

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Annual Meeting

January 12, 2021 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

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

Absent: Veronica Alvarez; Ken Steif; Alexa Bosse;

Guests: Nicole McCoy

Meeting Minutes

Introductions

- The board members made brief introductions.
- Richard Moore introduced himself as the incoming SHCA President, and stresses the importance of supporting local community and businesses during the continuing pandemic

Guest Speaker

- Captain Nicole McCoy, Commanding Officer of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at University of Pennsylvania Police Department (UPPD) introduced herself as a veteran police officer and longtime resident of the neighborhood.
- supports the campus and surrounding area—the Penn patrol zone—24 hours a day, seven days a week through seven departments with 182 personnel, 121 of whom are UPPD police officers.
- There will be a community meeting on safety regarding the recent uptick in gun-involved crimes around Garden Court. There was an arrest on January 11 related to the case. A meeting link will be sent to Richard for distribution to the Board and SHCA list serve.
- There will be increased patrols to respond to the crime uptick, and Capt. McCoy is available to answer questions and respond to concerns.

SHCA Executive Committee Update

- Kiersten Mailler, Manager of Strategic Planning and Design from Connect the Dots has been invited to speak at a future SHCA meeting. The Connect the Dots survey is a tool to understand community priorities, specifically the Market Street corridor and more specifically, 46th & Market.
- Edward Fagan, Director, Commissioner's Staff, City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has also been invited to speak at a future SHCA meeting, to discuss community access on and around the Schuylkill River.
- There will be a community meeting on safety (with a link to follow) regarding the recent uptick in gun-involved crimes around Garden Court. There was an arrest on January 11 related to the case.
- A contribution to Art Start, in the amount of \$250 was approved by the Executive Committee.

Education Committee

- The School Advisory Council (SAC) is gearing up to run the rep elections. Monica is looking for volunteer help from the SHCA to help with the elections.
- The Education Committee is hoping to connect more with Lea School this year
- PAS Kindergarten registration opens on January 19 and runs through February 5, 2021.
- Rebecca Geller-Pulchalsky and Al Suh have volunteered to serve on the PAS SAC election committee.

Operations Committee

- The SHCA building was recently painted.
- The rent for the apartments is \$1,100 and includes heat and hot water.
- The first floor bathroom needs a plumber, and the light fixture needs repaired or changed.
- Andrew Richman noted that the SHCA was named in a slip & fall litigation, in a case that took place near Clark Park. Andrew contacted plaintiff's attorney about having SHCA removed. Andrews will need a letter from SHCA stating the non-involvement of SHCA.

Business Attraction

- In lieu of May Fair, Jon Potter proposes a virtual event to support local businesses, especially past participants.
- Matching gift program with UCD, raised \$125,000 last year and they are working on a new fundraiser for this year.
- Should SHCA do another matching program through UCD? Barry to contact them to inquire about future fundraisers.
- Milk & Honey café has been replaced by Vagrant Café.

May Fair 2021

- Richard called for a voice/chat vote on whether to hold an in-person May Fair, and the response was no to in-person.
- Discussion at the February meeting about virtual May Fair plans.
- Plans could include a raffle, a virtual scavenger hunt, with a focus on businesses that have participated in the past.
- Volunteers include: Libby Rosof, Richard Moore, Evan Johnstone, Vicki Lewis-McGarvey, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Sugirtha Stathis, Monica Calkins, and Rebecca Geller-Pulchalsky

Crosstown Coalition

- At the recent meeting, two city council members spoke – Katherine Gilmore Richardson and Allan Domb
- The focus of the meeting was on increasing testing in Philadelphia, pop-up pantries, and rent assistance
- The Coalition passed a motion to ask the Office of Property Assessment to reverse the action the city took in September 2020 to disabled a feature allowing internet users to search city property records by name

Zoning

- Approved signage for Sherwin-Williams at 49th & Walnut
- 4300 Ludlow Block zoning issue involving CMX3 and parking. SHCA will likely oppose the parking, and lose at the ZBA.
- 43rd & Baltimore – There will be a restaurant overlooking Clark Park. The building will have an impact on the farmer's market. The developers are willing to work with the Farmer's Market to address the parking entrance which will be on 43rd Street. Barry noted that New York has a lane on streets with farmer's markets to allow for parking access.

Other Business

- Joe Molosnic, a founder of SHCA, has passed away. He was a past president and SHCA will send something to his widow, Betty. The Executive Committee will discuss and approve a gift to family. Barry will find out if whether there is a charity the family has designated for donation.
- The Executive Committee will also discuss a parting gift for Jackie Waiters who retired from the Board last year.

Proposed Nominating Committee

- Libby suggests a change in the process for inviting and selecting members for nomination.

- Committees were once populated by non-Board members, who served as a pipeline for Board membership
- Al Suh suggested a Standing Nominating Committee to look at bylaws, timeline, and outreach.
- Exec to come up with ways to address the perceived lack of transparency in nominating
- Richard Guffanti has offered to advertise the committee meetings on the SHCA website.