

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

February 13, 2018, 7:30 pm

Board Attendance

Present: Alvarez, Veronica; Bush, Julie; Calkins, Monica; Fayez, Rana; Grossbach, Barry; Guffanti, Richard; Johnstone, Evan; Lewis-McGarvey, Vicki; Line, Laura; Liu, Roseann; Medley, Leslie; Moore, Richard; Potter, John; Richman, Andrew; Rosof, Libby; Steif, Kenneth; Waiters, Jacqueline

Absent: Bosse, Alexa; Gong, Bo; Nelson, Elaine

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions - Monica Calkins

- Guest Speaker: Board member, Richard Guffanti substituted for Rebecca Womack from Fair Districts PA
- Rich provided a detailed overview of PA gerrymandering, and the two bills that have been introduced to counter
- Minutes of January 9, 2018 SHCA meeting passed by the Board

Mark Wagenveld's Memorial

- Details of Mark Wagenveld's memorial service were shared, and an invitation extended to the SHCA Board

Committee Updates

Executive - Monica Calkins

- Monica noted that a donation request from Saint Mary's Nursery School, in the amount of \$250, was received by the SHCA Exec Committee and was approved.

PWD Soak It Up Program (4200 Osage Block) – Monica Calkins

- Monica presented the invitation from the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) to SHCA to adopt the 4200 block of Osage, under the Soak It Up Adoption program, for the block's planned green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) project.
- The 4200 Osage project would serve as a smaller scale pilot project, and PWD hopes that it will encourage similar projects in the neighborhood
- SHCA will need to apply for a grant of \$5,000 through the to the Soak It Up program
- SHCA Board members had many questions that could not be answered by the Executive Committee, and Monica Calkins will invite Dan Schupsky, PWD Outreach Specialist, to present at the next meeting and answer all questions
- Julie Bush requested more information on the project, maintenance responsibilities and costs, for the SHCA. Leslie will forward the plans shared with the residents of 4200 Osage for her review, and Dan Schupsky will supplement with his presentation

May Fair – Monica Calkins

- Monica noted that Mark Wagenveld's absence is felt as we begin planning the May Fair, and realize how much Mark took on. SHCA would like to plan a memorial to honor Mark, which could possibly be a bench dedicated in Clark Park, preferably dedicated during the May Fair.
- The May Fair is scheduled for May 12, 2018, and the Exec Committee began preliminary planning, with a few suggested changes to the format and participants, while keeping the event family friendly. Among the suggested changes are:
 - A decreased number of vendors, which will have the benefit of SHCA renting fewer tables, and less time on table setup which has time-consuming. Andrew noted that vendors are not a great source of income for the SHCA, and the SHCA pays for the tables.
 - Later start to the day, with the addition of a beer garden, managed and staffed by Clarkville, that will extend the fair later into the evening. New hours will be 12-6 pm, with the beer garden open until 8pm
 - Inclusion of art sales/art fair perhaps with help from VIX Emporium to coordinate artisans – John Potter to approach VIX to gauge interest

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- SHCA Board was asked for feedback on proposed changes, and concerns were expressed about providing low-cost shopping options to the community, particularly children looking for inexpensive Mother's Day gifts
- Rana suggested automating the vendor invite/tracking system and offered to manage the automation
- Barry will contact food trucks to secure them for the fair
- Rich will post vendor table application on SHCA website
- Children's activities, including the bouncy house, will be planned. The petting zoo will be phased out.

The Spruce Hill Community Trust – Barry Grossbach

- The Spruce Hill Community Trust met on February 12
- Barry provided some history on the Trust, noting that it is a 501 (c)(3), while the SHCA is a 501(c)(4), which means that all tax deductible contributions go to the Trust which was founded to fundraise and apply for grants on behalf of the SHCA.
- The Trust must be independent, with its own address and the Executive Committee VP is also the VP of the Trust (Evan Johnstone)
- The SHCA is the sole member of the Trust, and appoints new members of the Trust
- Barry requests appointment of Justin McDaniel to the Trust, given his previous and successful work on historic preservation. Justin plans to hire interns to conduct research on historic structures, and canvass the neighborhood in an effort to expand preservation.
- The Trust's holding is approximately \$48,000
 - most of the funds are in a May Fair account
 - ~\$400 are for arts-related expenses, and can be shifted to Shakespeare in the Park
 - The Porch Renovation fund has ~3,700 for repair and restoration grants – this can be shifted to the general fund
- Evan will bring Trust appointments and redistribution of funds items to the Executive Committee

UCD Report – Barry Grossbach

- Barry provided summary of report highlights
 - The 12 bars/nightclubs in 2014 are currently down to 8
 - There are currently 7,500 undergrads, and 2,700 grad students in the community, which is up considerably since the 2000 census
 - The Spruce Hill population for 2015 was 8,140 women, and 8,564 men

Zoning – Barry Grossbach

- Last meeting held February 13, 2018
- Size of sign for Steve's Prince of Steaks, on 39th Street, is under review and discussion
- Penn's plans a new dorm complex for 450 students, at 40th & Locust (south of Walnut Street West branch of the Public Library). Zoning Committee met with Penn, and report the following:
 - The land is zoned as institutional, which means Penn does not need zoning Board approval
 - Committee on Design Review requires they go to the convening RCO
 - The building will be u-shaped with a courtyard open to the public, its opening onto Locust Walk, and windows onto 40th Street
 - SHCA will have a seat on at design review, and will sit down with the architect regarding building details. Penn has hired the same architecture firm that designed Hill Field dorm
 - SHCA expressed concern about the structure, and how it appears to be a barrier between Penn and the community. Penn does not want openings from building onto Walnut Street, due to security concerns
 - Libby noted that in the past, some Penn buildings needed a re-design to open entrances onto street
 - Barry expressed concern about lack of cohesive planning by Penn for the 40th Street commercial corridor

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Education – Monica Calkins

- PAS kindergarten lottery scheduled for February 23, 2018
- PAS SAC meeting is set for February 20, following which Monica will report on number of children admitted, and number of children on wait list
- New School Board to form, with an information session offered by the Mayor's Office of Education, scheduled for February 26, at which community can learn more about the process of transitioning governance of the school district

PAS Playground – Laura Line

- A community survey will go out in the next few weeks

Operations – Andrew Richman

- A leak in one of the apartments was reported by tenant, and was repaired along with lighting in the SCHA space
- Richard Guffanti was congratulated and thanked by the Board for the cleaning/clearing of the SHCA space which, everyone acknowledged, has made a big difference

Engagement – Vicky Lewis McGarvey

- The committee is looking at opportunities to host events that might entice people to join the SHCA

Business Attraction – John Potter

- John noted that the new businesses on 40th Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets have been floundering, with two business recently closing
- Barry noted that the attraction of quality food can result in successful business, to which John responded that Penn is working on an upscale food court, which is set to open at 34th & Walnut

Block Improvement – Rana

- Rana reported that the application kit would be going up on the SHCA site
- There is no line item for Block Improvement funds

Crime Statistics and Zoning – Ken Steif

- Ken Steif prepared a comprehensive report on crime, permits for alterations and new construction, home sales, housing prices, and zoning for Spruce Hill
(file:///C:/Users/lmedley/Downloads/2018_2_11%20Spruce%20Hill%20neighborhood%20report.html#crime-indicators)
- This report can be re-run for updates, and SHCA will consider sending the links for various subjects to UCD

Important Upcoming Dates

March 13: SHCA Board Meeting
April 10: SHCA Board Meeting (Topic: May Fair Planning Meeting)
May 12: May Fair
June 12: SHCA Board Meeting (Topic: UCD & Public Safety and Community Services)
September 11: SHCA Board Meeting (Topic: TBD)
October 9: SHCA Board Meeting (Topic: Halloween Parade; Guest Speaker: Jamie Vann)
October 31: Halloween Parade
November 13: Annual Board Meeting