

November 19, 2019

Board Meeting Notes

Board Attendees: Raymond Baum, Jill Beck, Dalia Belinkoff, Vivian Didomenico, Richard Feder, Lori Fitzgerald, Barbara Grover, Michael Henderson, Marshall Hershberg, Martha Isler, Paul Katz, Lois Liberman, Cynthia Morelock, Lisa Murphy, Joe Ott, Mary Shaw, Erik Wagner, Eveline Young

Staff: Maria Cohen

Guests: Ose Akinlotan (Neighborhood Planner), Hersh Merenstein (Mayor Peduto's office), Michael Delano (Neighbor), Anita Gordon (Neighbor),

The October Notes were approved. Lois Approved, Mary Seconded

1. October P&L – We are in a very healthy position mostly due to the Treasure Dinner.
2. Community Banking – good organization to keep eyes on – Natural ally according to Joe and Ray. Joe will help Maria to understand which meetings she should attend.
3. Comcast grant and The Pittsburgh Foundation Grant – We were given \$250 grant from comcast and \$200 from the Pittsburgh Foundation. Both will go toward litter patrol supplies. Barb Grover very generously donated \$5,000 to SHUC. This will greatly help us in our mission to keep our neighborhood vibrant!
4. Mardi – we have the room at the JCC through 2020 and could be bumped to another room at least 9/10 meetings will be here.
-Lori – will our annual meeting be in September? We need to decide.
5. Donor letter – Dalia created a letter, one page with stationary. We will get it out right after Thanksgiving. (Should we include the SHUC summary or anything else?)
6. Shenley Park – Laura Wein -Mardi had just learned the Mon-Oakland project and loss of tree canopy about a week before the Executive meeting. This could take out 30% of the canopy. We are not planning to write a letter of support and are not ready to support it. The Mayor will set up a mediation session when there is tree canopy loss and then Dan Gilman. The board sent criteria in February 2018.

They were proposing 3 trails. There was discussion of a need for a trail separate for serious biking commuters. We should take the statement from February and add the tree canopy. We would like to reaffirm the previous position.

Hersh Merenstein will help to get us some answers.

Tree canopy at top of the list.

The trail should be kept open during construction.

We need to better understand the Shuttle bus service – hours and sizes of vehicles

Meeting this Thursday, 11/21 6 – 8 pm @ the Center of Life Hazelwood.

Tell Laura what we are planning to do and we will copy her.

2. Phipps Mellon Park Garden Center – We will host a December 10th public meeting 6:30 – 8 pm. We will see the lay of the land and create a letter. Phipps will present. Corey and Erika will be there. Erika will attend but not speak. We want to make sure all info is updated. Will try to send details in advance of the meeting.

Ray – Personal Elizabeth Seeman was given a grant in Memory of her daughter. We need to rehab the building. What is the impact on the neighbors? It will be a living building with a unique set of requirements. We are trying to get the facts out and mediate. Only 22 living buildings. This would be the 3rd in Pittsburgh. Can it be done? Need to talk about the greater good. We need the facts before us. Very upfront and we will be the honest, balanced broker.

The Point Breeze Association doesn't generally take positions on areas like this. Leadership has decided not to co-sponsor.

Friends of Mellon Park meeting with Cindy Berger, Elizabeth Seemen. Erika Straussburger has been very involved. The group will be a 501 (3) c. They will also raise money to keep the park in good shape.

MOU – O'Connor Park. Were we involved? Mary

Ray – we were not as involved.

Mike Gable from Public Works has the final say.

The classrooms and spaces are too small!

3. Port Authority Letter – BRT (taking trees out of the city and preventing planting)

Support application for funding. All about improvements. We have plans for what is happening on Murray Ave.

We want to make sure that the bus stop at Forward and Murray goes permanently in Front of Starbucks. If the stop is moved, they would need to take out bike racks, street lights and trees.

There was a response from Port Authority and from Michael about the garden space. He is happy to give back to the community. The conservancy will provide him with tools etc. for volunteers. They will fix wall etc.

4. We need to have a policy for recommendations and letters from the Board.

Joe Ott - To the extent that time is not an issue, have an issue with not bringing it to a vote.

Is there a policy that we can recommend?

Mary policy- If there is time to bring it up at the next board meeting. If it is 24 hours, too late. If there is 48 hours or more send an email to the board. Share what is happening, the plan and ask for board input. We are moving forward. If you have an opinion please share by DEADLINE.

Mary motioned in the matter in letters of support it should come up at next board meeting. See above. 2nd by Joe Ott. All in favor.

Ray – this was consistent with what the board has done in the past.

5. New Business

Hersh Merenstein from Mayor Peduto's office came in to share announcements.

Announcements – Free parking on November 30th – Small Business day

20/20 census is always hiring \$18.50 20/20 census.gov

*Send out info to board - city and county both working on it.

-The Budget address is on the city utube.

-Snow angels – volunteers to shovel for seniors and those with disabilities.

-golden shovel award, manor tickets and other prizes will be given to volunteers.

-Shady and Wilkins will have construction on the holidays. Better chirping signals and left turn/other lanes.

-Lead service replacement- please watch out in Greenfield.

-Will any revenue be given to baseball field improvement? – Joe

Plan: Equity will play a role. Maintenance will be considered.

There are 5 parks.

Have 8 pruners for the entire city and they go in parks one day a week.

We could advertise and recruit tree pruners.

Can we put in more trees Forbes and Murray? The owner of the property must sign. As we go up Murray the owners won't sign. We can still do it but we would need a resolution from council.

Should we go ahead to do it? Hersh will speak to the office

Mayor's goal – increase tree canopy by 6% for the city.

6. Tree planting Saturday, November 23rd 9 -12 pm. 1606 Dennison – Trying to see if the 6 trees on Murray may or may not be planted by volunteers. 3 levels of tree species dependent upon wires. There are hundreds of volunteers in Squirrel Hill.
7. December 3rd Meeting about school board – A+ schools will give us a report. A board rep will come. There are several reps. What is the justification? We will have minutes. There is still a lawsuit still pending. If the lawsuit goes through we will loose \$70 Million. Fair funding and base level won't decrease. Right now it is only the increase. This is a serious issue.

We would pay for results.

A packet went out for A+ Schools.

8. Wine Walk Saturday, December 7th 4 – 8 pm
9. Jill events volunteer committee – Invigorate events with SHUC. Time to spread our wings. We need some help. A few solid events for next year.
 - One idea quarterly Happy hour – at a home and/or invite community to a local bar.
 - Bigger next fall – maybe a branded race

Joe Ott motioned to close.