

Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m., February 15, 2018

The Children's Institute

1405 Shady Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

MINUTES

Attendees:

Board: Ray Baum, Rita Botts, Vivian Didomenico, Rich Feder, Barb Grover, Lois Liberman, Cindy Morelock, Lisa Murphy, Josh Sayles, Mary Shaw, Eveline Young (on the phone), Chris Zurawsky

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

Guests: Ann Belser, Print; Jean Binstock, Squirrel Hill Historical Society, Jan Kurth, Print; Ben & Rachel Lecrons (??), residents; Ryan Morden, Office of Rep. Dan Frankel; Ernest Rajakone, Office of Community Affairs; Helen Wilson, Squirrel Hill Historical Society; Pedro Quintanilla, Michael Baker International

Meeting began at 7:03 pm. Lois moved and Vivian seconded a motion to approve the January minutes; unanimously approved.

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

Preparations are underway for the April 22 Community Clean Up, 9am-1pm. Registration at the corner of Forbes and Murray, under the library as usual. Board volunteers are needed to staff the SHUC table and for other tasks. A "Good Neighbors" campaign to encourage merchants to keep their sidewalks in good repair and free of litter, leaves, snow/ice has been started. The Litter Patrol will be working with Heather Graham at Uncover Squirrel Hill. Litter Patrol volunteers will staff a table at the Lunar New Year Kick off and clean up the streets prior to and following the Lunar New Year Parade. We will also be participating in the SHUC/Minadeo Grant to foster civic engagement. Carole Wolsh, one of our volunteers, is working with Phipps Conservatory on this event, scheduled for April 11. Next meeting is March 19, 6:45—8:30pm at Barb's home.

Magazine Report: *(see the written report for details).*

Rosemary has been personally contacting merchants to start to build a relationship with them. Katie Hatcher is a new magazine intern who has a Master's Degree in publishing. She will be working 3 hours/twice a week and will be focusing on social media. Starting to look at 45th anniversary of SHUC. The Summer Issue theme is Home Made and Home Grown, highlighting local crafts and foods. This theme fits well with our Night Markets.

4-Mile Run Corridor Mobility Study presentation: Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure, Michael Baker International: *(see the written report for details).*

Engineering consultant from Michael Baker, Pedro Quintanilla provided an update on the transit planning effort for the 4-mile Run Corridor (Mon-Oakland Mobility Study). Employed by the city, they will hold two more public meetings with residents from the communities impacted by these plans (i.e., Oakland, Hazelwood, and Greenfield). Pedro presented and discussed the pros and cons of the five mobility passageways and public transit vehicular shuttle alternatives. The city will try to get private funds to build a shuttle system. The shuttles would be able to talk to each other so one could pull off to allow the other to pass. The planning study is ongoing. After February, there will be one more public meeting in late March/April.

Issues raised during the discussion included:

- Prefer the use of electric vehicles
- Consider a “skyhook” (possibility of a tram from the river elevation direct to the Oakland bluff)
- Keep pedestrians/bikes separated from vehicles
- Don’t remove any existing ped-bike connections
- Minimize the time any of the trails would be closed during construction
- Need additional information about ridership numbers, rush hour traffic at some of the intersections

Next Public Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 20, Pittsburgh Fire Station on 2nd Ave. in Hazelwood.

Commercial Development and Residential Quality; Built Environment:

St. Edmund’s school expansion: The expansion will enhance the exterior appearance of the building without any change in the population of the school or in the neighborhood (except for improved identification signage). The interior changes will make the entire building handicap accessible. Only Ray Baum and a member of the Church of the Redeemer attended the most recent public meeting.

Ray moved and Cindy seconded a resolution for SHUC to provide a letter of support for these plans. Unanimous approval. Ray will write the letter.

Five Points Bakery on Wilkins Avenue wants to expand using the former Wheel Deliver space. This expansion requires a special exception from the Zoning Board at its meeting on Thursday, 2/22. No neighbors seem to be opposed and the owner has a list of neighbors who support the expansion. Overall commercial square footage will not increase so traffic and parking impacts should be moderate. Ray moved and Rita seconded a motion for Ray to attend the Zoning Board meeting and support the expansion if there is no opposition and request a postponement if there is. Unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

Mardi successfully received grant funding from Colcom Foundation for incidentals including outside CPA and office overhead for O’Connor’s Corner. On the Profit and Loss statement, the column headed Ted Youth needs clarification. Most of the grants (about \$115,000) received between 2014 and 2017 were earmarked for specific projects. (See detailed grant funds breakout report for last 4 years).

Development Committee/Events; Lunar New Year, other:

Executive Director's Report including Registered Community Organization (RCO) process: *(see the written report for details).*

Lunar New Year Parade March 4: Murray will close at 9am from Phillips to Forbes. Parade starts at Phillips parking lot; Minadeo’s student-created dragon will participate; 100 lanterns will be hung along Murray and Forbes.

Minadeo Grant: Enhancing Civic Engagement–

January: Marian conducted a session

February: Engineers will discuss career opportunities

March: (still in discussion, may be local restaurateur)

April 11: Litter Patrol in conjunction with Phipps Conservatory will discuss trees and plants

May: Local Farms will discuss raising and cooking food.

Administrative:

Medical Marijuana Facility: Marian, Rosemary and various board members attended a pre-opening ceremony at which PA Senator Jay Costa and Councilman Corey O’Connor spoke. Corey spoke about the transit plans for the area, supportive of SHUC’s plans.

Action Housing expects to complete construction in November 2018.

Registered Community Organizations. City wants to finalize this Ordinance Amendment in March and is taking comments until next week. SHUC boundaries would be Squirrel Hill North & South rather than 14th ward, since that involves a number of other organizations (e.g., Regent Square, 14th Ward groups, Point Breeze).

Highlights of the discussion are:

- SHUC has a very robust public process when specific projects are considered, as well as its annual meeting/open house and its participation in and sponsoring of community events;
- SHUC should be more open about our ongoing activities to encourage more engagement from the residents, including expanding our use of social media;
- Add: Conditional Uses, Use Exceptions and Special Exemptions;
- Community Group responsibilities are quite specific and stringent;
- City responsibilities are very vague.

The Board postponed any action until the ordinance is revised and presented to City Council.

Political Activity policy draft:

Highlights of the discussion are:

- Reduce the length;
- Create 2 separate documents – one general policy statement and one specific to what Board members can and cannot do;
- Add consequences if a Board member violates the policy;
- The document(s) do not need to be part of SHUC's By-Laws;

Mary Shaw will send a copy of CMU's policy to Ray. All suggested changes should be sent to Ray.

Other business:

“Management of Budget” process is now available on the Pittsburgh City website. It shows how the tax dollars are spent.

City of Pittsburgh Academy is an 11- week course (free to the public) on Wednesday evenings. The course is designed to allow participants to become familiar with city government.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Next meeting. March 15, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Grover, Secretary

February SHUC Board Meeting Chairs and Executive Director's Updates

February 15, 2018

Litter Patrol Report

Submitted by Chair Barb Grover

At our Steering Committee meeting on January 22 in preparation for our April 22 Community Clean Up, we decided on publicity plans and tasks to be done (e.g., recruiting volunteer groups, obtaining tables & chairs from the city, obtaining donations for food and drinks, staffing the table stations, Minadeo/Community Day awards). Generally, plans are similar to what we have done the past few years.

One new plan is to ask our volunteers to take before and after photos of their litter clean up efforts on April 22 to post on our Facebook page and website. We also hope to provide decal awards to our initial “Good Neighbors” for keeping their sidewalks in good repair and free of litter, leaves, snow/ice. We expect to contact Uncover Squirrel Hill’s new director, Heather Graham, about being on the Agenda of one of their meetings to explain our campaign and gain their input.

Litter Patrol volunteers will staff a table at the February 17, Lunar New Year Kick Off and clean up the streets prior to and following the Lunar New Year Parade on March 4. We will provide bags, gloves, and safety vests to a group of Jewish Federation volunteers to complete a clean up.

We will participate in a SHUC – Minadeo Grant project to foster civic engagement. Carole Wolsch is working with Minadeo and the Phipps Conservatory to present a program on trees and their value to the environment. We hope to provide the students with small pots, soil and seeds for them to plant.

We received the labels for our cigarette butt receptacles and so are now ready to place them on city trash cans in various locations around our business district along Forbes and Murray.

Our next Steering committee meeting is March 19, 2018, 6:45 – 8:30pm at Barb and Dave Grover’s home.

(No other Chair reports received)

SHUC Executive Director’s Report and Highlights to the Board Submitted by Marian Lien

Administrative Updates:

By-laws ad hoc committee members out of country (Eveline) and on medical leave (Mardi). Hope to have draft for board review at March meeting.

Draft of SHUC Political Activity Policy: (see handout)

Action Item: all suggestions by 3/5 for final version to be emailed out to board for approval at March meeting.

Revised Draft of RCO Legislation: (see handout)

Action Item: Need all public comments by end of February

Minadeo Grant Update:

Dates chosen for community leaders to visit school

Jan 30th: Whole School assembly given by Marian Lien re: Asia and the Lunar New Year
Feb 13th& 22nd: Making dragon head and body; paper lanterns and hand drums for parade participation

February 21st: February 21, Google Outreach/Career Development Presentation by Ceci Morgan
10-10:45AM room 121: 4th and 5th grade students
11:00-11:45AM room 124: 3rd and 4th grade African American boys (22)
12-1:00PM room 103: 4th grade class (21)

March: still confirming restaurant professional

April 11th: Education Dept of Phipps Conservatory to give class on sustainable plant life; hands-on planting of herbs by Sarah
May: still confirming local farming professional

Lunar New Year Celebration

February 17th: Need board members to help at SHUC table to sell T-shirts and greet community: 12-2pm / 2-4pm / 4-6pm

March 4th: Need assistance at the parade staging area (Public Parking lot near Murray and Phillips

Candidates Town Hall Forum: Thursday, February 22, from 7-9 PM at the JCC

SHUC along with Bend The Arc Pittsburgh, The League of Women Voters, the Community Relations Council of Jewish Federation and the Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement will be hosting a Candidates Town Hall Forum for the City of Pittsburgh City Council District 8 open seat. Audience questions will be encouraged and collected to be posed to the candidates by moderator Ann Belser of Print Newspaper. Community groups have been invited and are encouraged to table.