

Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m., January 18, 2018

The Children's Institute

1405 Shady Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

MINUTES

Attendees:

Board: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Jim Burnham, Vivian Didomenico, Rich Feder, Barb Grover, Michael Henderson, Marshall Hershberg, Gina Levine, Lois Liberman, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner, Eveline Young, Chris Zurawsky

Staff: Marian Lien, Executive Director; Rosemary Bernth, Magazine Editor

Guests: Ann Belser, Print; Joseph Ott, First National Bank; Ernest Rajakone, Office of Community Affairs.

Meeting began at 7:08 pm. Marshall started and continued to run the meeting as Rich Feder was delayed by a previous meeting. Jim moved and Vivian seconded a motion to approve the December minutes; unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

Our Net Income as of December 31, 2017, was \$37,166. The Treasures dinner income covered the slight deficits during the first part of year. Marion indicated that \$2000 in checks recently received are not accounted for in the written report. Lois moved and Ray seconded a motion to accept the financial report; unanimously approved.

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

Meetings are now held bi-monthly. The next meeting is Feb 8, 6:30 – 8pm JCC Room 202. Purpose is to hear about HealthyRide Pittsburgh's latest plan for bike-share station locations in the neighborhood. (Note: Meeting was later postponed when HealthyRide indicated that they are no longer available to meet on Feb. 8.

Major highlight of the committee's projects:

Multi-Modal Transportation program for the Forward-Murray-Pocusset Intersection and vicinity. They are working with Karina Ricks (Dept. of Mobility and Infrastructure). Also awaiting any further input from the Gateway Committee that may be forthcoming.

Phase 1 focuses on improving the connection between Greenfield and South Squirrel Hill. It includes installing a crosswalk across lower Forward, creating a path between the Medical Marijuana building and Beechwood Blvd/Monitor St., a protected 2-way bike lane along the east side of lower Forward, separate pedestrian sidewalk, and integration with existing parking. Concurrent will be signalization improvements for Forward-Murray-Pocusset Intersection.

Phase 2. The committee is working to get another protected bike lane under the Greenfield Bridge toward 4-Mile Run to connect to the Junction Hollow trail to get to downtown, Oakland, etc.

Preliminary plans for Healthy Ride: install 3 stations for 6 bikes each at 1) Forbes & Shady, 2) near giant Eagle, and 3) Forbes and Murdoch by Temple Sinai.

Commercial Development and Residential Quality; Built Environment:

Discussion occurred about the Board creating a policy related to Zoning Board issues (e.g., a recent example involving rezoning an area from R2 (2 family dwellings) to R1 (single family dwellings)). Consensus seemed to be for SHUC to provide information/advice/resource list to those who request assistance from SHUC about Zoning issues. No one was assigned this responsibility.

5516 Aylesboro – The owner of this property had seven trees removed and excavation began for a new dwelling. Neighbors were surprised and concerned about these activities. Some called SHUC. Legally the owner was well within his rights to take these actions. He did have conversations with immediate neighbors and gave Marian his cell phone number and said anyone could call him. This action raised the issue of preservation of older homes in the neighborhood.

St. Edmund’s proposed campus revision – A new design is being proposed and will be discussed at a public meeting on Feb 13. They have asked the SHUC Board to provide a letter of support to present to the Planning Commission meeting by Feb. 20. No action taken.

Gateway – 5800 Forward – Developer Herky Pollock got all the variances he asked for. He withdrew one variance for the loading/docking area. SHUC supported the height and density variance. He will be responsible for taking down the stack. The collapsing street is not involved in any of these variances. Lisa Steindel will contact Mardi Isler about the possibility of another “Welcome to Squirrel Hill” sign near this building.

The Bowling Alley is closing; developer John Katz is looking for something innovative to include in that area.

Registered Community Organization (RCO) process:

The members (SHUC included) of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) discussed the issue of having community organizations be registered. Issues involved how much information would be provided to the public (e.g., minutes of all meetings, IRS 1099 forms), what criteria would the city set to be a registered organization, renewal period, 501C3 designation, etc. Creating an ordinance is a work in progress.

Development Committee/Events:

Katelyn Haas is a good, new volunteer.

Lunar New Year Kick off is Saturday Feb. 17; Parade is March 4 – Minadeo School children will make lanterns and a dragon head and participate in the parade. Chatham is sending 8 volunteers for the Kickoff and Parade.

Natural Environment (4 Mile Run Corridor Mobility Study): *(see the written report for details)*

Mary Shaw suggested the Board provide a letter to the city expressing support for 7 major points delineated in her written report. A suggestion was made to include information

about the coordination/interface of that project with others occurring in Squirrel Hill. Ray moved and Gina seconded a motion to have Rich draft such a letter and share it with the Board.

Litter Patrol: *(see the written report for details).*

Litter patrol volunteers will staff a table at the Lunar New Year Kickoff, Feb. 17 and will clear the streets of litter prior to and following the Lunar New Year Parade on March 4. The patrol has begun a new, “Good Neighbor” campaign to encourage merchants to maintain their sidewalks in good repair and keep them free of litter, leaves, and snow/ice.

Suggestions from Board members about other projects the Litter Patrol might consider are:

1. Coordinate with Uncover Squirrel Hill about “street furniture” placement, adding more trash and recycling bins. The Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee compiled a “Street furniture” location list from awhile back. Perhaps Litter Patrol could update it.

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

Spring Issue theme is Breaking New Ground. Rosemary and Marian are working on more efficient ways to deal with invoices. Problems with postal service seem to result in some vendors not receiving invoices. Considering doing more online through PayPal.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Grover, Secretary.