

SHUC Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 PM

ZOOM Conference Call

Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ray Baum, Jill Beck, Dalia Belinkoff, Lori Fitzgerald, Heather Graham, Barb Grover, Marshall Hershberg, Joe Ott, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Guest: Whitney Patross, Danielle Nicole, Miranda Micire, Ose Akinlotan

Staff: Sophie Bean

1. Roll Call - Maria
   1. Announce Guests
2. Action Items
   1. Approval of October Minutes – Lisa Steindel approved, Sarika second, All in favor
3. Executive Director’s Report
   1. Meet Sophie Bean - Sophie is our new part-time admin support person. Sophie holds a BA in Geography and Urban Studies from Temple and has experience with non-profits. (Introduction given.)
   2. Friends of Wightman Park Update -– FOWP postponed last Sunday’s event due to weather and rescheduled the next volunteer event this Saturday, November 20th from 12 – 2 pm. It will be a mulching and pruning event. (Volunteer link for the chat: <https://forms.gle/bxvmocGwipkxb8jU7>)

The first year anniversary of the Ribbon Cutting was on 10/26. FOWP is re-engaging our fundraising efforts now to raise money for the bathrooms to be open again next year. FOWP has approximately 6 months in reserve for bathroom maintenance saved.

* 1. JCC Center for Loving Kindness – The last discussion in our 3-part class series discussion about combatting hate.

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

* 1. Squirrel Hill Calendar - Our 2022 Calendar is at Minute Men press in the final design phase. We expect to have a proof this week and for calendars to go to sale by black Friday. Distribution will be at Riverstone Books, Littles, the SHUC site and we are in the process of securing other locations for distribution which we will share when we have final confirmation. $18.90 + 7% tax = $20.22 if price is $18.90, 7% would be $1.32. (Pay a few cents extra.)
  2. Website – Our new SHUC website soft launched on Friday. We are having some kinks and glitches that we are working through but overall the site is much more user friendly and much easier to make changes in the back end. We are so thankful to Saltwater Loyalty for creating it pro bono for us!
  3. Approved: Violins of Hope Sponsorship (see attached additional information) – Our Executive Committee approved to list us as a partnering organization. We have some changes to the MOU and will be listed as a partner with those changes.
  4. Approved: Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books Sponsorship (see attached additional information) – Our Executive Committee approved us as a partnering organization.

4. Treasurer’s Report

a. P & L for October - For the month of October we had income of 25,772 dollars. The majority of this was in the form of sponsorship income for the treasure dinner, which consisted of 19,000 dollars. Among our major sponsorships we received 2500 dollars from the Pittsburgh Steelers, 2500 from Keystone Relief Centers, 4000 dollars from Highmark and 800 dollars from Barb Grover! The Treasure Dinner has brought in over 69000 dollars through October so we're very grateful for the work Ray Baum has done.

Our expenses for October were 8,365 dollars with 1,554 going towards the Treasure Dinner. As a result we had net income for October of 17,406 dollars. This leaves us in great financial position with over 65,000 dollars in our main checking account compared to 51,536 a year ago. With many unknowns in the coming winter it is good to have such a big buffer against unexpected expenses.

 As a note, Paul emailed the result of our loan forgiveness to our bookkeeper because it is not reflected on our financial statements. If it had been the liabilities on our balance sheet would go down by the amount of the forgiveness. Paul communicated with Shannon to amend our next month's statements.

b. FONLH Restricted Account Established – The restricted account for the Neill Log House was established last week with Ray Baum, Mardi Isler and Paul Katz having signature power on the account. It is ready for contributions and Charlie Stewart started the funding with $20k.

1. Committee Reports
   1. Built Environment – SHUC hosted the DAM with CMU regarding its institutional plan. Northumberland Flats – Lori is trying to reach out to their team to schedule a DAM meeting hopefully for December 7th. Miranda has the contact information for the developer and she will loop Lori into the meeting and/or give her the contact info. The address 6633/6634 Northumberland. The developer claims that they are doing everything within the zoning regulations and do not need to go through the city process.
   2. Litter Patrol – No report
   3. Ped-Bike – There was a very productive meeting on 12/4/2021. The traffic engineer Nick Ross from DOMI is looking into traffic calming in the Beacon area. Councilmember Strassburger will attend.

Serpentine Drive opened it one way. This was a surprise to residents. There are some concerns that are currently being addressed. This was a change for DOMI with a change from Councilmember O’Connor’s Office. This change was made without public notification. There is a plan for 2 speed humps and a contraflow bike path near Serpentine.

There will be several other traffic calming improvements on Murdoch, Wightman, Beacon (priority) and Bartlett (priority). The city received 230 requests for traffic calming.

There were some changes to the walking map. The name was changed to Walk Squirrel Hill!

* 1. Treasure Dinner Committee – The Treasure Dinner worked out well and the people who came had a really good time. $80, 600 total – All told we had $88,000 in sponsors, donations, tickets. We netted approximately $75,000. The final numbers will be in the November budget.
  2. Trees and Parks – TV Application – No report

1. President’s Report
   1. Love Your Block Update - Approximately 12 tree stubs have been removed. We also established a relationship with the division. Planting rye seed and paid for a retaining wall. In the Spring, the neighbors will do a planting that might even include some small trees.
   2. FONLH Incorporated - It is fully incorporated, and we have liability insurance. Mardi, Ray and Lori Fitzgerald are involved. Lori will be part of the Design Build Committee and possibly project manager. We will be paid $500 each month for admin support. FONLH will have an agreement with the city. The city stabilized the structure.
      1. Ray would like to move to have Lori on the FONLH board. Ray moved, Marshall Second; All in favor
   3. Sq Hill Magazine - The Squirrel Hill Magazine proof was delivered on time and complete! Missy enjoyed working on it and we have her through 2022. It is currently at the printer and will most like go to the post office by early next week to be delivered by the end of next week!
   4. Post Office Parklet - There haven’t been issues for approximately 3 weeks. Neighbors are going back to be able to enjoy the area. Officer Kroll really took it upon himself to clean it. Include thank you in the Newsletter and the Squirrel Hill Mag. Send a thank you on behalf of the board.
2. Old Business

a. Treasure Dinner Update

1. Sponsorships – We currently have currently collected $75, 600 in sponsorship income and still have $5,000 outstanding which we expect to receive within the week for a total of $80, 600!

2. Raffle Ticket Sales – We sold approx. 435 tickets for approximately $2,000 in sales. Our final number will be in the November budget board report.

3. Walking Squirrel Hill – SHUC secured 4 sponsors for the Walking Map – Riverstone Books, Little’s, Games Unlimited and UPMC. Xiaoran is adding them to the Map. It should be ready for print by the beginning of next week and ready for distribution in time for Black Friday!

4. Home on Forbes in violation has been torn down! This has been an issue for years.

1. New Business
2. Meeting Calendar 2022 – attached and including
3. Western Park Conservancy hanging baskets – They can only be put on light fixtures without flags. The initial cost is more. It would cost approx.. $7,500 in watering per year. They replant and water each year with $10,030 maintenance each year. Who is signing the contractor? Merchants/Individuals could sponsor a basket. Heather shared that we need to look at this thoroughly to make a thoughtful decision.

b. November Board Meeting Agenda Lisa Steindel Motioned, Jill Beck Second; All in favor

Adjourn