

# SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



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## Board Meeting, August 15, 6:30 PM, In-Person - Room 220 JCC Minutes

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Board Attendees: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Guy Costa, Rocco Didomenico (in Vivian's place), Lori Fitzgerald, Heather Graham, Marshall Hershberg, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, David Vatz    Guests in Attendance: Helen Wilson, Tony Indovina, Councilmember Barb Warwick, Bram Reichbaum, Sean Herrington, Michele Feingold, Elizabeth Soose, Kelsey Leonard, Scott McMurty, Melissa Rycher

Welcome: Dalia

1. Roll Call - Maria
  - a. Announce Guests
2. Action Items
  - a. Approve June Minutes – Lisa Steindel motioned to approve the June Minutes, seconded by Guy Costa, the motion carried.
  - b. Approve July 31 Special Board Meeting Minutes – Lisa Steindel motioned to approve the July 31<sup>st</sup> Special Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Marshall Hershberg; the motion carried. (Ray Baum abstained)
3. President's Report
  - a. Forbes Fund: Community Engagement Final Report – The report is comprehensive. The board is encouraged to read it and for us to meet to execute the suggestions.
  - b. Hewing Event, Neill Log House – There was a log hewing event at the Neill Log House site. The event included log hewing/chopping in period clothes with fun games, ice cream sandwiches, lemonade and beer. It was a really fun kick off event and well attended by 80 or so individuals!
  - c. PPC Support Letters sent with Exec Com approval, attached – The letters of support were for the Frick Park Environmental Center Sensory Classroom and Mellon Park.
4. Executive Director's Report
  - a. Volunteers Needed –

First a BIG thank you to Lisa Steindel, Marshall Hershberg and Barb Grover for supporting us by volunteering for Bach Beethoven and Brunch. The FOMP and Playful Pittsburgh also collaborated with us to create a fun space for children's activities. It was truly a wonderful season!

Also, the bike ped committee hosted a really fun, well attended Fern Hollow Bike and Walk so that pedestrians and bikers could learn the changes to the trails while having fun! Rachel and Eddie Lacrone did a litter patrol clean up the day before and Eleanor Hershberg took a bag to clean along the trails during the event. A special

thank you to Marshall Hershberg, Mary Shaw and the bike ped committee for putting together such a fantastic family friendly event!

Farmers Market – Thanks so much to those of you who have already volunteered including Jon Prince, Rachel Lacrone and Guy Costa (I apologize if I missed anyone!) We really need support this week if anyone is about to sign up to volunteer.

SHUC will also sell raffle tickets at the Night Markets/Farmers Markets.

Allderdice Tree Care – This Thursday, 8/17 from 5 – 7 pm Tree Pittsburgh and SHUC will meet to give the Allderdice Trees planted to honor the 11 victims of the Tree of Life some TLC. This year will be the trial ending, it is a particularly important. Please come out to support us if you can! We need 5 participants for Tree Pittsburgh to host and only need one more volunteer.

Wightman Park Weeding and Mulching Event – This Saturday, 8/19 from 9 -11 am District 8 is hosting a Wightman Weeding and Mulching event. There is a flyer with a QR code for sign up circulating.

August Night Market – The August 26<sup>th</sup> Night Market is quickly approaching. We need two board members to help at the booth from 6 – 8 or 8 – 10 pm. We also need help with litter patrol, set up and clean up. There was a sign up in the reminder and if you need any help signing up please let me know.

Upcoming October Night Market – Please save the date for the upcoming October 7<sup>th</sup> Night Market. Again, it would be wonderful if you were able to volunteer for set up, the SHUC booth, litter patrol and/or clean up.

- b. Love Your Block Request Denied – SHUC again applied for the Love Your Block Grant to continue improvements to a small neighborhood parklet near Kamin, Murdoch and Guarino. There was an unprecedented number of applications and unfortunately our project was not selected. SHUC has been encouraged to apply next year.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Financial report for June and July – For the month of June we had both a large grant from the Grable Foundation for Neil Log House (of 18,700 dollars) and a large construction expenditure for Neil Log House (of 25,000 dollars). I will be removing both of these amounts in order to give you a sense of what the income was from operations that impact the main checking account balance.

Income without the grant from the Grable Foundation was 14,493 dollars. This included 7,000 dollars in sponsorship income for the treasure dinner. We had sizeable treasure dinner sponsorships from William Demchak, Mardi and Bill Isler, and Ray Baum. Thank you to those sponsors. SHUC also had 6,100 dollars in general donations, which was very helpful as well.

Expenses without the 25,000 construction expenditure for Neil Log House were 7,345 dollars. This included printing expense of 791 dollars, payroll tax of 334 dollars, and employee salaries of 4,481 dollars.

Our net income for June was 7,148 dollars, which made June a good month financially. Our main checking account had 14,880 dollars in it as of June 30, 2023, compared to 8,603 dollars at the same time last year.

In July, we had more of an expense laden month. We had a 3,872 dollar insurance expense paid out of Neil Log House funds that I will deduct from our general operating expenses. Even without that expense we still had negative cash flow for the month.

Our income for July was 9,801 dollars, 6525 dollars of which included sponsorship income from the treasure dinner and 3,290 in general donations.

However, our expenses for the month were 18,047 dollars. Main expenses included 1,051 dollars in magazine postage, 3,200 in miscellaneous magazine expenses, professional fees of 4,086 dollars and 6,922 dollars in employee salaries.

Our net income for July was negative 8,246 dollars. Our main checking account had 7,285 dollars as of July 31, 2023 compared to 7,179 dollars on July 31, 2022. We are in stable financial condition at this point.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a. Built Environment – Good news, the FONLH Log House received the building permit. Construction is expected to start in the next few weeks.

The Irish Centre ZBA was approximately 5 hours. Mardi Isler testified on SHUC's behalf. They have 45 days and requested more. Testimony will be accepted during the 45-day period. SHUC will get a copy of the decision.

- b. Litter Patrol – Rachel Lacrone is starting a weekly litter patrol cleanup for ½ - 1 hour most likely on Wednesday evenings. We need litter patrol volunteers for the Night Markets. Please participate if you are able.
- c. Ped-Bike – Thank you to Xitai, Maria, Morgan Shaw and all who helped to make this a really fun, well attended event. Next Committee meeting is 8/16 @ 6:30 JCC room 202. The Ped-bike group sent a capital budget request through Councilmember Warwick's office. More will be discussed at tomorrow evening's meeting.
- d. Treasure Award's Dinner – Things are moving along well. We need more sponsors and will need volunteers as the event nears.
- e. Trees and Parks - Alder

## 7. New Business

- a. Rocco Didomenico and Elizabeth Soose – Manor Theater – There is a private line behind Forbes retail for sewage that is so deteriorated that it could not be maintained. All property owners were notified to tie in to the main line in 2018, PWSA dug up Forbes in front of the retail buildings to get main line access to all of the properties. It was thought that all property owners complied at that time, but it is apparent that not all did. The Didomenicos buildings on Murray are not part of that line. In December, CMU Robotics was experiencing "water" in the building. It ended up being sewage from the private unmaintainable line. The Allegheny County Health Department became involved and December – May there was evidence collected. ACHD sent letters in May and another letter giving to property owners till August 2<sup>nd</sup> to tie in. By now the sewage is not just in Murray basements it has surfaced at ground level. The Manor has been greatly impacted. Elizabeth, on behalf of the Murray properties, filed a right to know and has the list of non-compliant properties. ACHD informed property owners that water service will be disconnected if properties do not have a plumber working to tie in by August 25<sup>th</sup>, one property has until September 18<sup>th</sup>. There is no desire to go to the press. Councilmember

Warwick is aware and willing to help. The Coalition can contact the building owners and tenants. SHUC will send a letter to building owners and a letter of support to the businesses. Heather Graham will send the shut off notice to tenants in her building.

8. Announcements

From the City:

- **City in the Streets – Arlington August 23rd**
  - <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/city-streets>
- **2023 Citiparks Summer Guide**
  - [https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/21428\\_SummerGuide-2023-WEB.pdf](https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/21428_SummerGuide-2023-WEB.pdf)
- **2023 Summer Food Service Program**
  - <https://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/summer-food-service-program>
- **Friends of the Riverfront Survey**
  - [friendsoftheriverfront.org/trail-impact-survey](http://friendsoftheriverfront.org/trail-impact-survey)
- **Pennsylvania's 10-year Master Plan for Older Adults**
  - <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Ej0n4MvksU6fcJu6FvuWjcvtxDQmAJdLtYoU29wMRkpUMEk5TzVCMDdQSVdVWU8zSUFTQU0xU1dLWC4u>
- **Community Feedback Survey for Housing Opportunity Fund**
  - <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7258387/ea8401bf3714>
- **OwnPGH Homeownership**
  - <https://www.ura.org/pages/OwnPGH>

Councilmember Warwick

Updates: Councilmember Warwick has been monitoring the Dallas/Forward intersection. The Deer Management vote for a pilot program will be in the next few weeks. The test program will be in Riverview and Frick most likely. There will be a post agenda after the vote.

The Bus Stop meeting for Allderdice will happen.

There is a new program for safe passages to schools through operation better block that could happen.

PennDot: Meeting with bike ped that will share with PennDot what is needed.

Serpentine Drive will be closed indefinitely for repairs.

Adjourn Motion to Adjourn Dalia Belinkoff; seconded by Marshall Hershberg