

Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m., January 19, 2017

The Children's Institute

1405 Shady Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Board Meeting Minutes

Board: Ray Baum, Mary Shaw, Marshall Hershberg, Vivian Didomenico, Lisa Murphy, Michael Henderson, Jim Burnham, Gina Levine, Erika Strassburger, Mardi Isler, Rich Feder, Cindy Morelock, Eric Wagner, Lois Liberman

Staff: Marian Lien, Executive Director

Guests: Erin Copeland, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy; Ryan Morden, Dan Frankel's Office; Barry Stein, community resident

Meeting began at 7:05pm. Acceptance of Dec 20, 2016 Board meeting minutes: Mardi moved to accept; Gina seconded.

Financial Report – 2016-2017: (see attached Balance and P & L sheets)

Treasure Dinner: allocations are not finalized.

Finance Committee: Form 990 has been completed; Gina will share more with us next month. Ray will draft a Conflict of Interest policy for the Board. All will sign/address next month.

Erin Copeland of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:

The problem of storm water mitigation must be addressed in order to reduce flooding, improve economic impact, and improve water quality (has public health implications). The problem is a \$3 billion regional problem that must be addressed. Instead of \$3 billion of expanded water and sewer infrastructure, there is an alternative proposal to use \$1 billion of that on Green Infrastructure addressing the water issues but also bring community improvements. Improvements in Squirrel Hill such as non-paved median strips and pervious pavements, plus a project in the business district, will positively impact 4-Mile Run Watershed including restoring Panther Hollow Lake and addressing flooding. SHUC working with PPC and PWSA have already contributed to a specific improvement in Schenley Park at the meadow between Beacon and Bartlett Streets, that has had a significant positive impact.

Four

Natural Environment (parks, storm water, golf clubhouse etc.):

Mardi suggested that Tree Pittsburgh representatives be invited to the SHUC Natural Environment committee, which will be meeting soon under the chairmanship of Chris Zurawasky. (Later announced as Parks and Open Space Committee.)

Golf Course club house: (see attached report)

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SHUC is partnering with Councilman O'Connor's office and Mayor's office on a public process on a new Schenley Park golf course clubhouse. The current building is unsafe with electrical, sewage and other operational, maintenance and design issues. Schenley Park is designated historic though the building itself is not (except in context in the park). Need to address these aspects in the design of the new building, including possible salvage of any historic items from the old building for display in new building. There was a public meeting held on January 5th and the next meeting may not be for 6-9 months because detailed engineering and architectural work has not yet begun. Need to address current uses of the park (hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers, cross country skiers/etc.) in addition to golfers. There is interest from neighbors that the intensity of usage of the new building be similar to that of today's building. At this point the intended design is to not significantly change the level of usage, though there will be specific changes particularly to improve the financial viability of the facility. Including building leasable office space for rent.

Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee: (see attached report)

Met with Natalie from Uncover Squirrel Hill (USH). USH is happy to work with SHUC on Ped-Bike issues. City of Pittsburgh Healthy Ride program: Councilman Gilman sent a letter of support to the committee's suggestions regarding Healthy Ride.

Mary Shaw has been leading a process to develop a Bike Route Plan for Squirrel Hill intended for input to Pittsburgh's proposed Bicycle Plan. She has developed an interactive map indicating missing trail segments in Squirrel Hill area. Information on the ideas for Squirrel Hill was distributed and a broad overview was given. SHUC wants a seat at the table for master plan and wants SHUC Board support for sending out to a wider audience for comment. There was agreement to do this. Suggestions for soliciting public comment include putting in Spring issue of the Squirrel Hill Magazine with the link to the proposed plan.

Development Committee: (see attached report)

End of year letters went out to members. No specific campaign to solicit funding but a summary of what a great year SHUC has had with membership help. Surprised by positive response of donations: over \$8k in contributions have so far come in, and 4 new members from Magazine membership forms have arrived.

2nd Annual Lunar New Year celebration in Squirrel Hill includes kick off event on Jan. 28th at JCC from 1:00 – 5:00; Feb 12th – parade at 11:00am.

Commercial Development and Residential Quality: (see attached report)

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- Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment approved residential condo project at former Hirsch funeral home site at Forward/Murray (Squirrel Hill Gateway District). Final design is underway.
- Action Housing/Jewish Residential Services residential/office project has funding in place and is in final design. Smokestack remains a concern; funding is not in place to take it down and it may be problematic environmentally or structurally. If it does not come down before building it will be much more difficult to take it down when the new buildings are in place.
- CMU graduate student hotel study completed and it looks like a hotel might be viable. Based on student comments so far, Movie Theatre may be best site.
- Trail/pedestrian overpass is part of the proposal for a new bike route connecting Greenfield and Squirrel Hill to the regional bike route system – need city transportation planners and engineers to get involved.
- In addition to a hotel, High Tech offices as a theme for development of the Gateway District would add value for developing the district and enhancing vitality of Squirrel Hill; and it could garner support and generate funding.

Litter Patrol: (see attached report)

Committee is working on a number of projects to raise awareness and money for beautifying Squirrel Hill and keeping it litter free. Planning for the April community spring clean up event will begin on January 25th.

Magazine Report Winter and Spring Issues: (see attached report)

Britt currently soliciting content for Spring and needs 100-150 words from SHUC committee chairs; ads for spring issue are at approximately \$8K (chasing another \$2K) this is far from the \$15K needed. Marian is meeting with Britt to find another ad salesperson.

Executive Director's Report: (see attached report)

Residential Parking Permit proposal for Forbes-Denniston area: the local group has enough signatures to move forward. Next step: License plate survey to identify local vs. those out of the area. This process may get tabled as the RPP gets revamped in the next year. Marian has made contact with the Principal at Yeshiva to address their parking needs that are impacting the area. Marian and Lori will meet to discuss possible solutions to neighborhood parking issues.

SHUC has a new wifi server: now all SHUC Board Members can have a SHUC email account – let Marian know if you would like an account.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56pm.