

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting
April 9, 2019 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance

Present: Evan Johnstone; Jon Potter; Barry Grossbach; Laura Line; Julie Bush; Vicki Lewis-McGarvey; Richard Guffanti; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Eric Santoro; Roseann Liu; Abigail Su; Monica Calkins; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Libby Rosof; Craig Santoro; Andrew Richman

Absent: Alexa Bosse; Al Suh; Veronica Alvarez; Tyree Carr II; Jacqueline Waiters

Guests: Mark Mandel; Christina D. Chiara; Klesa Achenbar

Meeting Minutes

Guest Speaker: Captain Matthew Gillespie, Commanding Officer, 18th District

- Capt. Gillespie began his position in the 18th District on January 5, 2019
- 18th District Updates:
 - GED program for people who have been arrested, has grown from 8 to 74 applicants
 - 93 guns taken off street since January 2019, with many of those coming from between 52nd and 60th Streets
 - The Community Relations team is a priority and is growing
 - New policy forces officers to park their cars and visit businesses on foot
 - There is a new Victims Assistance officer, who now reports directly to the Commanding Officer
 - Victims of violent crimes are visited by Captain Gillespie
 - Officers in the 18th are working in high schools including West Philadelphia High School where they volunteer, visiting families of victims, and holding listening sessions so they can hear from teens about their issues. They have also been at Sayre HS for 6 weeks, targeting people closest to victims, and they are working with Boys Latin, visiting twice a month.
 -
- Questions for Capt. Gillespie
- **What are the boundaries for the 18th?** Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and Schuylkill River to Cobbs Creek
- **What can the 18th do about the lack of lighting at 46th & Market Streets?** The area is also in the 16th District, so enlisting them would help. Capt. Gillespie also suggests bombarding our councilperson and state rep with calls and emails.
- **How does the community help the 18th?** Come to the Town Hall meeting and the Captains meetings held each month. Captain's Town Watch Training will take place in June 2019. Barry suggested coordinating an effort between the 18th Precinct, UCD, Community Boards, and Councilperson's office.

Committee Updates

RCO Boundary Update

- Expanded boundary proposed so that SHCA can weigh in on project west of 46th Street
- SHCA is working with City Zoning on an updated paragraph in the bylaws sent to the city. SHCA now incorporates all of University of the Sciences.

Space Use Guidelines

- The new guidelines offer use of the space on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until 4:00 pm

- Business membership requirement for recurring meetings. The membership fee is \$35/year

PAS Playground Update

- Design drawings for playground are completed, with lots of options built in
- Currently accepting bids from contractors
- Construction to begin summer 2019 with some work extending into fall 2019
- Goal is to make play structure available to older kids as well as kindergartners
- \$450,000-500,000 needed. PAS and a neighborhood donor have contributed, and there is a plan to ask neighborhood developers to contribute.

Education

- Principal Farrell will be leaving PAS after this school year, for a position in the School District

May Fair Updates

- Yard signs to be distributed to some board members and highly visible addresses
- Flyers to be posted around neighborhood
- Letters to be dropped off at local businesses for donation requests and May Fair announcement
- Musical acts confirmed
- Tents and tables, portable toilets, and food vendors ordered
- Raffle Prizes: SHCA will everyone to pitch in to solicit businesses for prizes, and someone to approach Family Fun Center for prizes and to sell raffle tickets
- Vendors: 40 table vendors signed up, with space for 20 more
- Books: Volunteers needed to help with moving the books to the park
- Volunteer signup sheet: Vicki to post the signup sheet

Operations

- Andrew to hire painters for outside of building
- Metal plate on front door must be replaced – cannot be repaired

Engagement

- 100 Phillies tickets sold, and demand was big
- Someone to post photos of the SHCA group at the game

Bird Sanctuary

- New volunteers, and a new feeding schedule is needed
- Plans to build an oversized play nest for kids to play on

Crosstown Coalition

- Congestion tax question will be coming up for the city. Does SHCA have a position on congestion pricing?