

Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) Board Meeting

May 12, 2020 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

Present: Evan Johnstone; Leslie Medley; Veronica Alvarez; Vicki McGarvey; Barry Grossbach; Abigail Su; Laura Line; Rich Guffanti; Libby Rosof; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Emily Dowdall; Andrew Richman; Chris Bole; Rebecca Geller-Pulchalsky; Sugirtha Stathis; Al Suh; Jon Potter; Monica Calkins; Richard Moore; Ken Steif; Craig Santoro; Eric Santoro; Tyree Carr II;

Absent: Alexa Bosse; Julie Bush

Meeting Minutes

Ronald McDonald House

- SHCA Board voted to approve donation of \$1,000 to the Ronald McDonald House
- E. Johnstone to work with A. Richman to make donation

Fundraiser to Support Neighborhood Small Businesses and Organizations

- Fundraising options include a dollar-for-dollar match up to a specified cap
- Executive Committee will discuss thoughtful structuring so it is easy to manage and administer

University City District

- Formulating broader relief efforts for University City businesses
- SHCA to wait for announcement of UCD program, and consider contribution to that rather than start something new
- Grants will defray costs to enable business to open safely, within COVID safety guidelines
- There should be an effort to support other organizations/non-commercial
- Councilwoman Gauthier's office is looking at supporting rent forgiveness, housing support, food support, area non-profits
- The Executive committee to meet to discuss a plan for funding a portion of UCD effort for small business, and another portion to non-commercial organizations.

COVID Resources

- Glenn Bryant, from Penn Medicine Government Relations, held a meeting with West Philly RCOs to discuss how each is doing outreach and supporting the community
- All appear to have approaches similar to SHCA in information dissemination. Some are printing information and maps of resources for distribution.
- These meetings with Glenn Bryant to continue every other week

PAS Principal Search

- SHCA subcommittee for principal search has revised their mission statement
- 6 candidates were interviewed in Round 1, with 3 candidates in Round 2
- Lea School recently conducted a principal search and new principal has been hired though not yet announced
- Longevity is being considered as part of the hiring process, due to high turnover at PAS
- The goal is to have a new principal in place for September 2020

PAS Playground

- Construction is permitted to resume, so playground construction will resume on May 20
- A fence will be placed around playground, and will allow garden access. There will also be rope climbers, a bridge, new surface and more
- A diagram will be sent out to the SHCA list serve

Bird Sanctuary

- Two new species have been spotted recently, bringing the total to 25 species

Zoning

- The Zoning Board is out of commission through May 31. The ZBA cannot do virtual meetings – they must be public.
- SHCA has received applications for outdoor dining which will be important for restaurants to survive in the wake of COVID
- Ken Steif is looking at zoning and the zoning overlay in light of COVID
- There is a concerted effort to claim 43rd & Baltimore for a community garden, with 'wanted' signs posted with list of people who were a part of U3 Ventures, which is no longer involved in the project

Operations

- The SHCA building needs a paint job, and Operations is looking for a painter
- R. Guffanti has been checking on the space to pick up mail

Primary Day and Polling Places

- The number of polling places has been reduced by 77%
- Mail-in ballots are recommended. The deadline for submission of applications is May 26

University of Pennsylvania

- There will be an announcement on May 15 about how Penn will handle the Fall semester