

SPRUCE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SHCA) ANNUAL MEETING

October 12, 2021 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

Present: Richard Moore; Evan Johnstone; Julie Bush; Al Suh; Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky; Monica Calkins; Libby Rosof; Chris Bole; Eric Santoro; Alexa Bosse; Laura Line; Jon Potter; Surgirtha Stathis; Richard Guffanti; Andrew Richman; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Barry Grossbach; Craig Santoro; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Abigail Su; Veronica Alvarez; Emily Dowdell;

Guests: Mark Washington, Asad Usman, Samantha Stein, Jeannette Brugger

October 2021 Meeting Minutes

September 2021 Minutes Approved

Community Impact Program Conquering Cancer Together Initiative (K. Rose Samuel Evans, Community Engagement Coordinator, Drexel University College of Nursing & Health Professions)

- This initiative is run out of Drexel University in partnership with Lazarex Cancer Foundation began in 2016 in Promise Zone neighborhoods of color – Mantua, Powelton Village, West Powelton, Spruce Hill, Walnut Hill, East Parkside, Mill Creek.
- Their mission includes cancer education, cancer screening, treatment and clinical trials. The initiative has partnered with Penn's Abramson Cancer Center (ACC).
- At Drexel, they have a navigator in their cancer center to direct patients to the appropriate providers at the ACC
- Other efforts include addressing health disparities through community workshops on clinical trial education, housing, and childcare
- The areas of focus are prostate, breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancers
- They would like to invite a representative from SHCA to join their advisory board, and would also like SHCA help in disseminating information on their outreach programs
- Next program scheduled for 12/04/21 at Christian Stronghold Church (47th & Lancaster) where they will give away Covid screening kits
- They will also be recruiting Neighborhood Health Ambassadors

Philadelphia Energy Authority – Solarize Philly (Alon Abramson, Director of Residential Programs)

- A citywide program to help all Philadelphians go solar, launched four years ago in an effort to make the process of installing solar as easy and affordable as possible
- Their mission is to support solar training at the School District of Philadelphia and improving access to clean energy for all neighborhoods, and they are working with a local, minority-owned firm that is offering financing
- The biggest barrier to installing solar panels is the expense, so they are now offering ownership and leasing options for people who cannot get loans.

Q: Are there any state, local, and federal incentives for buyers/leasers?

A: Not aware of any. There is a 26% solar tax credit has been extended. The financial benefit is a \$10,000-\$20,000 cost-savings realized in 10 years.

Q: Has Solarize Philly considered doing more education to distinguish them from scam organizations. Tell communities that there are scammers out there, and what they should look out for and avoid.

New SHCA Committee Structure

- The committee sign-up sheet has been completed and all committees have members.

Committee Updates

- Ideas for memorials for Mike Hardy include a magnolia garden, a plaque on a bench or on the ground. Motion to approve \$500 toward \$2,500 memorial
- Nomination Committee
 - Libby and Sylvia to serve as appointees by President.
 - The third member can also be a Board member, and the fourth member is Jamie Vann who has served in this role in the past.
 - Leslie to serve as third member.
 - Full slate to be identified by the end of October. Two vacancies to be filled. Outreach for new board members can begin with advertising the SHCA committees
- Education Committee
 - First public meeting was held.
 - Outreach to PAS and Lea continues.
 - Becca working on getting details on the PAS SAC meeting. Monica to help her connect with them.
 - Committee also working on outreach for safe routes to school and networking with Robeson School.
- Operations
 - Standing water in the basement may be due to high water table or ground saturation
 - Basement is dry today, so the plan is to keep an eye on the basement
- Community Engagement: No updates
- Neighborhood Beautification: No updates
- Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors
 - Julie has been asked to study and give a proposal on Woodland Avenue crosswalk. It should be more than a crosswalk, and part of a phased approach. Traffic engineers are leading the project.
 - 4200 Pine and surrounding blocks are getting up a petition to take action on stop signs not being obeyed
- May Fair Committee
 - Evan and Monica to serve as new co-chairs
- Crosstown Coalition
 - City Council is planning on redistricting and sentiment on Crosstown is supportive. The metric for redistricting is geography. Motion to support redistricting is approved
 - There is a bill to regulation outside dining, with very strong sentiment in favor of expanding outside dining to create more life on the streets
 - Restructuring of Zoning Board of Adjustment: the proposal is to increase membership from 5 to 7. Suggestion that members include an urban planner, architect, attorney, and professional in fields related to the work. Barry is not comfortable with council approving ZBA appointments.
- Zoning Committee
 - All proposed projects on Chestnut are by right. There is nothing CDR can do if developers do not address concerns
 - There are approximately 1,000 units going up on Chestnut in a 4-block area. Developers are rushing to get these in before tax abatement ends. A couple of projects will have underground parking and storefronts at street level
 - Richard King, from the Zoning Board, met with developers and offered feedback which they agreed to but in the end did nothing about. **UPDATE: The development team for this site has now responded to the feedback.**
- Ad Hoc Trash Committee
 - The goal is to establish a sustainable plan to address trash in Spruce Hill
 - A lot of trash comes from multi-use buildings with absentee landlords
 - In addition to the cleanups, the committee's goal is to compile a list of block captains and people interested in cleanups, and collaborate with UCD

- The kickoff cleanup is scheduled for 11/6-11/7, following Halloween. The committee requests \$400 to purchase supplies like bags, grabbers, and rakes. Motion approved.
- The committee will explore possibilities for collaboration with Beautification, Engagement, and Education
- Website Update
 - Committee chairs to send list of members and missions for updates on website