

SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



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Board Meeting, February 21, 2023, 6:30 PM, In-Person - Room 318 JCC Meeting Minutes

Board Member Attendees: Ray Baum, Justin Berk, Dalia Belinkoff, Barb Grover, Marshall Hersberg, Mardi Isler, Lisa Murphy, Jon Prince, Mary Shaw
Guests: Gisele Betances (City), Scott McMurtry Ada Scorces, Matt Borrelli
borrelli27@gmail.com, Patsy Boone, Barb Warwick, Sean Harrington

1. Roll Call - Maria
2. Action Items
 - a. Approve January Minutes - Mary Shaw motioned to approve the January minutes, Ray Baum seconded the motion, the motion carried.
3. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Forbes Funds Update - Our grant application has been submitted and we expect to hear more regarding our potential MAG in the first few weeks of March. We had a meeting with the team to understand more about the Commons, the team agreed that we are a good candidate. If approved, The Forbes Funds team has us slated for an April 1st project start (or a later date if we need more time.)
 - b. SHUC Position Updates - Currently, we are fortunate to have Eviana Barnes from CMU's Heinz Graduate School through April. She will support us with our Earth Day/Week Litter Clean Up, Lunar NY and Arbor Day events. The CMU intern fair is mid-March and we plan to have a summer intern starting in May. SHUC plans to wait before advertising a part time admin role to ensure a healthy cash position for the Coalition.
 - c. SHUC is also transitioning from Clover Bennett Bookkeeping to Rossetti Tax. A transition meeting will take place.
 - a. JCC Center for Loving Kindness – The JCC CFLK stepped up with late notification to help us with the Lunar NY parade. Rabbi Symon's contacted the local Rabbis and they will be in the parade in support of our Asian neighbors. We are grateful!
The last in our 4-part class series experts we should talk about with book selected by leaders who participated in the past year's Yom Kippur service is on Thursday, March 17th 7 – 8 pm via zoom. Anna Hollis, ED, Amachi Pittsburgh will be with us helping us through her selection Under the Skin.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. P & L for January - Our bookkeeper was out of the country and unable to get the report complete for our Board meeting. It will be sent to the board within the next few weeks before March. Here is a short summary: On January 31, 2023, the general account balance was \$28,742.74. Our total revenue was

approx. \$8,080 mainly from the SHUC 50th anniversary donor campaign, magazine ad sales, FONLH admin reimbursement and the 2023 calendar. Our expenses were approx. \$9,400 mostly due to our Kindful contract renewal, salaries, magazine contract for our editor, rent and other ongoing expenses.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Built Environment – Anderson Playground DAM took place on February 7th. The meeting was well attended. The project team is in the final stages of choosing equipment with a dinosaur theme. There will be a section with Hammocks for teenagers. Mary Shaw: Is the Bike track going to be open? Gisele Betances will answer.
- b. Litter Patrol – A going away luncheon is planned for Friday, March 3rd @ 12 pm to thank Barb Grover for her service. Litter Patrol is planning an in-person Spring Clean-up on the Sunday of Earth Day weekend April 23rd from 9 am – 12 pm. There will also be opportunities for volunteers to choose their own day/time to go out on their own or in groups (April 22 – April 30th). The team has been in contact with several of the local schools and expects them to participate. Request is for Board members to support the event at the SHUC table and to help volunteers who have questions or need support.
- c. Ped-Bike – The committee met in February. There was a lot of conversation about Fern Hollow Bridge and safety. Gisele gave an update on DOMI plans. In the meeting there was more depth regarding Beacon/Wightman traffic calming. Suggestions: Stronger fines, better signals, speed limit reduction, and perhaps Islands.
Noted: The plastic poles on Bartlett/Wightman are unsafe. Options are being explored.
SHUC bike ped signed the Statewide biking community call to accelerate connected bike trails.
Suggested community rides with other communities or a walking activity.
Also potentially planning an event with Fern Hollow in the Spring.
The Anderson Bridge closer was also discussed.
There will be a March educational meeting about 3-1-1.
- d. City Update –
 - i. Fern Hollow – Construction can't begin again until temperatures are above 40 degrees. DOMI will start adding traffic calming measures.
 - ii. Cycle track South side of Forbes – This is on DOMI's radar. This will be extensive and a capital budget change. There will need to be more collective action. Call 3-1-1 to build data!
 - iii. Beechwood/Dallas – DOMI investigated marked cross walk but that might not be the safest crossing. They are still in the process of collecting data.
 - iv. Beacon/Murdoch – This is on the radar. There has only been one complaint on 3-1-1. If the community would like more support, there will need to be more requests from the community through 3-1-1. There is an issue with student crossing.
 - v. Beacon/Shaw – DOMI will install the missing crosswalk soon.

- vi. Question: Beechwood/Wilkins – fatality – Has anything happened? The driver stopped and cooperated. We need to look at this intersection.
 - e. Treasure Award’s Dinner – The dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th. The committee is in the process of selecting Treasures.
 - f. Trees and Parks – Scott Bluman is a new volunteer who is taking his tree care certification in March. Please contact Mardi if you want street trees.
6. President’s Report
- a. Preserve Our Parks – This is the group looking at Deer over population. This is a city-wide issue, and a city-wide group has been formed. Mount Washington is the only area that is not represented. There are many issues related to the overpopulation of deer. The committee is diverse including a vet, landscapers, friends of parks groups and habitat expert. Recommend a call to 3-1-1 if there is an issue.
 - b. Neill Log House Update – FONLH has sufficient funding to reconstruct the Log house. The group will have a meeting with the city next week about a long term lease and zoning. Construction is expected to start in June. Goal for opening to the public: July 2024.
 - c. Lunar New Year Parade – On this Saturday, February 25th the parade will start at 1 pm with a lion dance at Mineo’s. Parade details are being finalized and SHUC is excited to be hosting in Squirrel Hill.
 - d. Magazine 2023 – The next issue is expected to be out on March 17th. John Katz agreed to Sponsor along with our elected officials. The sponsorship will help to close the loss gap. SHUC losses approximately \$20k annually.
 - e. Board and Committee Member Recruitment – Our board is doing a good job in recruiting new volunteers/board members. Rachel Lacrone and Scott Bluman are examples.
 - f. Streetlights on Forward – Building owners offered to purchase the conduits and DOMI had committed to Councilman O’Connor to put in the streetlights. DOMI shared that they are now not planning to add the streetlights. Gisele Betances was asked to check and report on this.
 - g. Trees on Murray – The community needs to get approval to add trees on Murray. This is a long, ongoing issue.
 - h. Sewage issue on Murray – Councilmember Warwick has been in conversation with the Owner of Manor. There is an issue with private line vs. PWSA sewage. The Warehouse is not renewing its lease due to sewage in the basement.
 - i. Allderdice/Murray Stop – Councilmember Warwick - An additional bus will be added to help ensure students don’t have a longer than necessary wait for a bus because a bus is full. The Goal is to move the bus stop to in front of the school. Councilmember Warwick even reached out to the Reach Group to help with students. Mardi has been in conversation with the Starbucks manager and has offered advocacy for moving the bus stop to Allderdice.

Adjourn – Mardi Isler adjourned the meeting.