

SHUC Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 19th, 6:30 PM

ZOOM Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Guy Costa, Vivian Didomenico, Heather Graham, Mardi Isler, Marshall Hershberg, Melissa Hiller, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Guest: Miranda Micire

Staff: Maria Cohen

Welcome

1. Roll Call - Maria
   1. Announce Guests
   2. Introduce Graduate Intern – Fritz Manzano, our work study from CMU’s Public Policy and Management Graduate program will be with us through the Winter and possibly the Spring terms. Fritz started a few weeks ago and has jumped right in helping to support us. Fritz has class this evening and therefore could not be here. We look forward to introducing all of you to him at another time. Welcome to Fritz!
2. Action Items
   1. Approval of September Minutes Motion: Vivian Didomenico and Marshall Hershberg
3. Executive Director’s Report
   1. Friends of Wightman Playground – Sunday, October 10th we had a very successful wedding and mulching event. Erika Strassburger, Emilie Yonan, Andrea Ketzel, board member Marshall Hershberg and his wife along with several community volunteers all worked hard wedding. We got really positive feedback from guests to the park and questions about volunteering.
      1. FOWP plans to be in the park with a table and info to secure more volunteers the first week in November.
      2. FOWP is planning a fundraising campaign near the 1st year ribbon cutting which is 10/26. The push will be the first week in November.
      3. Mulching/pruning event on Sunday, 11/14 from 10 am – 12 pm. Sign up in the chat: <https://forms.gle/qbmHroQSsVhCKrZW9>
   2. JCC Center for Loving Kindness - JCC Center for Loving Kindness – The first class of our 3 part class Series *Excerpts We Should Read, Talk About and Act On: Important Passages to Guide Us on Countering Hate* happened the first week in October. It was really well received and a really good discussion.
      1. Carnegie Library Partnership – Jessica Bayless, Library Services Supervisor Civic & Social Information Services has partnered as a moderator. There may be other ways to connect/partner in the future.
      2. Class details for November and December:

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

Thursday, 11/11 @ 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Friday, 11/12 1 – 2 pm

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

Thursday, 12/2 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Friday, 12/10 1 – 2 pm

Link to sign up: <https://jccpgh.formstack.com/forms/counteringhateexcerpts>

* 1. Love Your Block - The neighbors on Guarino Road and nearby are moving forward with their improvements, tree stub removal, plantings and potentially a bench. We are in the process of seeing how much can be done by the city. A city official is supposed to go over this week to remove the stumps that they are able. We are still waiting for an update. Most likely we will need to use the grant for some if not all of the tree stump removal/grinding. The money needs to be spent by 10/31. We need to send a report with invoices and will then be reimbursed.
  2. Raffle ticket Sales – Raffle ticket sales are underway and so far we have sold approximately 175. We really need a push by board members to sell the remaining 325 by the Treasure Dinner. It would be much better to avoid sales at the event if possible because we are trying to host as safely as possible and are trying to avoid lines. Thank you Dalia for supporting us last week, Ray for taking a week and an additional 20 tickets and Barb for signing up the first week in November. Melissa Hiller has been an incredible support…I think that she has sold over 50 tickets. Two dates are still available: 10/24 and 10/31 Link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e44aea92aa13-farmers>
  3. Squirrel Hill Calendar - Helen Wilson, Jim Hammond and I ran through the dates, photos and captions. Lisa Steindel helped us to run through the Jewish Holidays to make sure that they are correct. Thanks so much Lisa. Jenna our contact at Minute Men was on vacation last week. I will forward everything to her this week so that she can help with layout. We expect the calendar to be ready for sale in the beginning of November. It will again be a historical calendar with the former SHUC office included. There are some really incredible photos SHHS and we are so excited to share it with our community!

1. Treasurer’s Report

a. P & L for September - For the month of September we had income of 15,167 dollars. 10,000 of this was in the form of a grant from the Proteus Foundation. We also received 4,000 dollars in sponsorship income, with a 3,000 dollar sponsorship from Debbie Demchak. We are grateful for that and the great work Ray, Mardi and Dalia are doing once again to gain sponsorships in advance of our Treasure Dinner!

We had 40, 811 dollars in expenses in September, 19,127 dollars of which were project-related expenses, mostly for O'Connor's Corner. In addition to the project expenses we had 4,905 dollars in professional fees, 3,000 of which were paid to Lynn Karawatani and 6,055 dollars in printing costs for the magazine. As a result of these expenses, our net income for the month of October is negative 25,644.16.

Despite the fact that we had an expense laden month we are in good financial position. We have 50,630 dollars in our main checking account compared to 47, 612 dollars last year at this time. In addition, we received good news from PNC that our second PPP loan has been forgiven in its entirety. The forgiveness amount is 11,103.53 and will be subtracted from notes payable on our balance sheet by the October financial report.

1. Committee Reports
   1. Built Environment – DAM in October preliminary meeting about Art in the Park. Lori will send the link to the engage page for feedback. CMU Master plan meeting will be hosted on Tuesday, October 26th.
   2. Litter Patrol –
   3. Ped-Bike - Next meeting will be November 4th @ 6:30 pm. There will be a hearing session regarding traffic calming measures on Beacon/Bartlett and Serpentine Drive. Making it safe for bikers ad pedestrians. SHUC will be listening to the community.

There have been some areas on Serpentine that have been painted for bike-ped. Follow up with Hersh.

Concern with the Commuter trails potentially being closed. How will that happen? There will be follow up with scooter issues. There are some concerns/negative aspects.

Walking Map name change to Walk Squirrel Hill! because Little’s has a competitor called Footloose. There are few changes that are being done by Xiaoran who is helping us finish this project.

The traffic calming on Darlington is confusing. There had been a request for a speed bump in front of St. Edmunds.

* 1. Treasure Dinner Committee - $70,400 in sponsorships and collected $65k which is just amazing! We are putting safety measures in place, requiring vaccines and reducing the numbers. Allderdice Band playing. Dalia will do center pieces. This will be the last time that Barb might do check in. We need volunteers for check in and name tags. Lori will take photos with Ray’s camera.
  2. Trees and Parks – TV Application

1. President’s Report
   1. Friends of Neill Log House Update – Ray and Mardi will be on the Board for the first year. FONLH has selected a board. The ball is rolling! Mardi was given a tour and thought that it was incredible! The log house also has an address on Circuit Drive. We need to share with the National Park Service! Let’s arrange a board tour…maybe in the Spring?
   2. Post Office Parklet – The acting Director was contacting Mercy Behavioral Health and came out. They started to enforce open container laws. Most of the issues were coming from open container/alcohol. This all has helped to make a big difference.
2. Old Business
3. New Business
   1. Mayor’s Office Update – Halloween Trick or Treating will be from 5- 7 pm on Sunday, October 31st. Our shopping district will host from 3 – 5 pm.
4. Announcements

Testing New SHUC Website – We should be up for our test at the end of the week. Our beta test will be next week.

Adjourn