



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

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:30pm

**Meeting location: In Person at SHCA Center 257 S 45<sup>th</sup> St or remote via Zoom**

### **Attendees:**

**In person:** Monica Calkins, Frank Chance, Richard Moore, Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky, Tony West, Libby Rosof, Nicole Gageel, Andrew Richman

**Zoom:** Vincent Better, Vicki McGarvey, Craig Santoro, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Barry Grossbach, Eric Santoro, Julie Bush, Sugirtha Stathis, Marta Bartholomew, Linda Cook, Laura Line

**Welcome and Introductions** (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)

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

**Speakers** – None this month.

### **Committee Updates**

- **Executive Committee (Becca-Geller Puchalsky)**
  - **May Fair (Becca)**
    - Kudos to all – fantastic team effort! Across board members!
    - Finances – Richard will let us know. We have \$2500 in cash.
    - Food truck worked out well – On the Grill good. Joeys Table – meh – Libby.
    - Table – shortage
    - Royal Flush – need to get refund for hand wash station
    - Music great!
    - Stage could come earlier to make room for the food trucks
    - Zoo hugely popular – keep this zoo
    - Park rangers did not know we were going to be there – Becca will follow up – they were helpful

- Moon bounce/obstacle course – this one needed more people. Ideally 4 volunteers. Should be one way. Circulate the volunteers.
- Will be May Fair – Happy Hour to debrief further
- Book in January – to make sure we have the slot
- Woman selling barbecue – surprised that B busier than A park – set it up after end of the
- JulieBCrafty – it was awesome!
- **Historical district committee (Becca)**
  - May Fair great opportunity to discuss this with folks, and it was all positive.
  - 74 people to sign a petition.
  - Poster was perfect to get the attention – Jenine made it.
  - Sylvia has the poster
  - Jenine – talking points presented by Becca
    - Tons of support through May Fair
    - Jenine will work on setting up a public meeting to focus on tasks. Want to be more about activism/advocacy. Reimbursement for snacks/drinks
    - Upcoming meetings – if can only go to one meeting, the second one is more important, but given how the first meeting went, both are important. If resident of this quadrant, super important for you to attend.
      - June 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM via zoom – PHC Committee Review Meeting
      - July 12<sup>th</sup> – 9AM on zoom – full PHC meeting
  - Becca –
    - Met with 5<sup>th</sup> Square – they are pro development – not necessarily affordable housing. So they are going to oppose historic no matter what. They are a PAC. Tony will do some more research in this org. They are hosting a meeting in the neighborhood. Their meeting is comprehensive, this is one of the topics. Thursday at Resurrection Church – 6-8pm. Will anyone from Spruce Hill come? Barry thinks it is just a social gathering. Julie will go. We are 18-19% homeowners in spruce hill. There are very few homeowners on certain blocks. They put together a petition without discussing anything with us, or learning more.
    - Also at least two PAS families more opposed because they think it will make the school less racially diverse – have not produced data to support.

- Andrew – other groups in support. Becca – a lot of the support is still there. Julie – they are mixing it up with zoning. If you have a parking lot, it will not be contributing. If a building has historic protections, a developer cannot build in the space in front of this building.
- **Zoning (Barry Grossbach) – no update for now.**
  - AirBNB – now beginning to crop up as substitute for property owners.
  - SEPTA proposing to build a shed – 40<sup>th</sup> & Woodland.
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore – rented out a large portion of their retail– a learning day care center is one tenant. They have planted a number of trees. Still negotiating with two potential restaurants – hopefully something will come through soon, working to finalize that. Hope to have people moving in at the end of the month. Construction fences should be coming down tomorrow.
- **Safe Streets (Evan Johnstone):**
  - No committee updates. Relatedly though - move out season. Someone from Penn was designated with a cleaner, greener, move out. Can let this person know if there are any issues around the neighborhood from move out. Barry sent around a note about the Resurrection church, a goodwill drop off place.
  - Mayor Parker slashed parking from vision zero – less money. Monica – so we may never get bollards on Melville street or St marks, intersections with Walnut street (left turn - extreme hazard)
- **Education Committee (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)**
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> and Spruce – moving slowly – pedestrian buffers. Craig – go through PAS? UC ARTS League? Maybe not. Consider local artists.
  - Al Suh – on board of education law center. Friend raising event – to tell them more about what they do – helping kids/teachers know their education rights. Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am, 4528 Pine Street.
- **Operations (Tony West)**
  - Plumbing – raises the question of the condition of the basement. Pick up two trash bags which has no worth every Monday, so space will open up.
  - Immediate challenge is where the rear wall. Impossible to see the wall, because of high quality yarns. And so on. Could it be Pauline Borkon’s things? Will reach out to Rich G on that. Sylvia will go through the yarn. Shelving on that wall. Work with members of the craft club – they can be the source. Books can get distributed. Could do a work day coming up soon to move the books on. Or we could all take them.
- **Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line) –**

- met with UC Green, recorded on IG live – could put it on our FB page.
- **Crosstown Coalition (Vicki McGarvey)**
  - Next meeting day after memorial day
  - Asking RCO's to sign onto a letter – imploring city solicitor to sign on to the bill that passed. Andrew – it's not politics – asking administration to do something. We are allowed to take on some policies.
    - Vicki will send out info to the full board
    - And then exec will take a vote

### **All Other Business**

- **Barry** – final meeting with SJU – U3 advisers wrapping up their planning role in this process. Have had discussions with SJU, have arrived at a draft memo that includes what we heard when U3 came to Spruce Hill. SJU will be at the meeting. Hope they will go out and solicit bids that meet the objectives of the community. They are not disclosing anything – probably have some bids - nothing near settlement. No one has asked to meet yet. Administrative building has just been designated for historic designation. They are keeping the shrubbery, flowers, trees etc up so far.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, June 11th, 2024**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:43pm**