

SPRUCE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SHCA) ANNUAL MEETING

April 13, 2021 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

Present: Richard Moore; Evan Johnstone; Julie Bush; Craig Santoro; Libby Rosof; Laura Line; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Al Suh; Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky; Veronica Alvarez; Emily Dowdell; Surgirtha Stathis; Monica Calkins; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Eric Santoro; Jon Potter;

Absent: Richard Guffanti; Andrew Richman; Chris Bole; Ken Steif; Alexa Bosse; Tyree Carr; Abigail Su; Jon Potter; Barry Grossbach

Guests: Nicole McCoy (Penn Police); Edward Fagan; Mary McGetigan; Enoch McCoy; Beth Menasion

Meeting Minutes

March 2021 Minutes Approved

Community Access Advisory Board (Edward Fagan, Community Consultant)

- Conducting community meetings since January 2020
- The organization started with the dredging of the Schuylkill with a focus also on East and West Fairmount Park communities
- The organization's charge is to identify barriers to inclusion in programming, with 19 Board members representing CBAs and other institutions.
- The Community Access Advisory Board's (the CAAB) primary responsibility is to conduct a series of community engagement meetings to gather information about current barriers to access and inclusion in the park. The CAAB is also seeking to identify new opportunities for equitable and diverse programming within East and West Park.
- CAAB's in-person outreach efforts have been limited due to ongoing health-related restrictions to large in-person gatherings. So, PPR and the CAAB are requesting initial feedback through the PPR Access and Inclusion Survey.
- This brief survey should take no longer than 7 minutes to complete and participation will ensure that the community's voice is heard and included in any future discussions concerning use of the Schuylkill River and surrounding parkland.
- Their PPR Access and Inclusion Survey is open until May 14, 2021:
https://isrtu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etdSI2EJjoleoJf
- Their goals are to ease access to the park and river, engage citizens in long-term stewardships
- Increase public transportation access to MLK Drive
- Expand access to neighborhoods beyond immediate neighboring communities
- Recommendations will be provided to the city in December 2021, and among them will be pilot projects along the west bank.

Penn Police Update

- The Penn Police have formed a UPenn Task Force to combat Asian hate through the Flatten Asian Hate campaign
- Penn Police have increased patrols focused on Asian-owned businesses
- With the approaching holidays, they will maintain patrols for Muslim and Jewish houses of worship

May Fair 2021

- The May Fair committee has met 2-3 times about using Gathertown for the virtual event
- A virtual stroll will allow interaction with vendors in a Gathertown setting made to look like Clark park, by volunteer Dallas
- By a show of hands, the Board supports moving forward with the virtual May Fair

- A survey was sent out to previous May Fair vendors to gauge interest in participating, and the committee will invite the ~ 80 vendors who have participated in the past
- The tables and booths will be free of charge to all vendors, and there will be a SHCA booth set up at the “entrance”
- The Gathertown site is live now, so people can visit anytime
- The committee will spread the word through advertising on list serves, and through flyers and yard signs
- The Board is asked to sign up for various prep duties

Executive Committee Update

- Survey on what to do to improve traffic routes on Chestnut and Walnut Streets due to increased traffic deaths in the city
- Cameras along Roosevelt Blvd have been successful in identifying issues

Education Committee

- Becca is putting together an ad hoc committee to re-write the mission of the committee
- The goal is to reimagine goals given the current climate
- The Penn Alexander SAC will need a new rep from the SHCA, a role that has been formalized
- The PAS wait list
 - Kindergarten: 6 waitlisted from lottery, plus 4 who applied after lottery. There were 80 children accepted, at 24 per classroom
 - The waitlist numbers for the remaining grades are:
 - First grade: 25
 - Second grade: 29
 - Third grade: 17
 - Fourth grade: 10
 - Fifth grade: 7
 - Sixth grade: 16
 - 7th & 8th grade: 15
 - One reason for the higher numbers in the upper grades is there are fewer PAS students switching to Masterman.
- SHCA to look into the past SAC role at Robeson High School

Operations Committee

- The 3rd floor apartment in the SHCA building will be rented out to a new tenant on May 1, 2021. In the meantime, the third-floor apartment and hallway will be re-painted.
- A handyman is needed for repairs to the light fixture and bathroom on the first floor.

Engagement Committee – Nothing to report

Bird Sanctuary Committee – Nothing to report

New Business Attraction Committee – Nothing to report

Permits Committee – Nothing to report

Crosstown Coalition

- There were no SHCA attendees at the last meeting.
- The coalition wants support from participating groups for increased funding for the Preservation Alliance Historical Commission

- SHCA supports removing the function to search the OPA database by name. The ability to search by address still exists.
- SHCA supports request for increased funding to the Historical Commission. They would like to have 2-3 members from each councilmanic district.