

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting
March 12, 2019 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance

Present: Evan Johnstone; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Richard Guffanti; Julie Bush; Barry Grossbach; Laura Line; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Craig Santoro; Monica Calkins; Alexa Bosse; Al Suh; Eric Santoro; Veronica Alvarez; Libby Rosof; Tyree Carr II; Jacqueline Waiters

Absent:

Guests: Janna Frieman; Stephanie Browne; Zoe Buckwalter; Luna Gayeski; Shane Riggins;

Meeting Minutes

Space Use Guidelines

- Demand for the SHCA meeting space has outpaced available time slots, therefore revised guidelines have been drafted to give SHCA some flexibility to schedule SHCA meetings
- Guests at tonight's meeting represented some of the groups that use the space on a weekly basis (one group for as long as 10 years). They expressed their heartfelt gratitude for use of the space, and told the Board they would feel forced to re-locate if they cannot continue to use the space on the existing schedule. The groups, including various AA groups, feel they must make themselves easily located/accessible to people in crisis. The AA meetings are scheduled to be staggered with other locations across the city to allow people to attend successive meetings in a day.
- It was suggested by a Board member that we re-work the AA meeting schedules to consolidate meetings on the calendar
- The guests, representing the AA groups, requested a delay in implementation to allow groups to adjust to the scheduling changes
- The Executive Board will review the revised guidelines with the weekly meeting needs in mind, and will share with the Board for approval

Phillies Tickets

- Phillies tickets (Pavilion Deck) are available at a discounted price of \$5, to SHCA for purchase. SHCA to advertise the availability of the tickets

May Fair Updates

Rain Date vs. Rain Location

- There are a number of locations SHCA could consider for the May Fair on 5/11/19: PAS, University of the Sciences, and the Enterprise Center
- Barry noted that food trucks would prefer a rain date to a rain location
- The Board voted in favor of a rain date, May 12, 2019, rather than a rain location.
- We now have a sound guy who will work in the rain, under a tent to be supplied by SHCA (rental to be arranged by Monica)

Music

- Band will be Hardwork Movement which is available on May 11, plus a Klezmer musician, and a mix tape

Raffle

- Board members encouraged to reach out to local businesses to donate raffle prizes. Everyone should feel free to contact new businesses and add them to the sign-up sheet

Vendors

- Monica has contacted businesses from last year, and is looking into the vendors from Christmas Village. The VIX owner will also contact her network
- 14 of 60 vendors are confirmed to-date
- Monica to send vendor email with link, to the Board for use in reaching out to new businesses

Zoning Committee

- The renter/zoning case which was slated to come up for the Rx location, fell through
- Barry to call Greg Salisbury, whose brother is involved, for details
- Marigold space had some interest, but tracking down the owner, John Ristelli, has been difficult. The list price is \$750, but the building needs a lot of work. Barry noted that these empty storefronts are not good for the neighborhood
- Barry discussed the problem of over-the-counter demolition permits and the lack of an appeals process. He is trying to get the Crosstown Coalition interested in this issue as a preservation issue. This issue may be politically viable to proceed with prior to elections.

45th Street Development

- Neighbors visiting from 45th Street (across from Clark Park) attended regarding demolition without recourse which was done by the owner of a neighboring building, John Cassidy
- Shani Strothers presented her comprehensive and voluminous notes and research on the violations by the owner of the neighboring building
- Ms. Strothers claims he violated a stop-work order
- Barry is scheduled to visit the building with L&I, who have said they will only visit with witnesses. John Fenton, from Janie Blackwell's office, will also visit the site
- Barry noted that the Inga Saffron piece focused on 45th Street
- The Commissioner of L&I is preparing a report (by the end of the week, 3/15) on the block of 45th Street. It was agreed that the issue is one of enforcement, not zoning

Good Shepherd Church (46th & Spruce)

- The developer, Ricky Liss, wants to demolish the church and replace it with a 36-unit building (without parking).
- Barry encourages them to incorporate original structure into new building
- Garden Court is the RCO, but SHCA will also have its say in the matter

Education Committee

- There is a wait-list of 30 children for the PAS kindergarten
- It is not clear whether the long list is due to good advertising by PAS,
- Principal Farwell is doing a good job of moving students into spots as they open up
- The spillover from PAS goes to Lea Elementary and other schools. Lea has a kindergarten wait-list as well. They have also lost a teacher

- How to address the wait-list problem was discussed, and the same issues rise to the top: re-draw the catchment zone and/or increase investment in Lea
- It was noted that there is an article coming to the Inquirer on the PAS effect on gentrification

Bird Sanctuary

- The modest mystery donor of bird seed continues to deliver large packages of seed under the cover of darkness, and with no expectation of thanks or praise.

Block Improvement Committee

- Al Suh has joined the committee.

Safety Committee

- Leslie has invited Captain Gillespie, Commanding Officer of the 18th Precinct, to speak at an upcoming Board meeting.