exec - Eric Santoro

Donations to PAS and UCAL approved by exec:

- \$250 ucal auction
- \$250 pas - playground

- \$250 pas – 5k
- \$250 pas – playground repair
- \$10.00 - yearbook ad

May Fair - Mark Wagenveld

Next 2 meetings will be devoted to May Fair planning.

Rich will coordinate raffle – spreadsheet for prizes, letters and prize slips.

Laura will make SHCA sign thank for donating businesses.

Spreadsheets – overall list of tasks leading up to the fair everyone should check the lists and plug yourself in for volunteering and prize solicitation.

Zoning - Barry Grossbach

Mill Creek Tavern is coming down – for sale – buyer wants to knock down building to add student housing – would need variance.

45th and spruce – no new news – in court

43rd and Baltimore not happening

A property owner that owns about 16 rental properties in Spruce Hill is asking for another unit – SHCA signed up and the property owner agreed to make some changes to the exterior of property.

“Grabbers” - Craig Santoro

Craig distributed trash grabbers and trash bags to people interested in signing up for the grabber notinphilly.org

April 8th is the next citywide clean up day

Education - Sylvia Hammerman-Brown/Monica Calkins

PAS lottery is closed now – asked Mr. Farrel – he will send out information by the end of the week

Outdoor space meeting – good meeting School district will be providing financial support, steering committee member prop manager of the school gave some money for the benches

Engagement - Vicki McGarvey

Working on ideas for boosting members at the may fair.

Preservation -

Held a meeting to identify properties and engage the community. Will possibly have a table at may fair to encourage people to designate their blocks.

Bird Sanctuary - Julie Bush

The next meeting april 19th.

Girl scouts will be installing their projects during the may fair

May 20th will be a work day

Planning a celebration block party (engagement committee can help)

Business Attraction - Jon Potter

Baltimore Ave Dollar Stroll set for June 15th

New Argentinean restaurant coming to 45th st near second mile

Crosstown Coalition - Barry Grossbach

Fishtown having problem with zoning board approvals

Woodland terrace is withdrawing from crosstown

Adjournment