

**Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:30pm

**Meeting Site:**

* **SHCA Center, 257 S 45th St; or**
* **Virtual at**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89786390765?pwd=VHpMUy9pb2VyK1VxbGpXODRmczNuQT09>

**Welcome and Introductions** (Eric Santoro)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes** (February 2023) – motion to approve, seconded. Minutes pass

**Speakers:**

University of Pennsylvania, Division of Public Safety

* Vice President, Kathleen Shields Anderson – as of last year, since Maureen Rush retired. Previously a prosecutor for the city. Very challenging times for our city.
* Chief Gary Williams – been with Penn police for 22+ years. Held every position except detective. Previously in the 18th district.
* Captain Nickol Taylor – known as mayor of 40th street
* What are we seeing? They are seeing:
	+ The 40th & Market situation – lots of tension. After homicide there, lots of conversations, Penn and Philly police together are looking for solutions there, drugs sales streak, trying to address those issues (Penn police do not address drug sales). Also issues with smoke shops that popped up, north of market. Major corridor for transportation, seeing more and more people. Doing more with business owners there. Captain Taylor is doing more there. School kids walking down the block – roughhousing up against the windows – she drives up the streets that she knows the kids pass through – be a presence.
	+ Recently, affected Spruce Hill, a person who sneaks in properties – back in the area – trying to break into tatoo parlor at 43rd Pine, caught last weekend after several times. Package thefts – on video – so he is being charged for these. Keep eye on him, have someone specifically assigned.
	+ On campus – current bike and scooter theft problem.
	+ Crime statistics – Penn police responds to all calls, if you are in the area, you can call them directly at **215-573-3333** or if you call 911 from the area, they will be dispatched, usually get there before Philadelphia (who is spread out further all over the district). For our zone, our crime traditionally is focused on property crimes – mostly around theft. See screen shot of Penn patrol zone below.
	+ A lot of success with the use of ring cams, if there are places where something has been committed, and you know that someone has ring cam, their officers are always willing to take it, and they can help facilitate a conversation with Philly police.
	+ Taylor and Williams – doing community engagement, starting with churches in the area. Looking for ops for community engagement. Looking to branch out – Level Up on 47th – church working with CCP. Large presence of youth inside. 6ABC – story talking about the work this org is doing – safe space. If there are concerns about noise, they stagger the release time, so not all kids leave the events at once. Want to meet with them to coordinate so they are safe and stay out of mischief. Teenagers.
	+ Allied services provide walking escorts, jump starts.
	+ Increase in unhoused individuals – DBH – can put calls into the homeless hotline, but the wait time is often 2-3 hours. For a transient population the person might not stay put. So, their officers try to engage them and connect to services.
	+ Chat Q – what is the penn police response for sound – do penn police cover woodland terrace and S. 41st south of Baltimore? A: Reiterated the patrol zone (see map).
	+ Becca Q– work with schools at PAS and Lea for problems surrounding the schools – can Becca reach out? A: At the beginning of every school year, collaborate with PAS to make sure crossing guard program is up and running. Also there at the beginning of the year. There should be crossing guards out there. 43rd & locust, and 43rd & spruce. Contact daytime lieutenant. Can email: vp@publicsafety.upenn.edu
	+ Eric Q: from between 45th & 46th – a little more tense and dangerous in the neighborhood – carjackings and armed robberies. A: Within their zone, no, but there is a general increase involving firearms across the city. The car jackings are not being seen now at the same level as last year – last year 1000 in the city, and they saw them in the area. Won’t say they are not seeing them – there was one attempted the other night on St Marks (MEC Q to self: didn’t that happen a long time ago?). Another one was someone leaving their keys in the car, so not technically a car jacking. Seeing more, a little more west of spruce hill, not huge increase. West of 43rd – 18th district – Captain Daniel. They meet weekly with UCD to talk about crime throughout U City area. Worth having Philly PD out here [to SHCA] if we haven’t for a while.
	+ Be diligent with doors locked, homes well lit, outdoor lighting, ask neighbors to turn them on. Take escorts, walking with others. Street sense. Don’t walk around with head down in phone! Report things to them! If someone hadn’t reached out to them with the footage, then they may never have solved the crime. Ring cams. With city wide shortage on patrol officers, the next best thing is to build bigger cases so they can identify people. Sharing information. Save the video.
	+ Evan Q: back to the 40th & Market situation – how will this be managed. Townhomes?. A: as of now, still tied up with litigation. There isn’t a buyer. Privately owned land. Original owner, 20 year lease. Looking to sell the property. They do have a program in place, board it up and seal it up so people can’t get in. There is also a (private?) security guard there who patrols there. Penn police talking to management. Open to advice and guidance. Once a week go around and check the boarded up properties, to make sure no one is in there. Williams – has had a working relationship with the owner – eventually will fence it off once it is vacant. Right after the shooting, and even before, several meetings about that particular area, then the homicide took place. After that 18th district, Penn police and UCD have increased coverage which seems to be effective in reducing people hanging or milling about. VP – they also have allies – UCD safety ambassador until 6pm. Also penn allied security officers until 11pm to extend that portfolio.
	+ Monica Q: do they want table at May Fair? A: invitation -send it to the vp@publicsafety.upenn.edu
	+ They will share the spring events calendar with us.

**Committee Updates**

* **Executive Committee (Eric Santoro)** – contributions – exec approved 3 contributions of $250 or less – PAS 5K, $250 penn musical, and $10 for an ad grad.
* **Operations (Chris Bole)** – wifi – seems to be working but it was choppy at times – new oven upstairs.
* **Zoning (Barry Grossbach)** – zoning meeting next week, will take up some of the fallout from USciences disappearing from the area, lots of zoning issues from properties that previously had been taken up by USciences students – applying for rooming licenses. 43rd & Baltimore – going up now – rapidly – only new construction in that area – and the only new construction that we are seeing beginning in spruce hill for a long time. No further development – since the councilwoman introduced the affordable housing overlay. No one interested in borrowing money – due to interest rates. Now in the trenches zoning issues. All the big development approved by CDR are going forward – though not sure if they will given the climate. Will be more fallout in terms of rental vacancies. From Woodland over to Pine. Did not receive a reply from the managing director of 40th & Market. Q: on 43rd & Baltimore – what is actually going there? A: Apartments. Mechanicals for a primary outdoor and indoor restaurant built in. Barry is trying to get some leads as far as quality restaurateurs who might be interested in a spot across from the park. Working with developers to make sure that this happens. Eric Q: how does affordable housing overlay work? Barry: if building more than 10 units need to have a certain percentage of affordable housing in it – includes most of Spruce Hill. Expanded it when 40th and Market hit. In this market, it is not going to happen. The developers worked rapidly to make sure that theirs went in before the overlay. The campus apartments proposal went in. The project where the Ralston house is – big structure – putting $ into the housing fund, but the $ doesn’t come through. In the new one, cannot get around the number of affordable housing units. Doris Q: had been a plan, is the building going up conforming to the plan? A: The building that is going up is not the bldg. that was planned. New architect. The one approved was too expensive. This will look very different than what was originally approved. It is the footprint that counts in zoning. Chris Q: has expressed concern that the way that affordable housing is being done is going to stymy development. Agreed that payment in lieu is nonsense. The idea of styming development, doesn’t think that will happen, people will want to live here, there will be continued demand for it. Barry: it’s complicated. We do need affordable housing in the neighborhood. Could some of the properties that are now semi vacant close to the university be renovated and make them affordable housing? Hospital workers, and so on. Houses and apartments are empty. Trying to get them to re-think where affordable housing might go, doesn’t have to be new construction. Don’t know what is going to happen with the campus sight. SJU needs to find a facilitator. Q: Do they have any bids? A: Still don’t know. Getting ready to start a process of re-zoning that site with SJU, trying to impact the kind of development that will happen over there.
* **Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari)** – nomination, about a week and a half ago, met with consultant team, constance springs, and went through contract. Updates to the proposed schedule. Once receive will send to the board for review. Still planning to submit to historical society by November of this year. Should have a strategy to start getting the word out, and fundraising, in second part of the year (rather than now). Sylvia and Jenine had some discussions with UC Historical Society – house tours to raise funds. Needing volunteers to open up houses – e.g. in October. Yes, have had house tours in the past. Neighborhood to neighborhood. \*\*\*Use the May Fair – big booth about historic district – a launching pad for this. Informational and fundraising. Jenine will coordinate the content and the players. \*\* Complementary table of course. Photography team – photographed 600 houses – next step is to have discussions with the boundaries. The consultant team would like to come to our meeting in May and September – bring them in for the May Fair. Update for consultation phase. Get them to be at the booth in the May Fair – blow up poster of the section that is on the list for protections. Sylvia – political house parties – where raise $ - how about for this? Get people engaged, have some buy into the process, they have a stake in it. Invite UCHS and ask people in other historic districts.
* **Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro)** – retail survey will be out in the next couple months
* **Penn Student move-out survey (Vicki McGarvey)** – list serve and facebook – 144 responses – 22 people said they would like to be involved in further efforts. Answers were free form. Loads of blocks listed over and over. What else might work? A lot of responses received like “this is not our problem”, “we shouldn’t have to help”, “it doesn’t matter what we do, students won’t do it”; suggestions about fines and enforcement. Lots of concerns about dumpsters – people like Penn Christmas and don’t want the goods taken out of the community. Vicki shared some early responses with the folks at penn. They are looking at a group called Glitter that they are thinking could help. Trucks and good will to do pick ups – but that was early on. Glitter – they have been trying to replace the cities current method.
* **May Fair (Monica Calkins & Evan Johnstone)** – **ALL HANDS ON DECK!** need volunteers for raffle prizes (see spreadsheet), Andrew will find out what is needed, yard signs, sign up for day of fair. Help with clean up. Volunteered the scouts. NOTE: link to pre-Fair planning google doc, wherein all other google docs (raffle, day of fair help) are linked: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1blkv39NSt5Ci7WR_6jpRUN168ZPGmaMDlpNbtqYW6ts/edit#gid=0>
* **Community Engagement (Vicki McGarvey/Alexa Bosse)** – nothing else
* **Education (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)** – Lea – support – for system – Sugirtha will send request to exec. Parking complaints for staff - neighborhood slow zone might address, whether we win or just a voice. School book sale at PAS needs volunteers – coming up. And volunteers for PAS 5K.
* **Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line)** – no report
* **Crosstown Coalition (Eric Santoro)** – annual summit on May 25th – Eric is signed up, let him know if you also want to know. Regular meeting on May 27th (let Eric know if you want to attend) Two mayoral forums – Houston hall – March 28th, April 12th at prince theater. 7-9pm. Eric will post. Need a ticket (online registration) to attend.

**All Other Business – none – meeting adjourned 9:09pm**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

