



Spruce Hill Community Association
257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 7:30pm

Meeting location: In Person at SHCA Center 257 S 45th St or remote via Zoom

Attendees: Zoom: see screen shot below

In person: Sylvia Hamerman-Bown, Bridget Lessner, Becca Geller-Puchalsky, Nicole Gawel, Tony West, Richard Moore, Evan Johnstone, Libby Rosof, Rebecca Calkins

Welcome and Introductions (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)

- Thank you Tony and Richard G for getting wi-fi set up
- Jenine is working hard to submit a grant, Sharon Fleming helped, to get all the documentation needed, to support the historical
- May Fair planning meeting – accomplished a lot in a meeting
- People hung up posters around the neighborhood – thank you!

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (February) – motion to approve, none opposed, all in favor.

Speakers –

- **Sergeant William Whartner – Penn police**
 - Sergeant Whartner began by asking whether anyone had any specific concerns – Becca inquired about changes in policing with the new mayor. The city has enacted a couple of new programs
 - septa and school district, hot spots deployed, 40th and market – more officers deployed. Also penn police – to move along kids at dismissal time
 - Friday, Saturday and some of Sunday – ATV's, unruly behavior – weekends and nights.
 - Mayor pulling money from some places to others, very on top of “juvenile” behavior
 - Penn does not have the capacity to address this on their own
 - Evan – 42nd and Osage – targeted, windows broken – Milkcrate Café – 8 windows broken, took out the cameras before breaking the

windows – Sergeant Whartner has reached out to the 18th – “juveniles” breaking windows, previously happened in Northeast, working with the 18th to figure out what time this is happening.

- Barry – seems like a deliberate thing – very systematic in terms of windows that were taking out – took out the cameras, all the windows. Also at Clarkville, Green Line in the past. The place going up on Baltimore having a hard time finding retail who will take the space. Clarkville hit multiple times. Concerning because impacts ability to get commercial properties in operation around here. Whartner will find out from 18th District whether they have any info.
- Monica – car crashes into parked cars, store fronts. Whartner - Officers stationed at several intersections along walnut and spruce – sit at intersections with lights on. Has happened on 40th and locust – sit there for as long as they can. There is no real time frame. Lot of it is “juveniles” – steal a car, floor it. Delivery drivers are leaving their cars out – leave it running, kids jump in. So trying to pre-empt that with flyers. Becca – has been sending photos of crashes to city council, and streets departments.
- In person audience member – who to contact to get the glass etc cleaned up? Sometimes the cars are gone but refuse left behind. Can call sanitation department. CLIP = community life improvement. Would they also clean up the car glass? Yes, they cut high grass, tree limbs, clean up.
- **Sharon Fleming from Constant Springs**
 - Review of application April 17th – nomination for the first quadrant for the spruce hill historic district will be considered by the committee on historical designation of the historical commission. Public process, so far the only input they have received is positive. There is an opportunity for public comment. Will send the info for commenting. Assuming that the committee on historic designation approves, then it will go to the full commission.
 - Feb 29th – submitted grant application for state grant = keystone grant. Philadelphia historic museum commission. 24K requested. Requires a 1-to-1 match. That is about the cost to complete the nomination for the next 3 projects. If selected for funding by the PHC, then can begin work in the fall for quadrants 2, 3 and 4. Matching funding needs to be in hand by January of next year.
 - 2nd quadrant where we have authorized to photograph those properties, sets up the possibility for this to be nominated in late 2024 or early 2025. UCHS has supported the cost of the photography for the next quadrant. PHC wants photos when trees are not leafing, and there is no snow, looking for a cloudy day for

- the photos. Barry – can you email him itemized list of funds needed at different stages? May be able to make some moneys available. Sharon will send that along and forward the grant application.
- Questions? None further.

Committee Updates

- **Zoning (Barry Grossbach)**

- Took up property on 4200 chester avenue – developed by pete stats and pete span (sp?) – next to jubilee. Remedial work. Respected architecture of the structure. Respect the neighborhood where they work. Clientele were USciences students – developed this based on student housing, but now St Joes has moved all the undergrads to Hawk Hill. Has emptied out lots of residential properties in the neighborhood. 4-5 bedroom apartments were not rentable without students. Applied to create additional apartments. Does not increase the number of bedrooms. Creating more rentable apartments.
- Another property – consult architect – for something that looked more attractive. No outdoor space, no basements. Just a front door. Developers will re-think this even though they are not obligated to do it.
- Meeting in April with Andrew Goodman, councilwomans office – she is introducing bill that we have been very concerned about. If putting up a building could put in affordable units, or put in a trust fund. All developers said they would not do affordable units, instead they put money in. Supposedly the money was to come back in some form in residential development. Millions have gone out of our neighborhood – none of it has come back. The money goes into the city budget, it is a mystery. This new initiative is designed to bring the money back into the neighborhoods. Andrew wants to talk to the zoning committee about this. Barry will come back to the board.
- Barry – boards rep on UCD, and exec committee. West Philadelphia Skills Initiative – to train a needed a work force. Enormous success with national attention. People entering the program and going through, are guaranteed a position. Just got from Meckenzie Scott a grant of 4 million dollars to expand the program. Evan – UCD didn't even seek this out, she just gave this out. Win win for all!
- Barry has asked UCD – commercial strips in our neighborhood need some work. Chestnut street – not that great aesthetically or anything else. Can we do something about improving the landscaping? All these developers have put builders up. Met with

Matt Bergheiser, come up with a plan that will get drawings from Nate, ideas for planters from 40th up to 50th street in the bike lanes, then get developers together – we have done this, now what can you do? In terms of planting trees etc. Create something on the ground. Help them get some money. Julie Bush will sit in. Design that might work, will bring back to community associations affected by it – SHCA and Walnut Hill CA to see what we want to do. Need to do something about improving the neighborhood.

- Eric – met with UCD – how do we operationalize the retail survey they did, he thinks they are related – filling the empty spaces. Barry – can work on that with Eric.
- Libby – wondering about their retail studies at UCD, what area do they cover, how far do they go west. Barry – they did one a while back – so much effort keeping their businesses afloat. Empty stores have been mitigated to some extent. Need to get city workers back into the city. Not just our neighborhood undergoing this problem – center city as well. Not sure how recently that occurred.
- **Executive Committee (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)**
 - Donated money to PAS 5K race – can donate the slots back to a family in need
 - Donated to school musical
 - Fran Beyers – over email. Donating to something she cared about. Park something she cared about. Limit is \$300.
- **May Fair (Monica Calkins and Evan Johnstone)**
 - Evan – met as a committee last week – there is another meeting. Permit number. Have to submit insurance information.
 - Music - Evan
 - Trying to get music – WXPB – sponsor the stage or do live broadcast. Not a hard no, but if anything would be next year
 - Also talking to School of Rock – they might be willing to get an inexpensive sound person. Would be a bunch of bands. Potential, could be fun.
 - Another guy trying to reach – Forsythe – likely to get involved as well – music acts.
 - Once we factor in the cost of the stage and so on, is 5,000 – for 60-90 mins
 - JJ Tzoui – talk with him, always throwing block parties and so on – Evan will see where that could go.
 - Food Trucks – please ask food trucks you visit about participating in the Fair – food trucks do not have to pay to participate in the Fair (we also do not pay them 😊)
 - Raffle - Tony

- Solicitation – everybody needs a letter. Tony will print letters for you if you need them.
 - Look at the online form – and approach businesses for contributions to our raffle baskets
 - Large nationwide chains are hard to get items from – small businesses are better because they have to send requests up and down the line
 - We (Tony) can make gift certs if they don't have them
 - Let Tony know if you run into something you need completed (like an online form)
 - Can give the businesses a little “SHCA supports”
 - The sooner people sign up, the better – so Tony knows what isn't being targeted.
- Richard – Evan worked on document to send around to potential sponsors. It is late, but will send out a list of organizations. donate to the Trust instead of SHCA so – Richard and Evan will work on levels.
- Kids games, zoo, and moon bounce are all in place
- Please review the pre-Fair planning document to see where you can sign up. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VFcW5LSBYfOTb6t1cpJpvE-McLMi90bpRfbdItBeLvc/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari) – see above**
- **Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro) – see above**
- **Education (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)**
 - PAS parents - Becca and others – have been trying to get pedestrian plaza intersection of 43rd and Spruce - submitted – someone reviewed and sent it to streets. Soliciting Penn for the money. A few things in place. SHCA contribute? Project is estimated at 21K – painting, planters, artist to help with the design (optional), posts (18K without). 5000 from UCD, and to maintain the insurance, donate the gravel and the soil. PAS = \$2000K. PIC= \$500. UCAL = 0\$. Penn may contribute some. SHCA = \$300 proposed by exec. Motion for \$500 – seconded. But then discussion. Motion withdrawn. Motion for \$300. Exec approves.
 - Traffic calming because cars will have to take wider slower turns. Pedestrians will be safer. Changed the lighting time so pedestrians go first.
 - SEPTA construction will be occurring.
 - Paul Robeson HS – new Principal – Becca's been emailing with new president. Kids to help with May Fair or painting at spruce street. HSA site has a lot of volunteer ops – library help, pretzel sales.
- **Operations (Tony West)**

- Front door broken again. Need to put glass into it.
- Study of the user groups in the building – over the past couple months have updated the calendar. One group unclear if it exists. One group unclear when they actually use the place. One group unclear who the contact is. When that happens, will start to ask all users and tenants, if they have any goods or stuff in the building, so they can begin to clean. Tell us what is yours.
- We now have FIOS – mentioned a scale.
- **Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line)**
 - Meeting with Dominique from UC Green – may need to be more proactive – partnering with them. getting some ideas. Synergy between Spruce up.
 - [also entire block of restaurants on 46th & Woodland – and no one to frequent – hard area to maintain businesses]
- **Crosstown Coalition (Vicky McGarvey)** – no update

All Other Business

- None






































Next Meeting Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05pm

Participants (13)



Q Search

-  Monica E Calkins (me)  
-  SH Spruce Hill (Host)  
-  BG Barry Grossbach  
-  AC Andrew Cullen  
-  CS Craig Santoro  
-  ES Emily Scolnick  
-  EW Eric's Work Phone  
-  FL Frank L Chance (he him his)  
-  JL Jeff Lin  
-  LL Laura Line  
-  LC Linda Cook  
-  MB Marta Bartholomew (she/her)  
-  Sugirtha Stathis 