



Spruce Hill Community Association
257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 7:30pm

Meeting location: SHCA Center, 257 S 45th St or remote via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9404207576?pwd=UEVRbmU2clpuTkjhYitxQWhORzErdz09>

Attendees – see attachments below

Speakers

- No external speakers this month

Welcome and Introductions (Eric Santoro)

May minutes already approved (read into record) – were approved by email vote

Committee Updates

- **Executive Committee (Eric Santoro)**
 - Request for donation from Shakespeare in the Park – to match donation from last year \$1500. Exec is in favor of that donation. Motion to approve. Seconded. Passed
 - Contribution in memory of long time board member Jackie Waiters to the Endometrial Cancer Research UPENN– support making a donation. Eric motioned for \$250 – seconded, all in favor, approved
- **Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari)**
 - June 7 community meeting debrief – did not happen due to the air quality. Rescheduled for June 27th at 7pm – Jenine did stand outside, a handful of folks did show up – most in favor and wanted to learn more information. They have petitions that were signed at May Fair and others. UCHS reached out for house tours – suggestions of people who would be willing to open their homes. Commitment is 4 hours on November 4th. House does not have to be in the quadrants, but should be in the SH district. Proceeds go to the UCHS, not to SHCA. So far we have received \$2,500 that have been sent through. All board members should donate. Chris – any negative feedback or push back. Jenine – everyone who stopped by May Fair, were all supportive. Eric – have one neighbor who is not in favor. Julie – research on gentrification – would be happy to talk to others about it. Eric – table at the Dollar Stroll? Tony – would do if someone else can help. Jenine – still have some informational brochures from May Fair – may hand some of those out – does not have dedicated time. Tony – could pitch in. Jenine and Tony can staff an outreach corner.

- **May Fair (Monica Calkins & Evan Johnstone)**
 - Debrief on successes and any suggestions – there will be a happy hour by the committee – will let everyone know – bring your suggestions
 - Andrew – \$1,000 from paypal day of? Community event that put together, not supposed to be a money maker. Not too many raffle tickets sold online. Cash was \$2,600. Need to discuss for next year containing costs. Perhaps silent Auctions?. Get corporates to sponsor?
- **Bird Sanctuary budget (Julie Bush)** – co-chairs of bird sanctuary – info on all of this – got a quote from an arborist – suggested taking out two trees. Rebecca has gotten grants for \$3,000, bought plants herself, bought tools. SHCA will give \$600 for bird sanctuary. She needs some reimbursements. Her request is for \$1000 for the tree pruning– she would contribute \$600. Andrew – if a tree falls, could cause damage for which we are liable. Julie - Arborist pruning ongoing things. Might be a line item in the trust, if there is not. Motion to see if there is a line item in the trust – if so, then request \$1000 from Trust, and if cannot then we approve the \$1000 from SHCA. Seconded. Approved. Eric will follow up with Barry.
- **Zoning (Barry Grossbach)** – no report
- **Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro)**
 - Slow Zone application de-brief (Becca Geller-Puchalsky) – did not win. <https://visionzerophl.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Neighborhood-Slow-Zone-Score-Report-2023.pdf> Background – SHCA participated in slow zone application. SH overall score was 28, but overall crash score was significantly lower than other applications. Our vulnerable users and community support were high. She did get contact information, and some traffic calming measures may come out of it, focused around PAS, 43rd & Locust. Others working around HMS school – car crashed and went into their fence. People connecting trying to do stuff. Helped her build a relationship with Andrew Goodman. Q: new signage result of this? A: no. Becca – thanking everyone involved. Traffic engineer changed jobs – but don't necessarily have the same person. Ben Baron has moved onto a different role. Replacement is (Becca will get us the name).
 - Retail survey high level results (Eric Santoro) – presented by Brady Santoro – see below. Not feeling as negative as they did 10 years ago. Amount of parking acceptable? See slides (attached) ***no more vape shops or arcades. Survey still open. From here, figure out how to market it, and discuss with Penn as they are also doing a survey. Can data be sorted? Brady said very few responses from outside of West Philly – one person from Manayunk, one from South Philly. Can make a plot of where everyone lived using closest intersection. Sugirtha – what about the suggestions for things that are already here – like halal butchers, or a hardware store – part of it may be that people are not aware of specific businesses. Could be hyper regional as well. Eric – there are a lot of vacancies on Baltimore, a lot of buildings going up on Chestnut that have retail spaces. Tony – people to figure out what to do with our results – Commerce Department might be interested – can potentially look for retail. Julie – can we feature more local businesses? Is there a way to create a map to show all the businesses electronically – would have trouble keeping up with that.
 - **Neighbor from Melville and Locust – house goes back onto Melville. Bar on NW corner of 45th and Locust**– the thing that bothers her the most is the noise. Two recent occasions where bass is so loud that can hear in every room in her house (one block away). Traffic – suspected drug dealing. People come and park on the block. Walking or driving through the intersection is very dangerous. When it happens, don't know what to do. Can they text or call the owner? Eric – talk to Craig Santoro. Ask for a sit down with the neighbors. With other neighbors as well. Monica or Craig can connect neighbors with Temsegen

(owner). Hard to know what to say. Have Rich reach out, and see what he says. Can circulate to Mel-Lo townwatch/nearby neighbors.

- **Woodland Avenue project** – Julie said there will be a pop up this Thursday the 15th, at the Woodlands. Related to the safety improvement plans for that area.

- **Operations (Chris Bole)** – oven in apartment wasn't working. Waiting on the door window replacement. The \$ has been paid, waiting for the glass, and installation will occur within approximately 2 weeks. Becca – space – what can use it for – can groups use it? Yes, there is an online calendar with the current groups. <https://www.sprucehillca.org/Calendar/> Evan will re-circulate the policy to the board, so Becca can review. Will also link it back on the website, it seems to be missing. What about the wifi? Julie will find out estimate for equipment to allow hybrid meetings. Jenine – yes for the historic preservation meetings, the hybrid will be useful. Eric – yes, would like for board members to attend when possible in September, but community members may still want to attend via zoom.
- **Community Engagement (Vicki McGarvey/Alexa Bosse)** – no report
- **Education (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)** – September – lea Community Fair, air filter event at Robeson, PAS musical and 5k, Becca attended most of the SAC meetings, Sugirtha/Becca attended the Lea SAC meetings, occasionally used the SH list serve. Interested in potentially using the SHCA center for a teen friendly space – Monica/Evan to forward the space use agreement. Sugirtha – donation approved for Lea filter, will follow up with Andrew.
- **Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line)** – no report
- **Crosstown Coalition (Evan Johnstone)** – Senator Dillon from the 5th district in the NE – gun violence reduction program, had Governor Shapiro in town, took a stroll through opiod epidemic – harm reduction sites. A lot of opposition across crosstown to implementing safe injection sites. Big discussion – Bustleton – community organization sued by UPS because they didn't approve of a giant facility that was going up there. Anti-SLAPP – many have left because they don't want to be hit with a lawsuit. Nationwide will no longer cover them anymore. A real mess. Anti-SLAPP legislation – we should cross for that. The legislation is jammed up in the house. Someone is looking into what is happening with the legislation. Email went around today. Any talk at Crosstown about reaching out – Jamie's office can help figure out who to contact – Eric and Andrew will check it out. Year end meeting is June 26th – One Logan Square. Eric is signed up for the meeting – if anyone else wants to get involved let him know.

All Other Business – none raised

Meeting Adjourned

No Meetings in July and August for summer recess

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Survey Aims

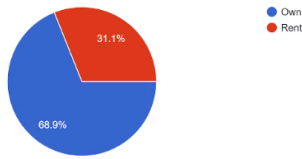
- Connect with community, take temperature
- See what can be improved
- What we can do to improve
- Impact zoning proposals, policy
- Meaningful link to Spruce Hill
- Identify wanted change
- Support what already works
- Lay out program in support of neighbor opinion

Survey Results

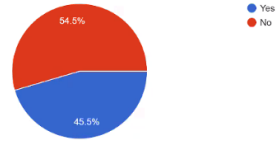
- 520 responses! Not too shabby!
- People would like to see more retail
- Also high satisfaction with present offerings
- Not too much concern with vacancies or quality
- Greater concern with potential retail than present (gun stores)
- People want food: grocery stores/restaurants
 - No more cafes or Supremo
 - More Italian, less Ethiopian
 - More family, more local, Black-owned retail
 - Trade businesses- hardware, butcher, hvac, etc.
 - Disinterested in Parking (transit-oriented)

Sample Charts and Data

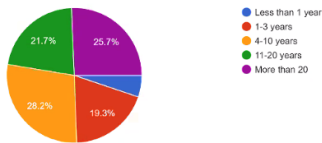
Do you own or rent your home?
454 responses



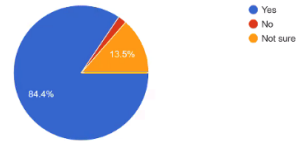
Do you have children that live at home?
495 responses



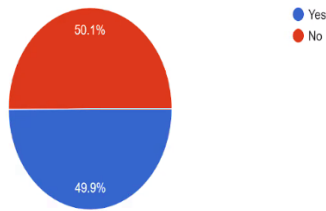
How long have you lived in the neighborhood (if applicable)?
483 responses



Do you think the neighborhood would benefit from more retail options?
495 responses



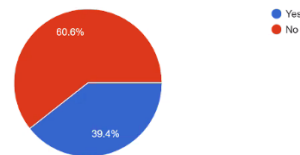
Would you like to see the neighborhood become a regional destination?
495 responses

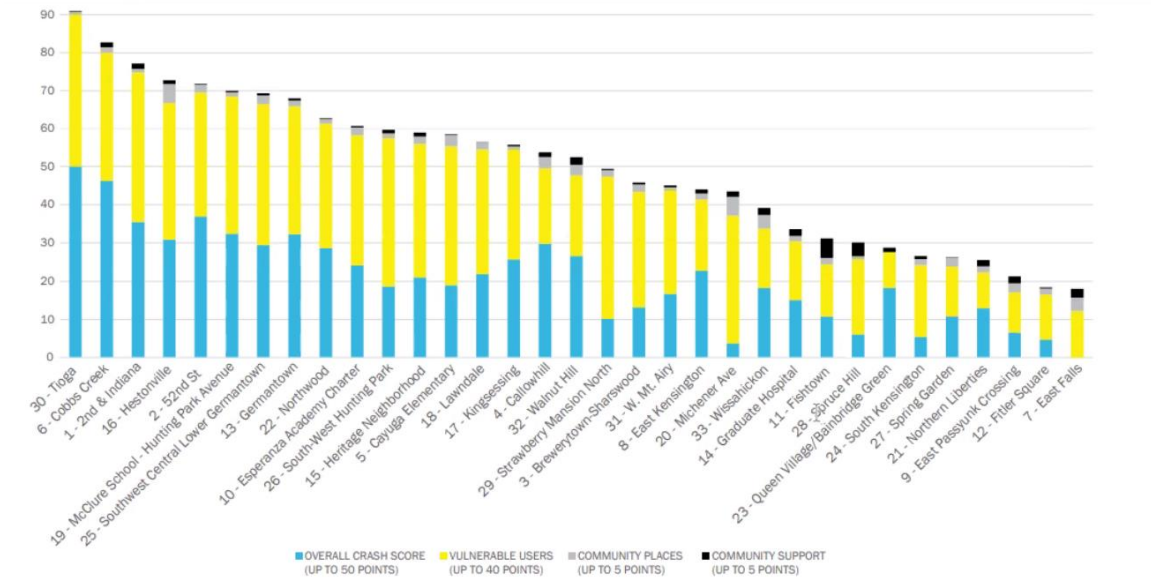





























Slim majority say no!

Less slim majority says no, again
Neighborhood of naysayers.

Are you concerned about the lack of parking in the neighborhood?
495 responses





- 
Monica E Calkins (me)
 
- 
Spruce Hill (Host)
 
- 
Anne Thomforde Thomas
 
- 
Frank L Chance (he him his)
 
- 
John
 
- 
becca
 
- 
Laura Line
 
- 
libby rosos
 
- 
Linda Cook
 

Zoom Attendees – above

In-person attendees – below:

6/13

Eric Santoro

Brady Santoro

~~Tony West~~

Sugirtha Stathis

Julie Bush

Jiu Shashaty

Rich Gutfant

Chris Bole

Evan Junstone

Andrew Richman

Janine Samzari

Aime
Thomford

online /

Libby Rosoff

Becca Geller-Pedalski

Linda Cook

Monica

Frank Chance

Laura Line