

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009

ATTENDEES: B. Behr, P. Borkon, B. Burrison, M. Cabry, B. Chesluk, B. Feldman, M. Ferguson, J. Finin, B. Grossbach, E. Halligan, J. Kaplan, R. King, A. Madrid, S. McCoubrey, M. McCullough, E. Nelson, J Powers, M. Wagenveld, J. Waiters, K. White, M. Young

EXCUSED ABSENCES: V. Johnson UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: B. Andersen

GUESTS: Matt Wolfe, Pat Zelenak of the Dept. of Health, Leo Korein, Lee Senior, Maureen Rush and Capt.. Joe Fisher of the University of Pennsylvania- Safety

A motion was offered to approve the Minutes of January 13 with the following corrections: \$2500 was raised for the Wilson School in November and a grant Total for the school was for a little over \$15,000. With these corrections, the Minutes of January 13, 2009 were approved.

Pat Zelenak discussed the City financial crisis and advised that the Mayor is soliciting input from citizens through a series of meetings. Every citizen is asked to give proposals for cuts, and Ms. Zelenak urged SHCA members to attend the meetings and urge your neighbors to attend.

Maureen Rush presented information on safety in University City. Prior to the home invasion/ sexual assault, crimes were down by 8% and crimes against property were down by 3%. There was a large number of frat house burglaries. Mr. Fisher commented that crimes are reviewed for patterns. A pattern developed of a significant number of cars being broken into during the night. A person was arrested for breaking into cars and it was found that he is a part of a three-person team and that the items were being taken to a local area for fencing. The advice is not to leave anything in an open area in cars.

It was reported by Ms. Rush that the South Street Bridge closure went well. There were two areas of bottlenecks: Civic Center Blvd. and on 33rd Street. The next big traffic change will entail coming down 34th Street which will be one-way and Civic Center Drive which will be one-way. The whole pattern will loop around the health center north and Civic Center south and will be renamed Health Center Drive. The target date for this change is mid-March, but it will more likely be in April.

Regarding the assault at 44th & Spruce, it was identical to the assault at 9th and Clinton. The individual is clever and dangerous, and seems to attack apartment complexes. He used a MAC CARD at 50TH and Baltimore. A meeting was held with landlords, and it was suggested that a "vertical" Town Watch be established, i.e. know people on the same floor and establish a special signal such as a whistle when something is not right. This could alert neighbors to call 911.

There was a lot of drug dealing at the HUD housing units at 40th & Market. Police made numerous arrests. Two tenants were evicted and one tenant was given a warning.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

The candidates for membership to the Board of Directors were: Pam Hopkins, Leo Morein and Matt Wolfe. A paper ballot was held to vote for two out of the three candidates. The majority votes were for Leo Morein and Matt Wolfe.

It was decided that if a vacancy becomes available it would be awarded to Pam Hopkins. It was requested that if a second vacancy occurred it would be awarded to Chris O'Donnell.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning: A demolition order dated January 28 was issued for the house at 4422 Baltimore Avenue, which was a women's shelter. The property is now owned by Camponello. It is apparently being used by intruders. SHCA will formally indicate that there is concern over the demolition and wants to dissuade the owner from demolition, and urge that the building should be preserved.

There was a meeting held by the Penn Health Systems to discuss proposed development of the plot at 3900 Spruce Sts. There was a frat house that planned to rebuild but could not raise the funds. Penn proposes to build a "transplant" house there. This would be a mini Ronald McDonald house for transplant patients. Its primary function would be as a community center.

There will be a hearing for Mill Creek Tavern at 42nd & Chester. They want to expand the bar by building outside decks. It is anticipated that City Planning will oppose the expansion. The owner did not consult with community groups before planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

Erin Davis, who updated the SHCA website has left the area and a replacement is needed. A potential replacement to maintain the web site contacted SHCA. However, he wishes to be paid. It was suggested that we try him out through volunteering. One solution is to ask Erin Davis how much she would want to maintain the site. What is needed is on-going updates and an online calendar. Suggestions are solicited.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal letters were sent and so far 58 memberships have been received. A membership telethon will take place on February 24. Volunteers are needed to make calls – please bring a cell phone.

NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested and approved that all Directors, Officers and Committee Members sign a contract.

Submitted by: Kathleen White, Secretary