

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

June 11, 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; Jacqueline Waiters; Leslie Medley

Absent: Alexa Bosse; Al Suh; Veronica Alvarez; Tyree Carr II; Julie Bush; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Richard Guffanti; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Roseann Liu; Abigail Su; Monica Calkins;

Guests: Cara Gordon; Ashley Thomas (Temple Univ. Student); Yun Xia (building owner)

Meeting Minutes

Guest Speaker: Cara Gordon – Safe Families for Children

- Safe Families for Children was established in 2003 in Chicago, and is locally based in Jenkintown
- They have been receiving increased referrals from West Philadelphia, and are looking for short-term hosts from the community to house children of families in crisis
- Operates out of the umbrella agency, Bethany Christian Services
- Goal is to keep families together – out of the foster care system
- Services are not foster care, there is no compensation, and they rely solely on volunteers only
- Largest source of clients is self-referral
- Average number of days with a host family is 30 days in PA counties
- Barry Grossbach suggested the organization also extend their outreach to local mosques, churches, and health center

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved for April and May 2019.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

- **Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll:** SHCA table was located at 48th Street, in front of Gold Standard. Twenty new memberships were sold, along with a couple of hats. Hats were given away to people who purchased memberships.
- **Shakespeare in Clark Park Contribution:** SHCA received request for support in the amount of \$1,500 (same as 2018 donation). This year Veterans in the Arts will serve as extras. Hecklers and hate speech were discussed, and it was suggested that Civil Affairs Unit of Philadelphia Police Department be called. **Donation request approved by Board.**
- Scout Troop: Michael Shashaty has been hosting a troop out of his house, and is looking for an organization to serve as a charter org.
- It was agreed by Board that an attorney would be hired to review the indemnification clause of the agreement, and we will have the insurance company review the agreement to ensure it is iron-clad.
- Board questions/comments posed:
 - Are the homophobic, discriminating practices of Boy Scouts forgiven?
 - What will be the community blowback on SHCA hosting a Scout troop?
 - If there is nothing being asked of SHCA, why are we needed as a charter?
 - SHCA could be sued by a parent

Complaint Regarding Trash after Student Move-out

- There were multiple trash complaints following student move-out

- The Temple University community has an organization called Owls on the Block, working with Nick Esposito
- Barry noted that in the past dumpsters were placed in University City, but were abused by communities
- Investment property owners do not contribute to trash collection and other services
- House that is source of recent complaint is at 44th & Pine Streets, occupied by USciences students. The neighbor who complained wants to be connected with Community Outreach at Penn – Glenn Bryan
- It was suggested that a fall 2019 Board meeting in the next SHCA session could focus on neighborhood cleanliness, and Alan Garry could be invited to attend/guest speak

Zoning Committee

- Lots of petitions regarding 43rd & Baltimore sinkhole intersection
- Sinkhole was repaired after 3 weeks of work by an outside contractor
- There is a Drexel professor looking at environmental impact, and he had many questions which developers have not yet answered. The project's attorney will contact the professor to follow up.

Mill Creek Tavern

- Case was assigned to SW district, which has caused commotion between Barry and the councilwoman's office (Tim Cooper)
- SHCA was assigned a property on Powelton
- SHCA zoning area was extended to the north side of Market Street

Good Shepherd (46th & Spruce)

- Many neighbors were not pleased with the meeting was run, and objected to the church being given a vote
- The demolition certificate caused many to assume the issue was settled business
- Garden Court has oversight for this property
- SHCA is not an RCO for this project, though we now oversee the west side of 46th Street. RCO coverage is not retroactive.
- Jon Potter suggests SHCA codify expansion to north side of Market Street

Education Committee

- PAS outdoor play space fundraising met the the \$500,000 goal with the help of developers

Operations Committee

- The goal for this summer is to get the outside of the building painted and the metal grate repaired.

May Fair Committee

- Financial report (estimates):

Expenditures:	\$13,000
Table Rental Income:	\$2,000
Total income (including donations):	\$8,000

Business Attraction

- Marigold replacement not expected to be a restaurant
- Owner is deliberating Trolley Portal restaurant replacement. UCD has right of refusal.