



SQUIRREL HILL
URBAN
COALITION

SHUC Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021 6:30 PM
ZOOM Conference Call
Meeting Summary

Attendees: Dalia Belinkoff, Guy Costa, Vivian Diminico, Heather Graham, Barb Grover, Melissa Hiller, Lisa Murphy, Joe Ott, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Guest: Ose Akinlotan, Brooke Gwin, Tony Cavalline, Hersh Merenstein, Emilie Yonan, Miranda Micicire, Xiaoran Zhang, Tony Autovino, Dave Zak, Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Sara Buttra-Coleman

Staff: Maria Cohen

Welcome

1. Roll Call - Maria
 - a. Announce Guests
2. Action Items
 - a. Approval of June Minutes Motion to approve Lisa Steindel; 2nd – Barb Grover
 - b. Election of Officers – Nominating Committee –
Unanimously chosen
Mardi – President, VPs – Dalia Belinkoff, Eric Wagner, Treasurer Paul Katz, Assistant Treasure Lisa Steindel and Secretary Ray Baum
 - c. Re-election of Board Members – Nominating Committee – It will be complete in an electronic format via email/potential google form by mid next week.
3. Guest Speakers
 - a. Pittsburgh Art in the Parks (Dave Zak; Artists Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Sara Buttra-Coleman)
 - i. Funded by Rad to specifically put public art in Pittsburgh Park. This is the public engagement piece. How do you use the park? Schenley has along going on and Dave will share the engage Pittsburgh Service. The projects will be complete by next summer. There will be a public engagement piece/meeting in the Fall. Dave will forward.
 - ii. Ginger Brooks Takahashi – Artist and educator. Works to create site responsive work about our surroundings and how we co-exist with our environment. Example: Nine Mile Run View Finder Process is very research based. The process and project will be similar to Schenley
 - iii. Sara Buttra-Coleman – graphic designer who is now a full time artist. Specialize in spontaneous realism. Focus on community, family and unity and how we want to see ourselves together in the future as a whole. Focus on a younger generation. Look to see a lot of creativity and dreams. Whatever you set your mind to your dreams can come true.
4. Executive Director's Report

- a. NIF Grant - Little Libraries by artist Jordan Wong - Little Libraries – The URA is offering a NIF (Neighborhood Initiatives Fund) neighborhood beautification grant that ties into social equity and justice. We are working with American Asian Artist Jordan Wong to propose a Little Libraries project. The JCC Center for Loving Kindness is also collaborating with the possibility of hosting an opening event. Site selection is underway. John Katz has generously offered several locations. We think that one will be a good fit for the project. Although the Cleveland Little Libraries project will be similar, the artwork will be more custom to our Squirrel Hill Neighborhood. Link to Cleveland Little Libraries (screen share): <http://www.wongface.com/smw1999>
 - i. The grant is very competitive with only 10 being awarded throughout the City.
- b. Friends of Wightman Playground - We are scheduled to host our next mulching event on Thursday, August 19th @ 5 pm. There is another event – Picnic in the Park with Alison Zapata and Oreen Cohen to discuss the art in the space. We have decided that the overlap is okay and might that the events will complement each other. Fundraising has kicked off and the bathrooms are open. It appears that Nick and I fixed the issue with our Go Fund Me linking to Paypal charities and the money should be reflected in our account by the end of the month. Unfortunately, the O’Connor Cookie Cruise is the same evening but since we have already had to change the mulching event several times and there are about 7 families signed up we are planning to keep the event time/day.
- c. Board Testimony for PPS School Start – SHUC in collaboration with the PLC sent in testimony for school start to remain August 25th as originally planned or as close as possible. Our testimony included the CDC guidelines for safely re-opening.
- d. Bach Beethoven and Brunch - SHUC was present at all of the BBB events. The more that it went on the more engagement we were able to get. We gave away some visors, a few Nuts about Squirrel Hill Ts, and a few Lunar New Year Ts. Saltwater who developed Squirrel Hill Rewards is also generously donating a \$100 Visa gift card for a chance for anyone signing up for the Rewards program to win. The winner will be announced on October 5th!
- e. JCC Center for Loving Kindness - – We are partnering with the JCC Center for Loving Kindness to host a Yom Kippur commitment on Thursday, September 16th from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. The speakers will be discussing how to combat hate. We will partner on a 3-part book series that will take place on 3 Thursdays and 3 Fridays in October, November in December. Books include:

October's conversations explore Sally Kohn's *The Opposite of Hate: A Field Guide to Repairing Our Humanity*

November's conversations explore Nadine Strossen's *Hate: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship*

December's conversations explore *Valarie Kaur's See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*

- f. Saltwater Rewards Update – Squirrel Hill Rewards is up and running with Little’s as our latest store to join our coalition of merchants. Please sign up if you haven’t already to earn rewards from participating Squirrel Hill Merchants and at a neighborhood level earn rewards towards gift card or charitable organizations including JCC, Brother’s Brother and 1HOOD. If you sign up before October 5th you will be entered into a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card. Also, our new website whom Saltwater is designing pro-bono is expected to soft launch on September 1st.
 - g. Allerdice Tree Watering - Tree watering has been going well thanks to Sam and Steph Livshin and Melissa Hiller. They are switching off watering through September. We have a few watering sessions left open and will continue to send out the sign up in the Newsletter. We approved giving Sam a Nuts about Squirrel Hill T as a thank you!
 - h. Love Your Block - Our initial grant for the Verizon/Bell building was not accepted but we were awarded the Love your Block Grant so we are regrouping! We are looking into a tree stump removal beautification project. The pathway is frequently used by pedestrians connecting from Forbes/Beacon to Hobart and it appears to be City property. Duquesne Light maintains the trees to avoid interference with the power lines but does little more to maintain the area. There are currently about 10 large tree stumps -some over a foot in diameter, and weeds covering the hillside. The size of the stumps makes it difficult to beautify the area. In the past, neighbors Emily Elliot and Dan Bain planted dogwoods that were sprayed -they believe by Duquesne Light.

The neighbors would love to restore this hillside by removing the stumps, adding top soil, and planting flowering trees, evergreens, bird feeders, and a bench as it would make it an inviting space for the people who prefer a quiet stroll down Guarino/Kamin away from the more trafficked Hobart. It is very close to getting approval!
 - i. 6444 Landview Rd hearing - The hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 23rd at 10:10 am. SHUC has a tour that will be based on the Footloose Map with entering Pitt students. I will develop a testimony for the neighbors before with Mardi’s support. Madi will able to attend and give our testimony.
5. Treasurer’s Report
- a. P & L for June and July - For the month of June we had income of 27,598 dollars. We received grant money in the amount of 20,352 dollars. 9,714

dollars was in the form of funds from CITF and 10,638 was income recognition for our loan forgiveness. We also had sponsorship income from the Treasure Dinner of 2,500 dollars. Our expenses for the month were 21,538 dollars. The largest expense was project-related expense of 16,076 dollars which consisted of 9,714 dollars paid to Victor Stanley for O'Connor's Corner and 6,000 dollars to Alison Zapata for the mural. Our net operating income for June was 6,059 dollars.

In the month of July, we had income of 24,687 dollars. We received 21,750 dollars in sponsorship income, so a lot of money is already coming in for the Treasure Dinner. We also had income from contributions of 2,685. We had expenses of 11,406 dollars which brought our net income for the month to 13280.

We have cash in our main checking account of 54,306 dollars, compared to last year at the same time of 21,924 dollars. We are in very good position financially as we approach this fall's Treasure Dinner.

b. PPP Update - PPP update-the first payment of the portion that was not forgiven on our PPP loan was deducted from our main checking account. The payment of 534 dollars was subtracted from notes payable on our balance sheet under other current liabilities which brings the total notes payable to 16380.

c. CITF Audit – Audit was forwarded. Please contact Maria with questions.

6. Committee Reports

a. Built Environment – SHUC is not hosting a September meeting due to Rosh Hashanah. Our next meeting will be in October regarding CMU's Master Plan.

Litter Patrol - **Volunteer Recruitment activity on July 10, 2021.**

Thanks to Maria and Heather for publicizing the event and allowing us to have a table outside the European Wax Center for our recruitment. Ten volunteers signed up for various activities. Six for night markets, 7 for Adopt-A-Block, 3 to attend Zoom meetings, 1 to write articles for the SHUC magazine, 5 to help with our Elementary School program, 1 to help with recruiting volunteers from the high schools and colleges in the area, and 5 to help plan our 2022 Community Clean Up. Some will be helping at the August Night Market. Students at Chatham and previous Night Market Volunteers have been contacted. Unfortunately, some of them have concerns about the upsurge in the Delta variant and don't wish to be in large crowds.

Thus, we are still in need of volunteers for August 28 for the 6-8pm or 8-10 pm shifts which involve monitoring the trash and recycling bins, replacing full bins with fresh bags. We also need a few volunteers at the SHUC booth to chat with guests about the Litter Patrol and to participate in our Litter Bag guessing competition. Lois is organizing the game and I'll get a \$20 gift card for the Manor for the winner. **PLEASE contact me (barbgrover1@gmail.com; 412-521-9526) if you can help.**

Giant Eagle has given us permission to haul our recyclables to the back of their building. A collapsible cart has been purchased to allow the convenient transport from Murray to that site.

Our next Zoom meeting will be August 19 to finalize preparations for the August Night Market.

- b. Ped-Bike – The Footloose Map is almost complete! We will have a soft launch with incoming Pitt Students when they tour Squirrel Hill next Monday using the Map. By the end of August/beginning of September we will have a mock up to take to potential sponsors. We will also add it to our new site with a QR code making access very easy in different formats.
 - i. Public meeting for Bartlett. Planning to re-open Serpentine one way. There is discussion about how to do that with pedestrian use. Barriers are there to keep it closed.
 - c. Magazine – We are very sorry for the delay. Our current editor had more obligations than previously thought so we are transitioning to a new editor for the next issue. We expect a draft this evening or tomorrow and to send it to the printer by the end of the week. Most likely we will call it September. We plan to also have a Holiday issue which is planned to publish before Black Friday.
 - d. Treasure Committee – SHUC is moving forward to be in person. Sponsorships have been coming in quickly thanks to Ray, Mardi and Dalia.
Raffle tickets available – volunteer salespeople needed
10 ticket per board member requested
 - e. Trees and Parks – Love Your Block
7. President’s Report
- a. O’Connor’s Corner Tree Pit Grates - O’Connor’s Corner quote for tree pit grates was received and approved by the state grant program officer. Frank Dawson, our pro-bono landscape architect has field verified the measurements for us and the order is in process.
 - b. Note new benches on Forbes and Murray - we have placed nine new benches on Forbes and Murray - and have places for more as soon as funding is available. Mardi will see if the state grant can be amended to buy more benches as was done with the County CITF Grant.
 - c. Neill Log House – update attached
 - d. Post Office Parklet Issues - Post Office Parklet Issues with trash and individuals camping continue. We are trying to find solutions with Representative Doyles office and the Postal Police.
 - e. Office Assistant Position - We need an Office Assistant to help Maria with the correspondence, filing and invoicing that is required. This will free up Maria to be out in the community where she is best suited. Hopefully a very successful Treasure Dinner will provide us with the funds to make this possible.
8. Old Business
9. New Business
- a. Mayor’s Office Update – Hersh accepting applications for the Civic Leadership Academy. City is approaching its initiative to replace 35,000 streetlights with LED. Our walk through is this Monday 8/23@ 9 pm in Squirrel Hill.
10. Announcements

Adjourn Motion to Adjourn: Mary Shaw; Seconded: Joe Ott