

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

April 14, 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

Meeting Minutes

Community Update: COVID-19 Pandemic and Stay-at-Home Order

- Discussion of concern for the general health of the community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and business shutdown combined with Stay-at-Home order.

UCD, Local Businesses, and Ronald McDonald House

- UCD has started a small business relief fund and is also partnering with the Ronald McDonald House to purchase meals from local restaurants in order to feed the resident children and families
- Each mealtime at Ronald McDonald House costs between \$1,000-\$1,200
- Café Renata was the first restaurant contracted to provide meals to families, and UCD will be contracting with other restaurants to do the same
- UCD has taken a financial hit as the universities are also suffering financial losses
- Small businesses are suffering from the shutdown and loss of income. Fortunately, some landlords have frozen rent and Penn has made \$250,000 available to grant to small businesses to keep them afloat.
- UCD is trying to keep their yellow jacket patrols afloat for safety
- It was suggested that SHCA offer the time, talent, and labor to UCD efforts to support the community. Barry to make this offer on behalf of SHCA. Andrew to make the same offer to PAS and Lea schools.
- PAS will have a virtual town hall on 4/15/2020, with additional grade-specific town halls to follow

Information Dissemination to Community

- Given the information overload from organizations, schools, state, city, it was decided that SHCA would produce a digest of news and information to be sent on a weekly basis

Social Distancing

- There is concern about neighbors (particularly students) who are not observing social distancing recommendations.
- City of Philadelphia is producing artist-rendered posters to encourage distancing and mask-wearing. SHCA could print and post around neighborhood. SHCA may ask landlords to post signs in apartment buildings.
- UCD is said to be working on a street closure idea

SHCA Donations

- SHCA to consider a donation to the Ronald McDonald House via UCD, contracting with a local restaurant to supply food for a mealtime.
- An option for supporting small businesses is a matching donation program. Eligibility and program specifics to be worked out by SHCA Exec and full Board.