

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

October 9, 2018, 7:30 pm

257 South 45th Street

Board Attendance

Present: Bush, Julie; Calkins, Monica; Carr, Tyree; Hamerman-Brown, Sylvia; Johnstone, Evan; Line, Laura; Moore, Richard; Potter, Jon; Rosof, Libby; Santoro, Eric; Bosse, Alexa; Medley Leslie; Lewis-McGarvey, Vicki; Liu, Roseann; Santoro, Craig; Richman, Andrew; Alvarez, Veronica; Steif, Kenneth; Suh, Al; Barry Grossbach

Absent:; Gong, Bo; Nelson, Elaine; Guffanti, Richard; Waiters, Jackie

Guests: Jamie Vann and David Vann (Residents of 4200 Osage)

Minutes

Halloween Parade and Party (Jamie and David Vann)

- Arrangements for the parade and party were reviewed and next steps discussed
- Tables for party will be borrowed from the City School and PAS. PAS stepped in to help, due to a short supply from the City School.
- E. Johnstone has ordered the hay bales and pumpkins for decorations
- Business solicitation for food donations has begun, and J. Vann asked for feedback on a certificate to be provided to all business donors. It was noted that businesses may request certificates for the purpose of a tax write-off which will not be possible because donations do not go to the SHCA Foundation
- R. Guffanti to send email request for community help and donations
- Facebook event to be created
- A. Bosse has offered 6 tents in case of rain, to cover food tables

SHCA Annual Meeting – November 13, 2018

- Possible speakers are Hazami Sayed, from Al-Bustan, on the 40th Street Pocket Park and Julie Bush on the PAS outdoor play space. The theme of the night is community-led community space project development
- Chairs should have a slide update for each committee [**Update: slides will only be needed for Zoning and Treasurer**]
- Board Bios are due by November 10
- Advertising should be in the PAS Pony (L. Medley), Facebook (L. Medley), UC Review article (C. Santoro and E. Johnstone), West Philly Local (M. Calkins)
- Sign-in Sheet to be available at Membership table
- Refreshments to be arranged
- Board and Outreach Committee to help with set-up and break-down

Nominations

- E. Johnstone to run for President
- M. Calkins will run for Vice President
- B. Gong and R. Fayez are resigning from Board

Treasurer's Report

- The Executive Committee approved a \$300 contribution to the Little Osage Halloween Party fund.
- May Fair 2018 Update:
 - Expenses outweighed profits
 - No donations to Trust received this year
 - SHCA to work on building outreach for 2019
 - Bounce House and Petting Zoo made money
 - Music lost the Board money due to day-of cancelation. Both bands have said they would play at the 2019 May Fair

- In 2019, SHCA should solicit businesses and realtors for donations of \$500-\$1,000, beginning in February or March 2019

Woodland Avenue – Letter of Request for Safe Crossing

- A. Bosse has drafted a letter to Janie Blackwell to request safety measures to ensure safer crossing on Woodland Avenue
- Board review of letter resulted in the following suggestions:
 - Remove “traffic calming”
 - Add names of SHCA Board members
 - Alexa to send petition to the Board
 - Contact SEPTA for support
- Letter approved by Board

Zoning Committee Report (A. Richman)

- Sign on the Simon Building on 41st Street between Sansom & Chestnut was rejected by the Zoning Committee, and the owner was referred to the Domus sign for guidance
- The units at 48th & Pine and 4000 Baltimore are already rented
- Developers in the neighborhood want zoning to make 1-bedroom apartment
- Barry met with the developer and viewed drawings for 4224 Baltimore Avenue. They would like to receive their permits before the end of 2018 in order to avoid 1% tax on construction
 - Amenities will include: full-service gym; veterinary care; restaurant facing part
 - No variances – they have zoning permits through the neighborhood
 - Barton Architects
 - The “suburban mall look” has been corrected based on neighborhood feedback.
 - 132 apartments (1-2 bedrooms and studios)

Affordable Housing (B. Grossbach)

- Demands would need to be built into zoning negotiations
- Bonuses to developers for inclusion of affordable housing. B. Grossbach noted that he is not in favor of the bonuses.
- Additional units to accommodate affordable housing
- Targeted Housing Trust Fund allows for developer contribution to avoid including affordable housing units
- Tax abatement option
- K. Steif to invite Mason Austin, City Planning Commission, to speak on the subject of affordable housing at the January 2019 meeting

Education Committee (L. Line and J. Bush)

- Fall Action Project was started. Chess/checker boards and Twister game have been painted on sidewalk at the PAS entrance

Operations Committee (V. Alvarez and A. Richman)

- Chairs are developing a policy on renting the SHCA space. Veronica is working out specifics (types of organizations who can rent, charges for use) and will circulate a draft policy
- Improvements to SHCA space to be planned

Engagement Committee

- Book sale to be planned for early December – December 8 is likely date
- Committee will arrange refreshments for Annual Meeting

Bird Sanctuary (J. Bush)

- Work day to be organized

Business Attraction (J. Potter)

- Abby's Desert & Lounge at 47th & Baltimore:
- Milk & Honey may be going out of business – looking for replacement business opportunities
- Jezebel's has expanded
- French Bistro at the Restaurant School has opened

Crosstown Coalition (E. Santoro)

- Issues covered included protection for RCOs if decision is made that results in passage; parking lines for spaces at loading zones during; tax amnesty bill for people who appeal taxes (taxes cannot be raised during appeal); public safety officers for traffic control in place police

Block Improvement Committee

- Bosse has volunteered as Chair