

Tuesday January 18, 6:30 PM

ZOOM Conference Call

SHUC Board Meeting



Welcome

1. Roll Call - Maria

Present: Marshall Hershberg, Melissa Hiller, Lisa Murphy, Mardi Isler, Dalia Belinkoff, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Ray Baum, Jill Beck, Lori Fitzgerald

Guests: Emilie Yonan

Staff: Maria Cohen, Sophie Bean

1. Action Items

**Approval of November Minutes:** Lisa S. moved to approve the minutes, Dalia seconded the motion, the motion carried.

1. Executive Director’s Report
   1. **2022 Squirrel Hill Calendar Update** - Squirrel Hill Historical Calendars are available on the SHUC site and at retailers including Little’s, Games Unlimited, Riverstone Books and 10,000 Villages. So far we have sold 83 calendars including to the UK and Australia! Our Net profit to be split with SHHS so far is $544.56 total or $272.28 each. Calendars will go on sale around Feb 1st.
   2. **UPMC for Life/Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Neighborhood Program** - UPMC for Life and UPMC Center for Social Impact reached out to the Coalition to develop a Healthy Living program for seniors in our neighborhood, focused on healthy lifestyle, nutrition, activities, employment and housing. SHUC is in the process of connecting with the JCC Age Well program to determine synergies. There is an Age Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Grant that we could apply for with JCC to be an incubator community for the program.

We rescheduled next Monday’s presentation of SHUC’s Walking Tour at Weinberg Terrace until later in February.

* 1. **DOORS OPEN Pittsburgh** – Walking Tour or Insider Tour - Helen Wilson of SHHS connected us with Bonnie Baxter of DOORS OPEN Pittsburgh, a nonprofit that encourages appreciation of the city’s architecture, history and art through a series of immersive events that educate and allow unprecedented access inside iconic buildings. Tours run April – October. The organization is interested in signing Squirrel Hill up for a Walking Tour based upon our Walk Squirrel Hill Map. Bonnie and Melissa Hiller have connected too. Our tour day was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 9/25/2022 @ 10 am and 2 pm, but Lisa S. pointed out 9/25 is the day before Rosh Hashanah, so synagogues will be closed. Maria decided to pick another day.
  2. **Valentine’s Wine Walk** – Due to low merchant participation and increased Omicron cases, the Valentine’s Wine Walk has been canceled. Stay tuned for the Mother’s Day Wine Walk.
  3. **Winter Donor Fundraising Campaign** – Thanks to the fantastic efforts of Dalia, Lisa S. and Mardi our Winter Donor campaign went out last week. We have already received $2,100 in donations.

1. Treasurer’s Report
2. **P & L for November and December** - In November we had income of $31,817 with expenses of $34,411 for a net loss of $2,594. Our biggest expense for the month of November was an $8,106 project related expense– a $6,000 payment to artist Alison Zapata for her mural work and $1,500 to Sestili nursery to cover the Love Your Block parklet near Kamin and Murdoch Streets. Fortunately we still had Treasure Dinner proceeds coming in so we only had a small loss.

In December we had income of $30,949 with expenses of $20,867 for a net income of $10,081. Of note we had a $20,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Charitable foundation for the FONLH (a separate restricted account) as well as a $7,900 printing expense for the magazine. The P&L by class worksheet now has a new column that tracks our Neill Log house expenditures separately.

Our balance sheet looks very strong at this point. We have $44,773 in our main checking account. Of note, the balance sheet reflects the fact that our $11,037 note was forgiven by PNC and we have only the remainder of first PPP loan, with a balance of $2,671 that we are paying down monthly. We are in a very good position financially as we enter 2022.

1. Committee Reports
   1. **Built Environment** – Lori held an unofficial development meeting for Flats on Northumberland project, which has received zoning approval already and will move forward unless anything changes. Developer Yang owns two adjacent properties: one house and one empty lot where he will create a building with four condos. Yang has been very forthright with sharing info with the community.

Mardi emailed Andrea Ketzel about a public art project in Frick Park that’s been proposed, and learned there are plans to move forward with it. Windover Project creating one bedroom and efficiency apartments– Mardi attended this development meeting.

* 1. **Litter Patrol** – Barb not in attendance, but meeting this week with the committee and will update the board with a report.
  2. **Ped-Bike** – Marshall held a meeting in mid-December where he heard from representatives from Beechwood Blvd residents near Mellon Park about desires for traffic calming. Marshall said the committee is still waiting to hear from Mellon Park Strategic Plan people about their ideas for traffic calming– will connect with them soon.

Healthy Ride has reorganized and cut back on their bicycle stations because their hardware provider was not ready to provide new equipment. Their plan was to withdraw all five bike stations in Squirrel Hill by the end of 2021. Healthy Ride/AHN said it was not an issue of ridership, but that Sq. Hill is at the edge of their network– never expanded beyond the neighborhood. Will be a while until there are new Healthy Ride bikes in the neighborhood.

Walking Map is available at Riverstone Books, Little’s Shoes, Games Unlimited, in the library and Coffee Tree Roasters. Marshall meeting with Greenfield Community Association about combining priority projects with Greenfield, Squirrel Hill and Hazelwood.

* 1. **Treasure Dinner Committee** – Ray said there’s no news but will start planning for next year’s event soon, probably in March.
  2. **Trees and Parks** – TV Application– Mardi talked with Gary (who does Treevitalize application every year) and learned that Western Parks Conservancy is behind on planting trees that are already assessed, so that might push our plan back until the fall. Maria set up Gary with a SHUC email account so he can get residents’ tree request forms and categorize them by street. Mardi said SHUC will include the tree request form in upcoming newsletter and magazine.

1. President’s Report

a. **Love Your Block Update** – Retaining wall built at Murdoch and Kamin Streets. Mardi said she hopes that Love Your Block will allow us to apply again for landscaping next year. Neighbors are going to do their own fundraising as well for plantings.

b. **FONLH Progress** – First application for funding will probably be submitted on March 1st. Lori and Design Build created a timeline that can be used as a planning document for potential planning grants.

c. **Benches in Sq Hill Business District** – The bench in front of Commonwealth was destroyed and powder coating scratched off, which means the bench will rust over time. Mardi is waiting to hear from Matt in Corey O’Connor’s office about how we’ll get paid for the bench. Two plaques to be put on new benches: one for Gene Robinson in the post office parklet and one for Phyllis (?).

1. Old Business
   1. 2022 Board Meeting and Holiday Calendar – nothing.
2. New Business
3. Howard Grieger sent Marshall a memo about an environmental initiative in Squirrel Hill, which is in the worst 1% of neighborhoods with cancer-causing air pollution. Mardi said this would require political advocacy and asked the Board if we should get involved. Mary said SHUC could have a role in organizing community forums, but not lending ourselves as community advocates. Lisa S. said Howard should come and speak at a Board meeting so we can find out what we’ll be asked to lend. Marshall and Maria will set up a meeting with Howard that is open to anyone interested.
4. Dalia said Serpentine Road is not open to vehicular traffic and that the car lane they drew seems incorrectly painted. Mary said it’s open to one-way traffic and appears to narrow, but remains 10 ft all the way down. Mardi said she will confirm with DOMI that they’re complying
5. Announcements
   1. Emilie said District 8 office is hiring to replace Miranda’s position.
   2. Mary shared a link to the free Covid tests website.
   3. Ray decided we have to look at the Board members who have not been attending meetings for awhile. Mardi will talk to Joe Ott about setting up a nominating meeting for possible new board members.

Adjourn: Mardi adjourns the meeting.