

Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m., October 17, 2017

The Children's Institute

1405 Shady Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

MINUTES

Attendees:

Board: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Rita Botts, Jim Burnham, Rich Feder, Barb Grover, Marshall Hershberg, Mardi Isler, Lois Liberman, Cynthia Morelock, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erika Strassburger, Erik Wagner, Eveline Young

Staff: Marian Lien, Executive Director; Britt Reints, Magazine Editor

Guests: Ann Belser, Print newspaper; Jean Binstock, volunteer & Squirrel Hill Historical Society; Ryan Morden, PA Rep. Dan Frankel's office; Alex Phillips, Pittsburgh City Planning; Ernest Rajakone, Pittsburgh Office of Community Affairs; Kathryn Schlesinger, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group; Helen Wilson, Squirrel Hill Historical Society.

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. Marshall moved and Eveline seconded a motion to approve the September minutes; unanimously approved.

Administrative:

- Rich will email Board members a listing of the requirements and expectations of Board members.
- Board meeting schedule – Nov. 16 is set as our annual meeting with membership, and Nov. 21 will be held for a regular meeting, in case of necessary board business. Rich's teaching schedule MAY require that we change our current Board meeting schedule January through April 2018 to the 3rd THURSDAY of the month. Some Board members have standing commitments on Thursday nights and will be excused to attend meetings during those 4 months. Marshall moved and Lisa seconded a motion to make this change in Board meeting dates if necessary. Unanimously approved.
- Andy Dlinn has resigned from the board.

Financial Report:

Financial reports do not include a reconciliation of bank statements for September and October but should be for our November meeting. We need a volunteer to spend an hour or two each week to enter information into Quicken and to take the deposits to the bank. Erika suggested contacting Pittsburgh Cares for potential volunteers. We definitely need to find an Assistant Treasurer.

Commercial Development and Residential Quality; Built Environment: *(see the written report for details)*

- Gateway Committee – Four trees will be planted at the Beacon entrance to the parking lot between Beacon and Bartlett. The Colcom Foundation has accepted a Letter of Inquiry about financial issues related to O'Connor's Corner.
- Summary of Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing 9-28-17 for 5800 Forward Ave. (former movie theater+corner site). SHUC supported all but one of the variances. The two people who spoke in opposition to the variances presented insufficient substantive objections. The

Zoning Board should make a decision within 45 days. Lori Fitzgerald submitted the letter detailing SHUC's support.

Planning for Nov. 16 Open House/Public Meeting: *(see the written report for details)*

- This meeting will be held in Levinson Hall at the Jewish Community Center (JCC). The Open House will occur from 7-7:45pm and the public meeting on Transportation, Safety and Mobility from 7:45-8:30pm. Karina Ricks of City of Pittsburgh and Mark Magalotti of Pitt will speak about complete street designs. Publicity for the event will include notices in The Jewish Chronicle, Nextdoor Squirrel Hill, Facebook, SHUC's website, posters, JCC's email list, Uncover Squirrel Hill's member meeting and an e-blast to SHUC members.
- Marian will create maps to indicate the table locations of SHUC committees. All committees should brainstorm ideas to promote their efforts with visual images. Contact Marian for assistance.

Development Committee/Events (Treasure Dinner): *(see the written report for details)*

- 3rd annual Shop with SHUC at 10,000 Villages event is scheduled for December 5, 2017. SHUC receives a percentage of revenue received that evening; the greater the gross sales for the evening, the bigger the charitable percentage to SHUC. Encourage friends, neighbors, and relatives to shop there on that evening.
- World Affairs Welcoming Neighbor Brunch event set for November 12. Eveline Young and Dahlia Belinkoff are planning this event. Details will be forthcoming.
- Treasures Dinner. Board members are encouraged to sell ads for the program. Raffle ticket sales are doing well at the Farmer's Market.

Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee: *(see the written report for details)*

Natural Environment (Citizens' Prospect Drive proposal): *(see the written report for details)*

Magazine Report: Fall and Winter Issues *(see the written report for details)*

It has been difficult to get ads for this Holiday issue which will be published Thanksgiving week. All Board members should send ideas to Britt and Marian about how to improve ad sales. The next issue will be published in March 2018.

Executive Director's Report: *(see the written report for details)*

- The September 24th Night Market attracted nearly 7000 attendees.
- The Press Event this morning to promote the contribution to the US Economy of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (immigrants), held in front of Mike Chen's Everyday Noodles was impressive. Bibhuti Aryal, Char and Tiffany Chang Lawson Exec Dir. of Gov. Tom Wolf's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Sec. Dennis Davin from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development, Rich Fitzgerald, Dan Gilman, Corey O'Connor, James Scimecca from the New American Economy, and Mike Chen all spoke. OCA Advocates presented a wonderful Dragon awakening dance ritual which included past CMU student interns and board member Eveline Young took photos. The ceremony included the VIPs in the dotting of the eye ceremony.

- Pedestrian Safety Concerns (especially for Allderdice students) at our 5 streets intersection at Forward/Pocusset/Murray are quite serious while the construction is occurring. In addition to a sidewalk being closed, part of Murray will be restricted as the Action Housing parking structure is being built. Commander Hermann has arranged for 2 bicycle police officers to help with pedestrian crossings immediately before start and end of school day. Karina Ricks of City's DOMI are making plans to add crosswalk across Forward, enlarge the pedestrian refuge near Pocusset and retime the all walk lights. SHUC held a meeting with Mosites and Dr. McCoy of AHS to plan an information campaign to redirect Allderdice students to other transit stops to use and directions for the walking path.
- Adding to this concern is that once Parking Structure for ACTION begins, the sidewalk will close and a pedestrian walkway will have to be created on that side of Murray.
- St Edmunds Academy is postponing their Zoning Board hearing about seeking variances for the expansion of their Field House. They are seeking new designs to minimize the need for zoning variances.
- 4 Mile Run Project – The City of Pittsburgh, Heinz Endowments and the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) are contributing at least \$1 million each to create designs for green infrastructure storm water control. The city will focus on the trails portion. One idea under consideration is to have two trails, one for slower walkers and a wider one for faster travelers. One concern is that the wider trail may be a preliminary move toward installing a road to be used by transit buses, and whether this would be needed or appropriate for a bus route between Hazelwood-Green and Oakland. Board members were encouraged to go to The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy website and complete a survey about this project. No questions were asked about the possibility of a shuttle bus route so if you want to comment on that idea you may fill in the Comments section. *(Note: Results of that survey are now on the Conservancy's website)*

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Grover, Secretary

Chair and ED highlights and updates to follow

Executive Director's Highlights and Updates to the Board October 17, 2017

Litter Patrol Committee

Submitted by Chair Barbara Grover

The September 23 Night Market was, once again, a very successful event. A crowd of 7000 was estimated. It was the fourth and final event in our Beautify Our 'Burgh City Grant. A BIG THANK YOU to Eleanor Hershberg for taking charge of the Litter Clean Up activities on that evening in lieu of my being out of town that day. In addition to Eleanor, thank yous go to the other volunteers which included Jean Binstock, Ann Rose, Kathryn Schlesinger, Marshall Hershberg, Michael Henderson, Ryan Moore, Alana Dickey, Gina Levine, Jacob Sauligross, Naomi Frim-Abrams, and Cherie Maharam. They removed litter from Murray between Bartlett and Forbes prior to and following the event. They also roamed the area throughout the evening, replacing full trash and recycling bags. Volunteers also staffed the SHUC Table to promote our Adopt-A-Block program and sell our remaining T-shirts at the discounted price of \$5.

A debriefing on the Night Market event suggests that we need more volunteers and more trash and recycling bins in the area. The trash and recycling bins need to be placed next to each other. Monitoring the bins for replacement needs to occur about every 30-45 minutes to minimize contamination of the recyclables by trash. We may wish to purchase recycling containers with lids that have a circular hole in top to improve the separation of recyclables from trash. It would be helpful if the volunteers that work prior to the event had a chart showing where vendors are located so we can direct vendors to their locations rather than relying on Marian or just one person with that information.

As part of our Love Your Block Grant, we have ordered 12 cigarette butt receptacles to be placed around the business district. These will be installed sometime this fall.

A group of volunteers from 1000Plus picked up litter on October 7 along Murray between Forward/Pocusset and Forbes.

Adopt-A-Block has a request from the Jewish Federation to conduct a cleanup on December 24 and 26 (corrected dates from last month's report). Dave Grover will handle that request by providing supplies and instructions for where to clean.

Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee

Submitted by Co-Chair Marshall Hershberg

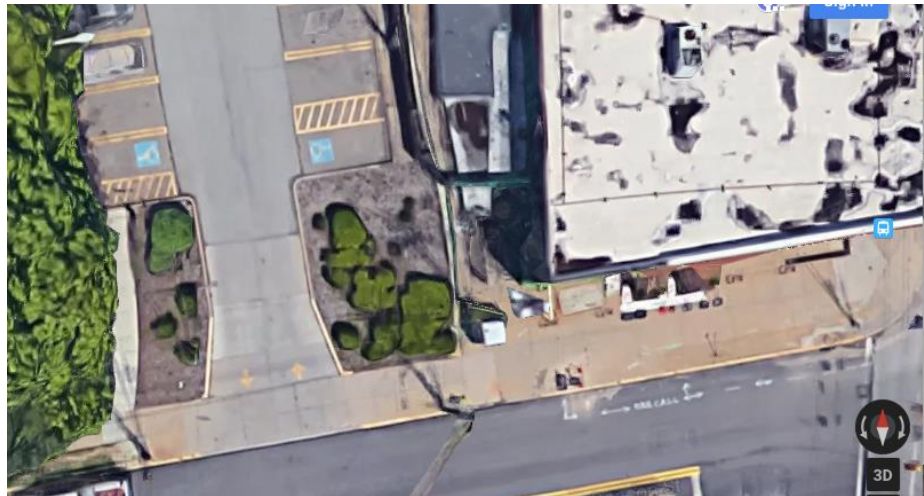
There was no meeting in September. The next meeting is set for Thursday October 19th, and the meeting **AGENDA** is as follows:

- 1 Guest Presentation by Dr. Mark Fichman, retired Professor of Business at CMU. **Topic: "Potential for Dynamic Parking-Pricing in Squirrel Hill"** (concept and overview of research findings)
- 2 Planning & Preparation for the Bike-Ped Committee's Role at **SHUC's 2017 Annual Community Meeting, Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Squirrel Hill J.C.C.**
 - Overview of the Meeting as a Whole
 - Organizing & Planning the Bike-Ped Committee's Table at the Meeting. Suggested components and info to be available for informing community attendees and soliciting their input and follow-up participation (subject to review at the Committee's 10/19 meeting):

- Mary Shaw and Roy Weil's interactive map of bicycle routes in and through Squirrel Hill (existing, planned, and "gaps"; ranking/evaluation sheet)
- Proposed bike trail connecting Greenfield, Sq. Hill, Saline Street, and points beyond (paper drafted by Richard Feder and discussed during the past two years.
- Actions to improve student and general pedestrian safety at and near the F-M-P ("Five-Points") intersection - immediate and longer term.
- Effort to promote neighbors' joining together to improve and maintain sidewalks and crosswalks in the vicinity of their homes.

***Gateway Committee
Submitted by Chair Mardi Isler***

Funding was approved by the Pittsburgh Parking Authority to purchase and plant 4 trees at the Beacon entrance to the parking lot behind Murray Avenue, 3 Princeton Sentry Ginkgo trees on the left and an Accolade elm on the right. This is intended to complement the John Katz plaza which includes 3 Hornbeams and a tree lawn of Cherry trees along Beacon. The Parking Authority has agreed to remove the aged and overgrown shrubs and stumps currently in the islands.



Colcom Foundation staff agreed to forward the Letter of Inquiry submitted requesting funding support for O'Connor's Corner to the Board to determine if an invitation for submitting an application for funding will be entertained. Step one!

***The Built Environment Super Committee
Submitted by Chair Lori Fitzgerald and Marian Lien***

Re proposed development at 5800 Forward Ave. (at Murray): On Sept 28th, a big group testified in support: Councilman O'Connor; Mardi Isler (on behalf of Uncover SH); John Katz and Norm Childs as property owners near that area; and Lori Fitzgerald and Ray Baum for SHUC

Only two opposed: the man who lives on Eldridge and a gentleman who does not live adjacent, so ZBA Chair A. Mitinger accepted his comments but questioned his standing.

Developer Herky Pollock and his team took a while to find their footing as far as making their case for why the zoning variances were necessary (prove hardship). The whole hearing took about an hour. Architect Scott Maritzer described a lot of design. Cindy Jampole described traffic. Attorney Bill Sittig withdrew their condition for on-street parking at this time. The gist of their argument was that parking HAD to have two entry/exit points, and since Forward MUST only be right in/right out, it was necessary that the project connect to Maeburn with parking exit, so therefore it MUST be at least 2-3 stories tall, and therefore it must exceed the 3 story max in order to make the project feasible. Much time was spent making that argument instead of overall density.

(See attached pdf of letter to ZBA dated Sept 28th: Zoning Case #255 of 2017 for the development of a mixed-use, multi-unit apartment building with commercial spaces on the ground floors and integral parking garage to be located at 5800 Forward Avenue.)

***Parks and Open Space Committee
Submitted by Chair Chris Zurawsky***

September 20 – Chris Zurawsky attended a Four Mile Run Watershed Review Meeting at St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline Street, in “The Run” (Greenfield). New conceptual drawings showing two paths through Junction Hollow—an 8-foot wide pedestrian path, and a 20-foot wide bike path/road—were reviewed.

October 5 – A Four Mile Run project update meeting was held at the offices of the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC). Chris attended along with SHUC Executive Director Marian Lien and Marshall Hershberg, co-chair of SHUC’s bicycle and pedestrian committee.

The meeting was hosted by Pittsburgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), and the city’s new Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI). Representatives from OPDC, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Greenfield Community Association, the Hazelwood Initiative and the Panther Hollow neighborhood also attended.

A lively two-hour discussion ensued, focusing in part on the relative merits of URA applying for a federal grant aimed at funding a pedestrian-bike bridge over railroad tracks near Panther Hollow Lake. Also discussed were prospects for a shuttle bus road (publicly or privately owned) running through Junction Hollow from Oakland to Hazelwood, as well as the potential conflicting and complementary interests of long-standing stormwater mitigation efforts in the park and “The Run” neighborhood versus more recent plans to implement a transportation corridor. DOMI Director Karina Ricks said that small-scale electric vehicles capable of moving 10 or so people could be a first step in enhancing transportation through the area.

***Development Committee/Treasure Dinner
Submitted by Chairs Erika Strassburger and Ray Baum***

On Saturday, November 11, hundreds of Pittsburghers will get together at dinner tables across the region to share a meal and get to know their neighbors better. We are hosting one in Squirrel Hill, organized by board and Development Committee members Eveline and Dalia. More to come after a planning meeting tomorrow.

Shop with SHUC at Ten Thousand Villages has been set for Tuesday Dec 5th. After the Nov. 2 Treasure dinner is over Development Committee will come back together and focus on this event.

We are ahead of schedule with the number of Treasure Dinner tickets sold, essentially having sold out several weeks ahead of the event. We are limiting sales to 210 with the assumption that 10 or so won't show. 200 is capacity. We are holding 15 tickets for board members who have not yet purchased tickets.

Sponsorship is now up to \$35,100.

We need board member assistance selling raffle tickets. Each board member should have received 10 tickets to sell; however, you are welcome to sell more! We continue to sell tickets at the Farmer's Market every Sunday morning in two-hour blocks (9-11am and 11am-1pm). Please sign up to help if you can.

Program ads are slowly trickling in. Deadlines were Monday the 16th. But we will take up to this Friday the 20th if we know the size by Wednesday the 18th.

Raffle tickets are selling well at the Farmer's Market. If you would like to sign up, there are still 2 two-hour shifts available for Sunday October 29th 9am and 11am.

Magazine Committee Updates Submitted by Editor Britt Reints

Holiday issue is currently at about \$9k sold
Trying to pinpoint what is affecting lower revenues, talking to advertisers, etc.
Promoting a special for holiday Squirrel Hill gift guide in this edition.
Holiday issue due to come out week of Thanksgiving.

Executive Director's Highlights and Updates Submitted by Marian Lien

September 24th last Night Market of the year:

Over 7,000 attendees per officers; 110 tents and vendors; 14 food trucks and other eats; 4 live bands; 21 volunteers; 21 50-gallon bags of trash and recycling

Pedestrian Safety at Forward-Murray-Pocusset Corner:

Worked with Mosites Construction/ACTION Housing, Allderdice HS Principal Tim McCoy, Zone 4 Commander Dan Herman for safer student pedestrian crossing at corner, particularly for students riding the 61 lines inbound. Cmdr Herman has stationed 2 police officers at that corner one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon to assist pedestrians.

Met with Karina Ricks and Councilman O'Connor to learn the city will be drawing in "missing" crosswalk across Forward; re-time the walk lights to be user-triggered; and consider enlarging the pedestrian refuge at the end of Pocusset and Murray; 1) cue cars to slow down as they go into the right turn only lane (onto Forward and parkway) and 2) allow pedestrians to safely await changing lights.

Proteus Foundation:

2016-2017 grant's-end report submitted;
Submission of year-2 funding request;
SHUC approved for another year's funding at \$10,000 for operational use.

Treasure Awards Filming on September 27th

13 people interviewed (and one therapy dog) in 8 hours. Cost: \$2850

Annual Public Neighborhood Meeting and Open House

7pm to 9pm, November 16th at the JCC

Proposed agenda—

7:00pm: Open house/interactive tabling by SHUC committees

7:45pm: Guests Karina Ricks and Matt Magalotti will speak on Transportation Safety and Mobility

1. Introduction to City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
2. Building blocks of design of “Complete Streets”
3. Pedestrian signal heads and actuation, signal phasing and timing, crosswalks, bulb-outs
4. One example of how a street or intersection in the city was improved by the city
5. How Transportation safety and mobility issues the city will be addressed in Squirrel Hill
(Use Forward-Murray-Pocusset intersection and vicinity as example)

Organizing committee members include Rich, Marshall, Chris, Mary, Lisa, and Marian

St. Edmunds Expansion of Field House

Will be postponing ZBA hearing due to unexpected budget overrun (core sampling that impacts the foundation work for the new space was not as expected). “We have decided to take some additional time to refine our design and ensure we are maximizing our budget as the best possible stewards of our campaign.” St. Edmunds will be looking ahead to see if new designs can minimize need for zoning variance. They will be contacting SHUC when they are ready to share plans with neighborhood.

5737 Hobart dumpster enclosure/ Nov 2nd ZBA Hearing

Owner: Kashi David & Aliza / Applicant: City Studio

16’x4’ dumpster enclosure with 5ft high fence. (minimum 25ft front setback required and 0ft requested

minimum 10ft interior side setback required and 3ft requested)

As Welcome, Neighbor! Pittsburgh Region Dinner organizational host: SHUC asked by Vibrant Pittsburgh and World Affairs Council if we’d like to be a host for their annual community-wide event on NOVEMBER 11th to bring people together to discuss ways to make our region more welcoming. Eveline and Dalia will be heading up the effort with 2 SHUC members Jasmine Cho and Anupuma Pain. From potluck to catered meal with per plate user fee, there are ways to have this event without incurring organizational cost.

Met with Lisa Steindel for new Board member orientation. Eveline Young and Dalia Belinkoff scheduled for later in October.

CMU graduate intern Abhishikta Pal working on new Parking count in SH commercial district and more efficient traffic flow design of Get-Go station.

Allderdice HS student intern Alana Dickey working on Treasure Dinner spreadsheets and program ad book