

Board Attendees: Raymond Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Guy Costa, Vivian Didomenico, Lori Fitzgerald, Heather Graham, Sarika Goulatia, Marshall Hershberg, Mardi Isler, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Staff: Maria Cohen

Guests: Jan Kurth, Tony Indovina, Jenna McGreevy, Helen Wilson, Miranda Micire, Ose Akinlotan

Welcome

1. Action Items

- a. Approval of Melissa Hiller – Motion to accept: Joe Ott, Marshall Second – all in favor
- b. Approval of January Minutes Motion to Approve Vivian, Second – Dalia
- c. Friends of Wightman Playground – SHUC has been asked to create a committee under the SHUC umbrella for advisory. We would like approval to start working on setting up a committee. This will be a transitional committee until the Friends of Wightman secures non-profit status. We can review at that point depending upon non-profit status. Ray would work to help them. SHUC will also check with Wagner Agency to see if we need to increase our insurance. SHUC will pass with the understanding that we need a defined mission, advisory committee, understand all that will be needed to gain non-profit status, have a named Chair and this will be transitional for an 18-month period. Motion to accept - Lisa Steindel; Second: Vivian Didominico – Guy might interested in the committee.

2. Executive Director's Report

- a. Squirrel Hill Historical Designation – Dave Breingan L-United connected us. Bill Callahan with the State Historic Preservation Office. Bill and SHPO have been wonderful partners in advancing Lawrenceville's status to be recognized on the National Registry of Historic Places, which is a formal process that provides some real benefits to property owners like eligibility for historic tax credits. Ray – If you use government funding you have to go through the state, and it is complicated. You can do it building by building or by district.

-Do we have historically designated buildings? Shenley Park? Back burner for now. Stay in touch. Murray Hill Avenue has been designated as Historical.

- a. Lewis and Clark Update— The Neill House Log House in Schenley Park is part of the Lewis & Clark Trail. SHHS reached out to us to partner for the Lewis & Clark Trail Experience. We are showcasing Squirrel Hill and Pittsburgh as an experience destination adding important key sites to visit, unique restaurants, merchants and other places to visit in the Burgh. Last week, 6 new destinations were added. Given that vacationers will be looking for socially distanced, driving destinations. This should be perfect timing for summer! (Tony Indovina and Helen Wilson are our guest from SHHS to add and answer questions.)

Additional details from SHHS:

- i. This is contracted by National Parks as a geo-travel site. The emphasis is on places to stay and things to do when visiting. Pittsburgh is the Eastern most park of the trail. Lewis started in Pittsburgh. 1st Nominations – Neill Log House and Heinz History Center. SHHS and SHUC will meet offline about adding the parks including Schenley/Frick.
 - ii. The Squirrel Hill driving tour is also part of the project and SHHS is working to get the Neill Log House renovation complete.
- b. SHUC/SHHS Calendar Sales – Calendar sales are currently at approximately \$1,819.25 and 91 calendars. We need to get final sales from Classic Lines and Amazing Books. Current profit is at about \$418. SHUC will receive 75% and SHHS will receive 25%. The calendars are currently \$10. We should probably stop selling soon. What would we like to do with the left over supply? Send some to the SHHS, sponsors, 5 for our archives and 1 to Marshall.
 - c. JCC Center for Loving Kindness – This Thursday, 2/18 from 7 – 8 pm Rabi Ron Symons and new SHUC Board Member Melissa Hiller will continue the conversation of Excerpts we should talk about: Waking Up White. Our next and most likely final class discussion will be based upon Michael Dyson’s A Long Time Coming on Thursday, March 11th from 7 -8 pm. Please sign up via the JCC Center for Loving Kindness. The discussions have been really open and candid.

It has been very insightful. Melissa – we have between 25 – 35 participants.

- d. Squirrel Hill Rewards Update – The Squirrel Hill Rewards program is ready for full launch this week! We currently have 10 merchants signed up with more interested and approximately 150 who have signed up to learn more.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. January P & L –

For the month of January, we had 6,124 dollars in membership dues along with 5000 dollars' worth of sponsorship income from the treasure dinner. We began printing the Squirrel Hill Magazine again, so we had close to 7000 dollars in associated expenses, including printing and postage. Our net income for the month was negative 2,529 dollars.

At the end of January, we had 46,520 dollars in unrestricted cash, which puts us in a very good position for the upcoming year. Last year at this time, we had approximately 54,000 dollars in unrestricted cash. We also have a second application in for more PPP money, so we are in a very good position financially for the year ahead. In addition, as PNC is evaluating our qualifications for forgiveness on the first PPP loan, we expect additional cash in our checking account to qualify as unrestricted once everything goes through.

- b. Winter Campaign Total –Our Winter Campaign has been very successful so far with 104 donors and \$8,494.00. We are still receiving donations and will update the Board in March with final numbers.

c. PPP update - PPP Forgiveness – Guidelines for the PPP changed after we our application. At that time, we were able to include private contractors. The rules changed and the SBA is considering loans with private contractors as overfund. We will most likely need to pay the approximately \$5,000 back. We can do that in one lump sum, payback in 36 month/1% or after PNC turns Forgiveness back to the SBA, we can contest it. Most likely we will end up paying it but we could try.

PPP 2nd round – They are separate, and we should qualify because our Q2 was down by what looks like over 80% this was mostly a timing issue which could help us. The good news is that the SBA and PNC are being more diligent and are saying that they won't change the rules so the loan that we receive should really be entirely forgivable.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Nominating Committee – Jill Beck will be part of that committee moving forward. Melissa Hiller from the JCC Center for Loving Kindness is our newest board member. SHUC will continue to focus on Diversity on our board.
- b. Built Environment – No DAM meeting in February. The next meeting in March will be a committee meeting for the Institutional Master plan for CMU. Lori wrote a letter of support for the Chatham Institutional Plan.
- c. Litter Patrol – No update
- d. Magazine – SHUC had a meeting with our editor and our Spring/Summer issue is planned for late May. Helen we would like request an article.
- e. Ped-Bike – This month’s meeting guest was Casandra Leopold new to DOMI. She focused on the projects in Squirrel Hill including Beacon between Imperial and Munhall Road and Greenfield Ave. She also shared information about on Forge Pgh. Mary Shaw and Roy Weil did a great analysis of the parks. Mary and Cassandra are meeting to discuss it. Cassandra will the bring issues to DOMI/the City for repair of the connections of the bike trails.
 - i. Footloose – The goal is to have a hard copy and link for the Walking Map by March.
 - ii. Slow Roll with Pittsburgh Major Taylor is in limbo.
- f. Treasure Committee – Profit of approximately \$56k. Mardi reserved the Pittsburgh Golf Club for an in person (hopefully) event on Thursday, 11/11 . We need to select Treasures next.
- g. Trees and Parks –
 - i. Tomorrow City Council is voting on the historic status of Mellon park. It looks like it will go through!
 - ii. No plantings until the end of April. Goal: Get Forbes back to what it was! The City has a contract this year so hopefully it will happen.

5. President’s Report

- a. Plans for Remaining CITF Funds plan – SHUC has spent all except about \$14k of the grant. We have \$2k set aside for an audit and another \$1,500. Mardi put in a request for backless benches on Murray Ave and possibly turning the corner to Forbes. There should be enough for approximately 8 benches. We are planning for a ribbon cutting in the Spring.
- b. Sq Hill Blighted property Watch – 5659 Forbes (5661 Forbes) – Property with a white metal balcony. It is unkept and the balcony is falling down. There was a plan for demolition. The finding was that there was no violation for a façade with a falling down metal Balcony. The other is the boarded-up Greenburg building. The city will take care of the graffiti but since they are paying their taxes the city can’t do anything else.

- c. Guy Costa's pet peeve are the motorcycles that are being parked somewhat abandoned. This might be a future issue for SHUC to support.
 - 6. Old Business
 - 7. New Business
 - a. Jean Robinson Remembrance – Jean had a short illness and passed away peacefully in her home. Jean was our Garden guru. She will be very missed terribly.
 - b. Mayor's Office Update - Hersh Merenstein – written report submitted
 - 8. Announcements:
 - a. Sarika Goulatia asked about traffic calming/bollards on Dallas, Beechwood etc. Can we do anything about the DOMI traffic calming measures? Is there a better solution? Marshall and Sarika will speak offline.
 - b. BRT Port Authority – Mardi has been working on bus shelters to ensure that large out of place shelters do not go in and that the shelters do not detract from the look of our community.
 - 9.
- Adjourn - Motion to adjourn Lisa Steindel, 2nd Vivian – All in favor