

SHCA Board Meeting – February 14, 2006

In Attendance:

Cynthia Roberts
Angel Pizarro
Bernadine Abad
Bruce Andersen
Bob Behr
Amanda Benner
Pauline Borkon
Fran Byers
Bill Burrison
Monica Ferguson
Abby Gray
Barry Grossbach
Steve McCoubrey
Elaine Nelson
Scott Reynolds
Jackie Waiters
Kathleen White

Guests:

Stacey Livingston, Univ. of PA Police

Apologies:

Ed Halligan
Derek Riddle
Diane Adler
Michael Beckman
Brett Feldman
Janet Finan
Dan Garofalo
Nancy Khan
Richard King
Keally McBride
Angela McIver
Mark Moloznik
Meridith Sauer
Matthew Wolfe

Meeting Notes:

SHCA Block Improvement Grant Committee report

There were no new applications for the January 2006 deadline. The committee thinks that this is a function of holidays and that a large number of blocks have already participated in the program. Active recruitment of non-participating blocks into the program was

discussed as a possible strategy to follow next. The next deadline for application is in June 2006.

There are two grants that are currently progressing.

Several other greening initiatives were discussed, especially the on-going activities of the UC Green. For more information, visit the UC green website. Also mentioned was Steve McCoubrey's urban landscaping course at the UC Arts League for those of us interested in sprucing up our own properties (no pun intended).

UC Community Council Report

Survey for the homeless shelter proposal at 4508 Chestnut received a very negative response from the available data. The SHCA component was over 90% against. A spreadsheet of the entire result set should be forthcoming from the Blackwell office. It was discussed whether SHCA should take the lead with respect to future use of the site, which is a nice lead into the next topic:

Zoning Committee

L&I has informed us that any further activity on that property will go through the regular SHCA zoning process.

Other issues on the committee's platter are the growing number of front porch decks. Several new decks had been approved by L&I recently and more applications are coming in. The ZC will work with the property owners as these come in. The Home of the Merciful Savior is planning expansion of the dorm space, but given their history of quality workmanship, no problems are foreseen by the committee.

Generally it is Barry's opinion that the work of the committee has shifted considerably over the last decade to working with proposals, rather than against.

Safety Committee

Bruce Andersen made a motion for the Safety Committee to discuss the issues of having the current leash laws enforced, improvement of enforcement of traffic laws, and other quality of life issues that affect Spruce Hill residents. The Safety Committee should report back to the Board.

The Safety Committee needs members; contact Ed Halligan if you're interested.

SHCA 50th Anniversary Committee (SH50)

The SH50 committee put forth several proposals for discussion and elaboration by SHCA members:

- Block Party in Fall 2006
- Commemorative item or landmark
- Evening party or fund raiser
- SHCA Accessories (mugs, hats, t-shirts)

- Historical display at SHCA center
- Civic essay or art contest

Strong support was given for the historical display, as well as possibly compiling oral histories from long-time residents, and a scrap book publication

Other items

A Spruce Hill renewal plan is in preparation by UPenn students, to be done by the end of the semester (or they will fail the class).

Education Committee will be holding regular meetings from this point on, the first to be Feb 23rd @ 7PM at the SHCA center.

Submit potential items for the news letter by March 1st

A motion for becoming a sponsor for the Party for the Park was passed. Initial amount of the request is \$1000, and may be raised beyond this, pending further discussion and approval by the board.

Snow removal from corners was raised as a potential awareness issue, which may be solicited to the UCD for guidance or help.