

Spruce Hill Community Association
Board Meeting September 12th, 2017
257 South 45th Street
Minutes taken by Mary Ellen McCarty

Present: Alvarez, Veronica; Bosse, Alexa; Bush, Julie; Calkins, Monica; Carr, Tyree; Fayez, Rana; Gong, Bo; 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; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Craig; Santoro, Eric; Waiters, Jackie

Absent: Liu, Roseann; Wagenfeld, Mark

Introductions - Eric Santoro

June Minutes approved

Introduced Speaker

Guest Speakers - Rebecca Ackerman, Netter Center

Rebecca talked to SHCA about the Netter Center and University Assisted Community Schools. Under this program, the Netter Center is working with four local schools; Lea, Sayre, Comegys and West Philadelphia High School. The program is geared to provide students with jobs skills and career readiness. Netter center wants to develop a relationship community organizations who may be able to help connect young people with potential jobs. Some of the things that students learn are college ready skills, workplace skills, resume development. The program is connecting west philly kids and mentoring orgs and businesses in west philadelphia. The students serve in Internships and are looking for local opportunities, so passing along any info is helpful.

Questions & Answers:

Q. Are you matching them with skills to specific employers?

A. It is up to employers

Q. What type of jobs?

A. Anything – getting the experience is the main thing. Building workplace skills. Many kids take a gap year after high school. This prepares them for the workforce.

Q. This is consistent with SHCA's mission. How do we help?

A. Spreading the word is helpful. We are trying to build a network – outreach first , social council, employment fair, share your experience.

Q. SHCA has many volunteer opportunities, would this kind of work be helpful?

A. Yes

Q. Any interest from kids that you have trouble filling?

A. Not sure yet. Still building the student interest.

Q. when did the program start?

A. It is starting now. Interviews will take place in fall for spring internships unpaid first then move to paid positions. Netter center is 25 years old, but the project is its 2nd year.

Suggestion: you should talk to UC Arts League, West Philly skills initiative.

Committee Updates

Exec - Eric Santoro

Approved \$250 to PIC Art event.

The SHCA Annual Meeting will be held on November 14th at PAS.

Looking for speakers or topics. Some ideas brainstormed:

- Deb - PIC expansion
- Mayer Kenney
- Citizens planning institute head
- Sanctuary city issue
- Office of emigrant affairs in combination
- Host for hospitals
- Call to action type of theme
- Mayor – 46th & Market
- Carroll Cunningham – anti gerrymandering
- 2 speakers to balance
- Principal at Lea
- Schuylkill yards person (brandywine)

Elections will be held at meeting. Those up with terms ending, please let us know soon if you plan to leave post.

Operations - Eric Santoro

The upstairs apartment available end of July.

Mark Wagenveld is sick and is recovering from cancer surgery. He is in rehab at the hospital and will be home next week or so. SHCA sent him flowers. Feel free to send him an email. Mark is not yet up for visitors.

A discussion about who can fill in for Mark to take on his many different responsibilities and operations while he is ill.

Mark's main concern is about the tenants and keeping things up at the center.

Andrew will take care of the mail and payments.

Evan will get a copy of the keys to the apartment and the center.

Rich will handle property provisions and meeting space requests.

The Voting machine will need to be taken care of. Andrew will contact the commissioner's office.

UCD Membership Project

Questionnaire will be filled out after the meeting.

November 9th World Café Celebration.

Happy hours in UCD – use one to promote Spruce Hill – Monica to talk this Thursday 14th 5:30-7:30, free food.

Template for the newsletter that Rana put together

UCPI grad – hosting neighborhood tours – looking for suggestions. Seth Buddick – ideal person to contact. Check out Fairy houses.

Zoning - Barry Grossbach

Remapping and rezoning in Spruce Hill - meeting set up with Councilwoman Blackwell. An internal meeting is set for Monday to plan what to present to councilwoman.

4125 Chestnut St – new building by Warren Buckley – modular development planned as of right. Will be reviewed by PCPC CDR.

Recently approved food operation – ethnic food.

4534 Spruce St – yet to be built – zoning was approved was held up for a while. The tenant will be Penn Medicine for a group medical facility. Discussed the possibility of enacting a deed restriction to prohibit certain uses. To be determined what the list would prohibit.

4224 Baltimore Ave is progressing but SHCA has limited information or communication with owner.

Halloween Parade

Things completed or underway:

- Hay barrels purchased – Greensgrow then donating
- Leslie is getting permits and working with block to arrange things
- Drumline is booked. Needs small fee and transportation
- Thriller dancers are booked.
- Signs for no parking is arranged

To be done:

- UCD will need to be contacted for insurance.
- Need to talk to church about the tables
- Jamie and husband usually come to the October meeting
- Solicit food will come in October
- Facebook promotions can begin soon

Education - Sylvia Hammerman-Brown/Monica Calkins

Monica – SAC is back in action

Babysitters training at the center (11-14)

Laura – PAS grounds taskforce group has been meeting

Meadow planting on Saturday

RFP – designers to come up with conceptual plans for the site

Engagement committee – minimally engaged.

Dollar stroll had a big turn out / Night market was a hit

Bird Sanctuary - Julie Bush

Birds have not been fed on regular schedule for the last 2 months – due to native plants. Need to focus on winter feeding when food is not around.

Rich built a wall.

Lost a volunteer but there is interest from others.

Business Attraction - Jon Potter

Jezebel – doing well, nice place with food and cooking classes - empanadas

Offered up the space for community use

By second mile

Crosstown Coalition

Saturday retreat

May need some new people to participate

New leadership has changed things – will see more city politics involved.

New business

Urban tree – asking for donations

All grabbers distributed