

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

September 10, 2019 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance

Present: Evan Johnstone; Jon Potter; Barry Grossbach; Laura Line; Eric Santoro; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Libby Rosof; Craig Santoro; Andrew Richman; Leslie Medley; Veronica Alvarez; Tyree Carr II; Julie Bush; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Richard Guffanti; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Roseann Liu; Monica Calkins;

Absent: Alexa Bosse; Al Suh; Abigail Su;

Guests: Yun Xia; Erin Monroe; Chad Thomas (guest speaker)

Meeting Minutes

Guest Speaker

Chad Thomas, Philadelphia Dept. of Health – Community Outreach

- The Community Outreach group is reaching out to RCOs to invite RCOs to become Community Response Partners, and spread the word on membership and resources
- Features of the resource include Health Alerts and a Health Bulletin

Zoning Committee

- Medical marijuana dispensary at 43rd & Walnut: strongest concern is from the mosque at 45th & Walnut, while the mosque located at 43rd & Walnut was not at the recently zoning meeting. Jamie Gauthier attended the meeting. Barry tried without success to connect the mosque at 43rd & Walnut with the dispensary owners. To date there is no dispensary west of the Schuylkill.

Crosstown Coalition

- The Crosstown Coalition is looking at three bills dealing with historic preservation sites. The membership is not happy with over-the-counter demolition permitting process. Other cities have waiting periods for demolition, and other processes to deliberate these decisions.
- Wolfram Arendt, an architect from the neighborhood and the Zoning Committee
- An election for officers was held, and the position of Secretary was contested. The platform for one candidate included providing meeting minutes within two days of the meeting.

UCD

- Barry reports that Drexel is experiencing a reduction in staff, stemming from Hahnemann Hospital closure, and that this reduction will have an impact on UCD

Baltimore Dollar Stroll

- The next Dollar Stroll will take place on September 12, 2019, and SHCA will have a table at the corner of 48th & Baltimore, in front of Gold Standard
- Evan requested table staffing from Board members, particularly at set up.
- Libby will bring voter registration forms.

Jackie Waiters Retirement from SHCA Board

- SHCA Board to organize an event to honor Jackie's service on the SHCA Board.
- Jackie still plans to receive the voting machines for election days.
- Monica will look into finding someone to take Jackie's place at SHCA for giving out treats on Halloween.

FOCP

- Evan to meet with Lisa Haines to discuss improving communications between the two organizations.

SHCA Annual Meeting

- Evan reminded Board members that the November meeting would include elections and a guest speaker.
- Suggested guest speakers: Jamie Gauthier

Education Committee

- PAS has an interim principal – former Assistant Principal, Megan Wapner.
- A search committee will select new principal. Monica reiterated that the community wants a role in the selection.
- The partnership agreement that supports Penn's support of PAS will expire on June 30, 2021.
- The school district plans a comprehensive review of all schools that will review how populations and communities across the city are projected to change in the future. They will address under- or over-enrollment, changing boundaries, classroom capacity.

Operations Committee

- A few small repairs were made over the summer
- The neighbors of SHCA have complained about the vines in the backyard. Rich has volunteered to take care of the vines.

Engagement Committee

- The committee will plan a Holiday Open House

Bird Sanctuary

- Three more boxes of bird seed have been anonymously donated
- Nest to be completed with help from the Girls Scouts, who will collect willow vines

Business Attraction

- There is a new bookstore on 45th Street
- There is no word on new ownership for Marigold and Trolley Car
- A new Pilates studio will be opening in block of 4300 Locust

Safety Committee

- Residents of 4200 Pine Street have noted an increase in car break-ins
- Woodland Avenue traffic calming has not been addressed

46th & Market Streets

- A community meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2019. Eric suggested inviting someone from Jamie Gauthier's office.