



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

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 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)

June minutes – motion to approve – seconded, approved

Committee Updates

- **Executive Committee (Eric Santoro)**
 - Outreach support
 - Exec Approved request for \$300 – for Halloween Block Party – reporting this to the board
 - Exec Approved request for PIC \$300 – reporting this to the board
 - Annual meeting
 - Will be held at PAS
 - Speakers
 - Jenine – reached out to talk to the panel; Aaron Munch – moved to Germantown; will reach out to people who live in historic districts; open forum. Barry – if you go this route, really important to have a meeting in the neighborhood where the district will be – not at PAS, where the district is not going to be. Woodland Presbyterian Church has been beautifully restored, got plenty of chairs, in the area where talking about creating a first historic district. Separate from the annual meeting. Invite people to come and ask questions. Do it as part of the annual meeting. Who can answer the questions? Ask Amy from the historical society – people have heard the speeches – they have heard the presentations. Get feedback from people. Concerns about having open forum right before the historical meeting– but we need to have meetings. Coming after the house tour – to help finance the district – appropriate to have something at the follow up. Professor at Penn – house tour of Society Hill. Randall Mason – professor of Historic Preservation. Rely on Powelton? Lean on them – useful example of neighborhood like ours. Ask Poulin – what was

the nature of the meetings, what did they do. Jenine will contact. Neighbors who live in historic district and what it was like for them. Move annual meeting to Woodland Presby. Chester avenue mini-district – people who went through it - and their experience – Amanda Benner will know – Barry will get in touch. Rob Harker and Bill Renaldo. It was done in Spruce Hill. Object lesson for people.

- Snacks – there will be at the annual meeting – Vicki.
- St. Josephs – anyone there who can speak about what is happening?
 - Barry – not at this time - they are starting a planning process with SJU, hired a planner, not asking them to do anything, at some point will be opened up to the broader community

- **Elections (Monica Calkins)**
 - Presented the slate (see Appendix)– motion to approve, seconded, all in favor
- **Halloween Parade (Jamie Vann)**
 - Contributions about the same as last year – put out what have, serve what have
 - Will send out notice to list serve – for baked goods.
 - Jamie – ideas – need source for bulk apple cider – her prior source is not coming back to Market – can get straw bales. Local orchards – Fond Stock – other cider vendors there. Hands on the Earth Orchard. Seeking 4.25/gallon. Frecon famr. Brecknock Orchard
 - Borrow tables
 - Volunteers who can – close streets off – parade starts at 4:30 – close it off at 4pm. Libby can also help with caution tape
 - help serving at the tables – from 4-6pm
 - put caution tape across certain roads –
 - Sugirtha – 45th & Larchwood -
 - Sylvia stands at 44th & Larchwood – put up caution tape
 - Ask for UCD help? Timing not great. 18th district police and UCD do not always show up on time. Evan has asked for the ambassadors.
 - Request in the pony -
 - Flyer – about the parade – will go out as well
 - Drum line will be there – but needs help picking up the band at 37th and Spruce – then afterwards – band people and their drums. SUV or truck. Kevin Kearney? Barry Bush? Penn can help out? Glenn Bryan -helped out to get a van. Richard emailed.
 - Chris ODonnell will be the marshall – parade marshall? Andy Bowers? Or somebody else marvelous?
 - Flyered house along parade route – 4300 blocks of Larchwood, 43rd between Baltimore and Osage, 45th from Baltimore to larchwood.
- **Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari)**
 - No updates on the submission itself – CC working to button up the final submission
 - Evan prepared a letter for costs of donations that will send to list serve – Sylvia, Julie and Barry – make sure that everyone on the board has donated to this cause. Any questions around that – let Jenine know? Is there a list? Barry monitoring PO box, everything going into Trust account. If you go out and ask people to contribute, you have to be able to say that everyone on its board is a contributor. Can be any amount.
 - Spruce Hill Trust – for the historical commission.
 - Online donations – Barry can get a list from David – online
 - University City Historical Society – house tour on November 4th – four hour commitment, any board members who are home and available – volunteer your home. 7 houses on the tour so far – volunteer if you can.

- **Zoning (Barry Grossbach)** – not much going on,

- have approved a 6 unit building next door to the chapter house on 42nd street, was zoned for 2-family, the 6 unit zoning lapsed, met with architect and owner, long term member of the resident, has also taken care of some beautiful Victorian homes, very deep building – 403 s 42nd street – approved.
- Approved continuation of a 5 year agreement for a property at 4030 spruce as a fraternity house. Long time family residence – then sold to penn. It has been kept up.
- 43rd and Baltimore – 135 units – got a hard hat tour up to the roof – pleasantly surprised – windows open – swing out – upper floors facing east, looking at CC skyline – facing west – looking down at tops of trees in clark park. Parking is such – interior not enclosed in a way that causes it to be diminished. Nice roof deck, lots of amenities. Commercial spaces on the ground floor are quite spacious – struggling to find commercial interest. Interest rates high, cities taking a hit in terms of commercial space. Clarkville was for the third or 4th time attacked with broken windows, graffiti door. Working very hard to find the proper tenants – know what we don’t want – hope to start leasing in January – some apartments are 2-level. Rents? As much as they can get. Times are a-changing. How many parking spaces? Not sure – there are a lot. Experience is that the people do not have cars – lots of people walking to the university/HUP. Whole Foods? NO. Trader Joes took a look at a facility where there was a Rite Aid, they said no.
- **Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro)**
 - Survey and taking the next steps – make it available to others – post-survey to try to figure out how we can effectively communicate it.
 - There is a report now. Take some elements from that – make some slides, and present to the annual meeting.
 - Glenn Bryan and Ed Datz – can do that too.
 - Eric – will send to board
 - Crime in the neighborhood – how we can help and be supportive – Evan is talking to Nicki the community liaison at Penn – hasn’t attended a meeting lately – they do weekly crime reporting – take a look at the trends – might be able to help address in some way
 - Davis Pharmacy – had explored a town watch - wants to start a town watch – can get an information from that office and give that to him – UCD ambassadors – go up to 50th street - they are ours. They will do a training – town watch. UCD has statistics on everything that is happening. Problem with policing in the city right now. Tony talking to Town Watch Integrated Services – organizes, trains, and provides equipment to residents who want to be a part of Town Watch groups in their community.
- **Education (Becca Geller-Puchalsky) –**
 - street safety adventure going around; speaking with a lot of people, attending a lot of meetings – a lot of paths to get around – try to apply for a pedestrian plaza – purchasing/installing planters – like 48th and Baltimore. Walked around with city leaders – who suggested. Asked to make a drawing (!!) – what is the infrastructure that you want. Showing the red/highlighted spots – looking for suggestions. Would need a letter of support – like for the slow zone – traffic calming is coming.
 - Neighbor whose kids didn’t get into PAS – 3rd and 1st grade, and also not Lea! Maybe take this up again next year. Routine updates on the wait lists - chart of enrollment – so we can keep an eye.
 - SAC meeting yesterday
- **Operations (Chris Bole) –**
 - Most afternoons and evenings, Center is booked now. There are regular meetings, and now additional meetings. Board members should know that if they need the space then try to give the notice to the groups. Groups should be reminded of this.
 - Upstairs – everything fine.
- **Community Engagement (Vicki McGarvey/Alexa Bosse) – no report**

- **Crosstown Coalition** – looking for new board members as crosstown reps – one Monday a month, in person. Lots of civically engaged people.

All Other Business – none raised

Meeting Adjourned – 9:05pm

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting – Tuesday November 14 2023

Appendix: SHCA Nominations Committee Proposed Slate – For 2024
10/10/23

1. Executive Board nominees are:

- Becca Gellar-Puchalsky, President (replacing Eric Santoro*)
- Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Executive VP
- Anthony West, VP of Operations (replacing Chris Bole*)
- Richard Moore, Treasurer
- Monica Calkins, Secretary

*Eric Santoro will take over Becca Gellar-Puchalsky's term, serve one year and be up for re-election in 2024. Chris Bole will take over Anthony West's term, serve one year, and be up for re-election in 2024.

2. Directors:

- Resigning (3): Leslie Medley, Alexa Bosse, Terry Mond
- Incumbents (7)
 1. Veronica Alvarez
 2. Rich Guffanti
 3. Evan Johnstone
 4. Vicki McGarvey
 5. Craig Santoro
 6. Jenine Sanzari
 7. Anne Thomforde
- New Nominees (2 out of 3 confirmed)
 1. Marta Bartholomew
 2. Nicole Gawel
 3. TBN