Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting
March 10, 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: Mike Akenbaum; Cathy Davis; Akira Drake Rodriguez

Meeting Minutes

Guest Speakers: Mike Akenbaum and Cathy Davis from Hosts for Hospitals

- Brief description of the program, staffed by 3 people, which connects patients and their family members to host homes in the community
- More host homes are needed with the CHOP expansion. There are currently 12 host homes in University City, and they would like to recruit more hosts.
- Stays can last from 1 night to years in some cases. Some guests are recurring guests and others are one time only
- Requirements include a private space with one twin bed, at a minimum.
- Guests are subject to screening which includes a character reference from a medical provider
- Hosts are not responsible for meals and transport.
- The organization is working to increase their social media presence

Neighborhood Overlay Zoning Plan presented by Akira Drake Rodriguez and Ken Steif

- Overview of the goal of the survey, which is to help understand what the community wants to develop vs. preserve.
- The proof-of-concept survey is meant to measure competing preferences, and was given to the SHCA Board
- The goal is to backwards engineer from a survey of properties to generalize about community sentiment
- There will be more stakeholder input, from residents, Penn, city council, University City organizations and developers
- Community engagement will include neighbors north of Market Street and further west, and will seek to identify and hear from under-represented and underserviced groups, with a citizen education component.
- Green spaces will be considered
- Ken and Akira addressed questions about density and affordability, noting that a preservation-only approach would lead to a San Francisco effect with neighborhood residents outpriced.
- Results of the study to offer guidance at the councilmanic level
- An outcome of the survey could include moving guidance into a legal document

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes for February 2020 meeting approved

May Fair Planning (May 16, 2020)

- Based on COVID concerns and subsequent stay-at-home order for Philadelphia, the Executive Committee recommends canceling the may Fair
- Discussion of holding a scaled-back, informal picnic event. It was decided that SHCA Board would reconvene to discuss alternative event
- Membership in Friends of Clark Park (FoCP) approved for a one-time $1,000 fee. Evan to notify Andrew, and Leslie to notify FoCP

COVID – Use of SHCA Meeting Space
- Evan to email groups who use the meeting space to remind them to clean space before and after use. He will also remind groups to caution their members not to attend meetings if they are feeling sick.

SHCA Board Committee Updates

Education
- PAS update: 98 applications for Kindergarten with 80 accepted, and 18 on wait-list. In 2019-2020, 16 of 30 children were admitted from the wait-list
- Playground has a construction start date of March 23, 2020. Construction will end in early May 2020 with a mid-May celebration

Engagement
- Vicki McGarvey purchased 100 tickets for the May 5, 2020 game vs. the Braves will be delivered

Bird Sanctuary
- The anonymous donation of bird seed continues

Business Attraction
- The number of applications for outdoor seating has increased

Crosstown Coalition
- Philadelphia School District is looking at re-zoning catchments

Zoning
- Melville property case will have a hearing in 2 weeks, after receiving input from councilperson
- SHCA proposed approving a 2-family unity while owner resides/owns the property, but property will revert to single-family if sold