

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Annual Meeting
November 10, 2020 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

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

Guests: Glenn Bryan, Fran Byers, Douglas Butari, Maria Giraldo, Derrick Jaynes, Ann Kreidle, Lauren Overton, Jamie Vann,

Meeting Minutes

SHCA Announcements

- Evan Johnstone term has ended and he will step down as Board President, with Richard Moore assuming the position in January 2021
- Evan reviewed the SHCA mission noted that membership is open to all, from within or outside the community
- Evan also provided an overview of the SHCA committees and the responsibilities of each

SHCA Pandemic Responses

- Retail Restart Fund – matching gift initiative with UCD initiative
- UCD reached out to local restaurants to cater meals to Ronald McDonald House, who lost many staff members
- Resources and Communication: SHCA centralized information on voter registration and polling places, PPE production, food sources, etc.
- Halloween alternate program: virtual parade with photos of decorated houses and costumes, candy chute giveaway, and a scavenger hunt involving local businesses
- An online option for May Fair 2020 will be explored to help promote vendors and activities
- Crosstown Coalition: ongoing conversation about neighborhood responses to civil unrest

Lauren Overton, Penn Alexander School Principal

- Lauren Overton is the new PAS School principal. She described her background as a social studies teachers, and she also covered how PAS can respond to the pandemic.

Goals

- Strengthen the relationship with Penn GSE
- Improve Social Studies through both curriculum development and engagement in the community. Contact with former Penn GSE professor about developing a framework for looking at the world for K-8 grades. There are plans to bring on graduate students to help build the curriculum.
- Beginning a large equity project at PAS, with the 228 Accelerator equityxdesign Learning Studio 8- session series for education leaders. The program drills down into identities of educators, and how that has an impact on students and how they teach. The program achieves its goals by:
 - Building empathy through interviews with teachers, students, and parents about belonging, feeling othered, what do they love or want to change about their school community
 - Exploring how to design instruction and interaction with communities
 - Re-negotiate MOU with Penn
 - PAS to attempt to become a demonstration school like the Columbia Teacher's College School
- Support joy
- Provide a safe space for LGBTQ kids

- Continue Equity Circle

Q&A for Lauren Overton

Q: How does PAS plan to build out and influence other schools?

A: Partnering with Lea principal on projects surrounding racial identity and living through a pandemic. Writing curriculum on decentering whiteness and creating affinity spaces.

Q: Will there be a mural to represent diversity of PAS community?

A: Very open to a bright, vibrant mural to represent the school community.

Q: Will civics be taught in the social studies curriculum?

A: Yes, from K-8 civics will be taught, and they will continue to have a student government with elections.

Q: Will there be social/emotional learning classes?

A: Yes, especially in the wake the Wallace killing West Philadelphia. There are pre-made lesson plans for social and emotional learning. There is also interest in building capacity for teachers to become historians.

Treasurer's Report (Andrew Richman)

- Income was similar to last year, and expenses were lower because we did not hold the May Fair
- Biggest expenses are for the SHCA building at 257 S. 45th Street, and there will be more expenses coming with building repairs.
- Taxes are steady
- Biggest source of income is the rental income from the two units above the SHCA meeting space.
- Membership dues are also steady

PAS Outdoor Space

- Completion of the project was perfect timed to coincide with pandemic shutdown, and kids needing a place to play
- The playground is a resource for the community, not just for PAS

Zoning

ZBA has been closed for a while, and did not take on new projects. Projects have not moved at a normal pace.

SHCA Board Elections and Other Business

- The motion to approve the slate of 20 directors and 5 officers was approved.
- May Fair planning begins in January
- List serve moving to Google groups (sprucehillca-subscribe@googlegroups.com)

Introduction of Richard Moore as Incoming SHCA President

Richard said a few words about his background as a math professor, and now at a non-profit. Richard has lived in Spruce Hill since 2005. Richard also congratulated Evan Johnstone on having done a great job as past President, especially during the pandemic.

Next meeting: January 12, 2021

