

SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



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Board Meeting, September 19, 6:30 PM, In-Person - Room 220 JCC Preliminary Agenda

Board: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkof, Justin Berk, Lori Fitzgerald, Melissa Hiller, Mardi Isler, Lisa Murphy, Marshall Hershberg, Jon Prince Guests: Bram Reichbaum, Ashley Bryant, John Tokarski, Helen Wilson, Robyn Crawley, Sean Harrington, Scott McMurtry
Staff: Maria Cohen

Welcome

1. Roll Call - Maria

- a. Announce Guests

2. Action Items

- a. Approve August Minutes: Ray Baum motioned to approve, the August minutes, Melissa Hiller seconded the motion; the motion carried.
- b. Vote for the NIF grant : Justin Berk, motioned to approve accepting the NIF Grant, seconded by Lori Fitzgerald, the motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Financial report for August - For the month of August, we had income of 19,420 dollars. Of this amount, 10,122 dollars came in for the Treasure dinner. We had 2,049 dollars in contributions, 2,756 dollars in general donations, and 4,375 dollars in magazine revenue.
SHUC expenses for August totaled 10,585. This included salaries and payroll taxes primarily, with office supplies and a few other expenses comprising the total. Our net income for August was 8,834 dollars as a result, making it a very good month to help us build our reserves. Combined, our main checking account and paypal have 16,683 dollars in them total, compared to 10,969 for the same accounts last year at this time. We are in a good position financially as the Treasure dinner approaches.

4. President's Report

- a. Deer Management Update – Our partnership with Riverview Park expanded to a 60 person Protect our Parks coalition working with Lisa Frank in the Mayor's office. A demonstration hunt organized by USDA was approved by Council to start October 1st. USDA will provide a report to the PA Game Commission which has ultimate authority to approve a city wide deer management plan with the goal of bringing the deer population into balance. The city engage page has information and updates. The coalition noted credit to the Mayor's office and Council for taking action on this long time problem which is degrading all our parks.

- b. Lantern Flies – In the fall, the eggs will be an issue. A document detailing how to get rid of the egg larva will be shared.
- c. Friends of Neill Log House Update – Construction is underway. They have replaced all of the sill logs. They have started to do the chinking. The roof and some interior work still need to be completed. It should be completed by the beginning of November.
- d. Port Authority
Reported # of benches SHUC purchased and placed at bus stops as per request from PRT.
Conference Call Starbucks Bus Stop – The PRT is very reluctant to make any changes, very discouraging. Starbucks's seating is closed from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

5. Executive Director's Report

Coming Events – Note Volunteers Needed!

- a. Thursday, Sept 21, 5-7p: USH Meet & Mingle happy hour at Chase Bank (5832 Forbes Ave). Please come out to enjoy some light refreshments to meet + get to know our Squirrel Hill merchants.
- b. Garbage Olympics – Saturday, September 23rd 8:30 – 10:30 am – Unfortunately we did not get enough traction this year.
- c. October 7th Night Market – The final Night Market of the season will be hosted on Saturday, October 7th 6 pm – 10 pm. We need support at the SHUC booth that evening, photos if possible, and litter patrol.
- d. Upcoming Farmer's Markets Need support: The Farmer's Markets will run through November. We are planning to have raffle tickets for the Treasure dinner for the next Farmer's Market.
- e. CommUNITY Day - Sunday, Oct 22, 12-4p for Sq Hill CommUNITY Day: a fun afternoon celebrating fall and our beautiful community. USH provides the face painter, juggler, and balloon artist, but we need YOU to participate as well. Set up a table outside and sell your items or have a table for kids games/activities/crafts, set up a hot (or iced!) tea station, sell tacos, waffles, or whatever items your business specializes in (maybe some live music, Sunburst?) This will be a day to share with local residents, family, and merchants - a great opportunity to enjoy community and the outdoors!
- f. Door Open Tour for Sukkot on 10/8 @ 11 am – Lisa Steindel will be giving a tour of Beth Shalom after 12 pm and allowing us to see the Sukkah for Sukkot. Please join if you are able.
- g. The Branch/Levin Clubhouse Walk Squirrel Hill! Spooky Fun Walk October 30th @ 1 pm. SHUC will utilize portions of Walk Squirrel Hill courtesy of the hard work from the Bike Ped group.
- h. Tuesday, Oct 31: Sq Hill Trick or Treat Day (time TBD)
- i. Treasure Dinner – This year's annual fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, November 8th @ 6 pm. Treasures being honored are Helen Wilson, Ellen Kessler, Dr. Liz Miller and the JFCS. Purchase tickets, sponsorships and virtual acknowledgement on the SHUC site store. We are in the process of finalizing raffle tickets and will send the invitation in the next few weeks.

- j. December Wine Walk – Uncover will host the December Wine Walk on either Saturday, December 2 time TBD. SHUC will have a booth most likely with non-alcoholic options and snacks. We will need volunteers for the booth/table. More details to follow!
- k. Our head of Litter Patrol Rachel Lacrone is hosting Wednesday Weekly clean ups from 6 – 7 pm at different areas in the neighborhood.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Built Environment – The JAA application was approved. The Irish Centre is still under review. A verdict should be given by October 30th.
Litter Patrol – Litter Patrol is planning to host Wednesday Weekly clean ups from 6 – 7 pm in different areas in the neighborhood. Also, volunteers are needed for the October 7th Night Market.
- b. Ped-Bike – Next meeting: Marshall was at a community meeting Braddock and Forbes signal improvements. Pghpa.gov look for Forbes and Braddock. There will be an improved layout. There will be some bump outs for traffic calming. There will be timed signal lights depending upon the time of day. There will be some lane changes. The island will be removed. The timing of the final design will be January 2024 and will be complete by Winter of 2024.
- c. Treasure Award's Dinner – Last year \$72k worth of Sponsorships. This year we are up to \$56k.
- d. TreeVitalize Application due October 9th. Need 8 to 10 neighbors to request trees. Can Councilmember Warwick ask the city to plant Murray Ave?

7. Old Business:

Sewage lines – most of the 6 buildings have complied. On September 12th, PWSA did shut the water off to: 5864 Forbes (old Footer's Cleaners), 5868 Forbes (Hemp Hub), 5870 Forbes (Evelyn's Interiors), 5872 Forbes (Blue Monkey).

5874 Forbes Yue Bei Wei remained active on Sept 12th - 19th. They did not shut off 5874 Forbes the same day because when PWSA went out, they did not realize there were two service lines to the property. Today they have a sign on the door that says they are closed due to "water maintenance reconstruction". 5854-62 Forbes, the Sun Roth building managed by Equity Real estate, did engage a plumber and started the interior work.

8. New Business

- Turner Cemetery History Walk 12 – 3pm Saturday, October 7th
- Concern about cars parked the wrong way on Shady Ave. The city doesn't appear to be enforcing it.
- Councilmember Warwick – Community Project in Hazelwood to establish a co-op grocery store. Meeting: Propel School Hazelwood October 3rd @ 6:30 pm
- Mayor's Office: Paid Sick leave
- John Tokarski – Manages National Night Out, Zone 4 and Citizen/Student Police Academy. It will meet at Point Park University on Thursdays. This Thursday's Zone 4 meeting will be about de escalation training. John's primary responsibility is related to community safety.

9. Announcements

Motion to Adjourn, Marshall Hershberg