

## **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting**

**February 11, 2020 - 7:30 pm**

### **Board Attendance**

**Present:** Evan Johnstone; Leslie Medley; Veronica Alvarez; Vicki McGarvey; Barry Grossbach; Abigail Su; Laura Line; Rich Guffanti; Libby Rosof; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Emily Dowdall; Andrew Richman; Chris Bole; Rebecca Geller-Pulchalsky; Sugirtha Stathis; Al Suh; Jon Potter; Monica Calkins; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Craig Santoro; Eric Santoro; Tyree Carr II;

**Absent:** Alexa Bosse; Julie Bush

**Guests:** Kaitlyn Dhanaliwala; Yue Dang; Tierra Thompson; Brendan Taliaferro

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### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Guest Speaker: Brendan Taliaferro, Founder and Executive Director, Homeward Initiative**

- Organization established to serve LGBT youth who are homeless.
- These young people are both underserved and overrepresented in homelessness.
- LGBTQ youth often wait between 1-9 months for housing
- Started with a \$150,000 grant from Penn, to build a model of housing called host homes – homes of vetted adults that offer temporary housing
- Host homes must have private, dedicated space (bedroom-like) for youth, ages 18-25
- Off-ramp from host home to rapid re-housing program with services
- Valley Youth House (VYH) serves as the feeder program for Homeward Initiative, and will be subsumed by VYH
- The goal is 20 host homes, and the organization will offer information sessions for prospective hosts
- Requests help from SHCA to spread the word

#### **Guest Speaker: Tierra Thompson, Human Relations Representative, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations**

- The commission is a fair rights and equality agency
- The Compliance Division addresses discrimination, complaints re: city services, housing, and employment
- The Landlord/Housing Division identifies rights of tenants and addresses complaints ushered through L&I
- The Community Relations Division is organized by police districts and addresses neighbor disputes via mediation. It does not do enforcement, but helps connect neighbors with the appropriate agencies. The division also publishes the Good Neighbor Guide (hard-copy only) which addresses conflict resolution through skills building trainings.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for February 2020 meeting approved

### **May Fair Planning (May 16, 2020)**

- A date change to May 16, 2020 necessitated by the kickoff to Love Your Park, scheduled to take place in Clark Park with Mayor Kenney and other city officials. Vendors and list serve will be notified.
- **Music:** There were some complaints about music in 2019, from the vendors. In addition, music is a large expense (\$3,000) with sound, stage, tent, and electric drop from the city. SHCA to consider DJ or donation of sound board
- **Park Layout:** Space usage to be improved for this year. Evan Johnstone to ask Julie Bush and Alexa Bosse for input on layout.
- **Vendors:** Monica Calkins to update online form for vendors and Andrew will activate PayPal
- **Porta Potty:** Royal Flush, previous vendor, has not been responsive to complaints about service in 2019. Laura Line to request recommendation for other companies
- **Zoo & Moon Bounce:** Eric Santoro to reserve both
- **Food Trucks:** Chris Bole to work with Barry Grossbach on food trucks
- **Permits:** Leslie Medley is working on permits for street closure, special event, and Parks & Recreation

## Committee Updates

### Education

- There was an overwhelming response from SHCA Board for the Search Committee, which will also include representatives from Penn, Philadelphia School District, and PAS parents and teachers.
- First meeting to be held February 18, 2020

### Operations

- SHCA Board insurance is up-to-date
- Heating system was cleaned and inspected, though it is at the tail end of its life

### Engagement

- Vicki McGarvey purchased 100 tickets for the May 5, 2020 game vs. the Braves. There are 67 additional tickets available in the same section

### Bird Sanctuary

- \$150 donation received

### Business Attraction

- Café Renata recently opened in its new, second location at the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Trolley Portal. Business has been good since opening.

### Crosstown Coalition

- Barry Grossbach discussed traffic calming effort of Little Osage, with Isaiah Thomas who may be able to help appeal for speed humps.
- Discussion of how RCOs and community benefit agreements (CBAs) work. Some agreements genuinely benefit the community, while others are outright extortion by the RCOs. The problem has gotten so bad that the FBI is now involved, and some developers have been asked to wear wires in their dealings with RCOs.
- Example of the corruption is at 4000/4002/4004 Market Street where the RCO asked for \$50,000 from the developer. When the RCO was not paid, the case was delayed, and development has stalled in that location.
- The City Council president has introduced a bill to legitimize the CBA system.

### Block Improvement Committee

- Alexa Bosse is working on block improvement grants

### Zoning

- The red church at 42<sup>nd</sup> & Ludlow has been purchased by a rock climbing gym. A glass tower, which had been a community concern, actually looks great