



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

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 12, 2025, 7:30pm

Meeting location: 257 S 45th St and by zoom

Quick recap

The meeting covered committee updates, financial and operational challenges faced by the Spruce Hill Community Trust, the importance of community outreach and engagement, and preparations for the upcoming Mayfair event.

Next steps

- Tony to contact Chris Ball regarding the location of submitted space request forms for the community center.
- Tony to work on developing a process for requesting donations from groups using the community center space.
- Evan to send Tony an email with information about two new members who joined.
- Rich to send Asia the Mayfair donor pitch documents.
- Janine to organize a subcommittee meeting to brainstorm awareness and fundraising ideas for the northeast and northwest historic districts.
- Mayfair Committee to continue pursuing live musical acts for the event.
- Board members to brainstorm potential organizations or businesses that could help fund the Mayfair event.
- Board members to consider making individual donations to support the historic district initiative.
- SHCA to explore using the education and performing arts funds from the Trust for relevant community donations and events.
- SHCA Executive Committee to discuss and develop a financial plan for the association.
- Barry to contact Ed Datz about having someone from Penn real estate speak to the board about Penn's real estate operations.

Summary

SHCA Meeting Minutes and Updates

In the meeting, Becca led the discussion, starting with the approval of the January meeting minutes. The meeting then shifted to committee updates, with Barry expressing concerns about the privacy of certain information and requesting it be discussed in an executive session. Dominique London from UC Green then presented about the work they've been doing with Laura, including a design charrette pilot program and partnerships with various organizations. The conversation ended with Becca thanking Dominique and preparing for Barry's presentation on the Spruce Hill Trust.

Spruce Hill Community Association and Trust

Barry discussed the unusual arrangement between the Spruce Hill Community Association (a 501(c)(4) entity) and the Spruce Hill Community Trust (a 501(c)(3) entity). He explained that the Trust was formed to allow the Association to raise funds and receive tax-exempt donations. A discussion under executive session ensued, ending with an action item for Barry and Richard to meet separately to discuss a proposal regarding the Trust's finances for the SHCA board's consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Community Outreach and Historic Districts

Barry emphasized the importance of community outreach and engagement in the northeast and northwest quadrants before submitting historic district documents to the Historical Commission. He warned that without proper communication and support, the initiative could face significant opposition. Tony agreed with Barry's concerns. SHCA discussed the need for on-the-ground movements in the north and northwest quadrants for the next application. The conversation ended with a discussion on the importance of the Spruce Hill Community Association owning the historic district initiative.

Historical Preservation Committee's Appeal and Fundraising

The Historical Preservation Committee discussed the ongoing appeal against the city and the need for awareness and fundraising for the next submission of the northeast and northwest districts. Janine proposed forming a subcommittee to brainstorm ways to raise awareness and garner support. The committee also discussed the timeline for the submission of September 2025, which may shift due to personal challenges faced by their consultant. The committee also discussed a zoning meeting involving 4,400 Market Street and the issue of Saxby's coffee shop lease termination, with the dental school planning to expand. Barry emphasized the importance of community involvement in these issues.

Penn's Real Estate Operations Discussion

In the meeting, Barry agreed to ask Ed Datz from Penn's real estate department to be a guest speaker at the next board meeting. Evan committed to attending the Public Safety Zone 3 meeting and planned to provide an update on the Woodland Avenue project. Becca also mentioned a Zoom meeting about the Route 36 trolley modernization project, which she would send out to those interested. Tony discussed the need for a system to track requests for using the community center's space, and it was suggested to reach out to Chris Bole for more information.

Spruce Hill Community Association Updates

The board discussed several topics related to the Spruce Hill Community Association. They considered asking groups using their space for donations to cover expenses. Tony mentioned the need to update legal forms and user group records. The recent Open House and Book Sale event was successful and seen as a model for future outreach. The board also discussed preparations for the upcoming Mayfair event, including securing permits, booking music, and seeking sponsorships. They considered strategies for fundraising, including board member donations to support the historic district initiative.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, 2025