



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

### **Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 13, 2025  
7:30pm

**Meeting location: on Zoom at:**

[us02web.zoom.us/j/87931896286?pwd=3nqhhanLqRd0qrhoiFzyO504vtH60n.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87931896286?pwd=3nqhhanLqRd0qrhoiFzyO504vtH60n.1)

**Attendees:** Becca Geller-Puchalsky, Evan Johnstone, Vicki McGarvey, Bridget Lessner, Asia Whittenberger, Tony West, Richard Moore, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Eric Santoro, Monica Calkins, Jamie Vann, Mary Goldman

**Welcome and Introductions** (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes** (April)

### **Speakers**

- Jamie Vann – Lil Osage – gathering list of block captains.
  - Please contact her with info about block captains on your block.
  - Becca – important also for membership and historic district
  - Tony – 27<sup>th</sup> ward democrats – could be good contact, they have a list of committee people.
  - Jamie – will also reach out to the council person's office

### **Committee Updates**

- May Fair (Monica Calkins)
  - Thank you to the committee – Evan, Sugirtha, Tony, Frank, Becca, Richard, Eric, Sylvia – and to all the board members who rolled up their sleeves one way or the other to help out!
  - Debrief
    - Do we want a venmo station at the petting zoo?
      - Monica – we have done that in the past (had a ticket booth) but did involve multiple money boxes (since a fair number of people pay with cash) which is a little bit of a safety concern and also we always ask people at the booth if they want to purchase raffle tix and other items. Some people also pick up membership info and/or sign up, buy t-shirts. So have preferred to centralize all sales to main booth. But will discuss again next year, and could also consider changing location of the booth to be closer to zoo and moon bounce.
      - Bridget – directing people to the station – need balloons or some other indicator of the booth
    - One vendor – facing the dog bowl – felts she was far from action – but still did well. Monica has moved that vendor around in different places over the years (at

vendor's request) and this year Monica asked where they wanted to be, even e-mailed a map in advance to identify preferred location. Many vendors express preferences for locations and have special requests, which we aim to accommodate as best as possible. Nevertheless, can consider removing that row (facing the bowl), and also the back row near the big kids playground (since have also gotten feedback that this is slow foot traffic area). Sugirtha took a lot of notes during the fair with recommendations for placing tables, so will review that when planning vendor table layout next year.

- Sylvia – lots of people coming up to her at the booth thanking us for putting on the event. Something special this year.
- Lucked out with the weather!!!
- The City electrician no showed!!! Evan saved the day by locating a generator! Leslie – suggested next year to call the electrician the Friday before the Fair to touch base.
- Water and toilet paper – request extra. We did complain last year. Maybe a second water station?
- Petting zoo – very popular and relatively inexpensive compared to prior years
  - Some complaints about the idea of a petting zoo (concerns about animal maltreatment – unfounded for our zoo) on Facebook. We can lock the comments on the FB.
- Bounce house – monitoring is tough and unpopular task. get a regular rotation of volunteers to do this. Perhaps we even pay local high school students?
- o Post Fair tasks
  - Raffle baskets – Tony will call the winners
  - Thank you to our sponsor Rick Krajewski– Becca will write to him
  - Shut raffle down ☺
- o Happy Hour! To be scheduled.
- Executive Committee (Becca Geller-Puchalsky) – no updates, everything was May Fair!
- Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari, not present)
  - o Lot of interest at the table
  - o Becca – would like to manage outreach – talked to Julie and Jenine – will have a google doc - In person activities in May and June
    - Tabling at Cinespeak
    - Get out to blocks – knock on doors – historic district – clean up – set up a table – need to be out meeting more people
    - Tony volunteered, Richard has trash grabbers
    - Asia - has the bandwidth now to really take more of this outreach on now. the survey is pretty much ready, and happy to volunteer when needed for events if her schedule allows
    - There is a group who emailed Becca about historic preservation
- Zoning (Barry Grossbach) – no updates
- Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro) – met and talked to Penn professor who is urban studies professor, possibility of getting a class project/intern, lots of places closing on Baltimore avenue, taking a long time to fill the retail space at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore, reach out to UCD, they don't have the same presence as they used to. Eric will talk to Asia, who works for UCD. A vision zero task force.
- Operations (Tony West) – piece of siding fell off the building, Tony will reach out to Realty World; two bikes in the shed belong to tenants.
- Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line) – not present – reported via email – lots of people stopped by the table. 10 people signed up with interest in a possible block grant. Thanked Bridget and Marta for making it happen.

- Crosstown Coalition (Vicki McGarvey): ***MOTION RE ABOLITION OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Move that the Crosstown send a letter to the Mayor and City Council asking that the Sheriff's Office be abolished and that the functions of the Sheriff's office be performed by City employees under the supervision of the Mayor.*** Vicki – not clear if there will also be a letter we will be asked to vote. Evan - Sheriff's office responsible for the sheriff's sale, and they are way behind. Tony – it affects ability of every neighborhood to manage vacant properties. Vicki – the last thing we were asked to vote about was a very specific letter, and we voted to abstain. One of the Crosstown members has compiled a number of Inquirer articles talking about the performance of the office. Since we don't have quorum should this go to email? Mary Goldman – recommends we sign the letter because of the current situation. Vicki will forward the entire crosstown document so we can read it. Crosstown meeting is on Monday, if we have enough votes then she will let us know.
- Education (Becca Geller-Puchalsky) – Becca attended the PAS SAC meeting. Nothing groundbreaking. PAS is getting a swing because they are closing down the porch project, so they are donating the swings. Upcoming kindergarten does not have a wait list at all! The older grades do have varying length wait lists. Everyone got into a high school. The 5K race is coming up in June, donated the ticket. Had reached out to Lea and Robeson about the May Fair, had not heard back.

#### **All Other Business**

- None

**Meeting adjourned 8:26pm**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025**