

SPRUCE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SHCA) ANNUAL MEETING

March 9, 2021 - 7:30 pm

Board Attendance via Zoom and Teleconference

Present: Richard Moore; Richard Guffanti; Monica Calkins; Evan Johnstone; Andrew Richman; Chris Bole; Ken Steif; Alexa Bosse; Sylvia Hamerman-Brown; Laura Line; Libby Rosof; Eric Santoro; Craig Santoro; Julie Bush; Tyree Carr; Abigail Su; Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky; Jon Potter; Barry Grossbach; Surgirtha Stathis; Al Suh

Absent: Veronica Alvarez

Guests: Nicole McCoy (Penn Police); Frank Chance; Mary Goldman; Natalie Wiltshire; Steve Nasabko; Kiersten Mailler (Connect the Dots);

Meeting Minutes

February 2021 Minutes Approved

Connect the Dots Insights (Kiersten Mailler)

- Brought in by the Enterprise Center, the organization has focused their attention on 46th & Market
- Conducting community outreach survey by way of a few platforms: in-person, telephone, group conversations
- They've received approx. 300 responses from which they have also gathered demographics. The word cloud for responses showed an emphasis on, "community", "clean", "safety", and "diverse".
- The top topic from the survey was Affordable and Equitable Housing
- The message to investors is the need for community engagement, creation of affordable housing, and mixed-use development, and public space (green spaces, trees, shade, and safety)
- The report on survey results is to be made public.
- Next phase is four focus groups on, 1) business and work related challenges and opportunities, 2) public space discussions, 3) commercial corridors and community character and, 4) interactions with developers and investors

Q&A

Q: Will Connect the Dots circle back to RCOs?

A: A toolkit for RCOs may result from the responses.

Q: How does the process have teeth with investors who are not mandated to abide by the survey responses?

A: The hope is to apply pressure and draw attention to community input. The results may also have info that draws investors.

Q: Can this survey and the report help to secure increased lighting and safety, when the request has gone unaddressed for so long?

A: Safety has come up in the survey, but Connect the Dots has no jurisdiction over lighting, though the Enterprise Center may have more influence in this area.

KIPP Philadelphia Charter Schools (Natalie Wiltshire, COO)

- KIPP stands for "Knowledge Is Power Philadelphia". Their schools serve grades K-12, and they currently manage six schools in North and West Philadelphia, with 2,600 students, 97% of which are African American
- KIPP emphasizes college preparation and career, and is community and family driven/centric.
- They follow students through high school graduation, and assist them whether or not they stay with a KIPP school through grade 12. KIPP students graduate from college at 4.6% times the rate of their neighborhood peers
- There are more than 8,000 students on their waitlist. Admission will be by lottery.
- Their current plan is to move into 4601 Market after the Parkside location fell through.

- KIPP's charter has been approved, and they are now seeking approval for the 46th & Market location. The new school will begin with K-1 and add a grade each year. They plan to open for the 2022-2023 school year, with Matt Rankin as Principal. He is a former teacher at Mastery and KIPP DC.
- KIPP would like to partner with the community for student recruitment and hiring of staff.

Q&A

Q: What impact will the new location have on the Alain Locke School?

A: The charter is a city-wide charter, but KIPP prefers to pull from the community. The Philadelphia School District could require KIPP to implement zip code preferences.

Q: Is there any interaction between KIPP and local public schools?

A: When possible, they will try to partner with local schools.

Q: Is this a new charter?

A: No, they are applying for an amendment to the charter which was approved years ago. They are asking for SHCA support for an amendment to the charter.

Q: What are KIPP stats on student retention?

A: KIPP will follow up with an answer to that question.

Q: Why is there no plan for a high school?

A: The space is spoken for. They have 40,000-50,000 square feet for 500 students.

Q: What kind of outdoor space will they have?

A: Dedicated space for a playground in the courtyard space, which they may be able to open up to the public.

Q: What is the process for the amendment?

A: The amendment has been submitted and partially presented to the school board. All documentation is due on March 11, 2021.

Q: What is Walnut Hill's position?

A: They are not opposed, but made clear they support traditional public schools.

Guest Speaker: Nicole McCoy, Penn Police

- Captain Nicole McCoy, Commanding Officer of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at University of Pennsylvania Police Department (UPPD) provided an update on recent crime in the neighborhood.
- These crimes include an armed carjacking, two assaults at 40th & Pine, and a strongarm robbery at 45th & Osage
- The UPPD will supply police officers to monitor speed at the 43rd & Spruce Street
- A police car is requested to monitor increased running of the STOP sign on 42nd Street at Pine.

UCD Fund Update

- Four Spruce Hill businesses were awarded grants in the amount of \$1,000: Philly Cuts, Sam's Cleaners, Alif Brew & Mini Mart, and Hadramount

May Fair 2021

- A virtual vendor stroll is being planned. It will be through a virtual space, perhaps designed like Clark Park. The idea has been proposed to the 80+ vendors, with 13 responses.

Governance Committee

- The mission is to look at how to improve the nomination process, and they will begin by looking at peer organizations and ask a list of questions they've put together.
- They will try to put together a list of block captains which could be used as a source for expanding the committees

SHCA Executive Committee Update

- Richard Moore meets with Glenn Bryant every month, and he reports that the 19104 zip code is the main culprit of requesting vaccines when not eligible.
- Penn is going through patient lists to give vaccines

Education Committee

- The committee needs a co-chair, and will be revisiting the mission of the committee.

Operations Committee: Nothing to report.

Engagement: Nothing to report.

Bird Sanctuary: Nothing to report.

Business Attraction: Nothing to report.

Permits: Nothing to report.

Crosstown Coalition

- Meeting topics included the AirBNB bill which would require hosts to get commercial activity licenses as well as proposed limited lodging operator licenses for \$150 per year. Current city law requires permits for those renting out homes for more than 90 days in a year.
- Crosstown is generally in favor of the bill, and Barry suggests we let Crosstown take the lead.

Block Improvement: Nothing to report.

Zoning

- At a recent meeting with the developers of 4224 Baltimore they said they are going to begin construction soon, and SHCA has requested drawings
- The SHCA position on the two parking spaces at 4217 Ludlow was supported by the ZBA. Despite that the owner has a permit to demolish the property and can then get approval for an 8-unit building. This is a result of Philadelphia's lax laws that allows any owner to get a permit for demolition.

KIPP Vote

- The general consensus of the SHCA Board is to defer to the position of Walnut Hill
- The letter to KPP will be similar to the Walnut Hill letter, also stating that we defer to Walnut Hill on this matter.