

SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



SERVING: RESIDENTS • INSTITUTIONS • BUSINESSES • VISITORS

Board Meeting, November 21st , 6:30 PM, In-Person - Room 220 JCC Preliminary Agenda

Welcome

Board attendees: Ray Baum, Dalia Belinkoff, Guy Costa, Melissa Hiller, Mardi Isler, Lisa Murphy, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Guests: Scott Bluman, Ashley Bryant, Patsy Boone, Ed Wrenn

Staff: Maria Cohen

- a. Announce Guests
2. Action Items
 - a. Approve October Minutes – Lisa Steindel motioned to approve; Guy Costa seconded the motion; All in favor– Motion carried.
 - b. Approve SHUC Sexual Harassment Equal Opportunity Policy – All in favor; Motion carried.
3. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Financial Report for October - The SHUC general account ending balance was \$25,811.98. There was \$9,800 in Treasure Dinner sponsorship income, \$5,115 in Treasure Dinner Tickets sold and over \$1,000 in general donations for a total income of \$ 17,398.44. Expenses include printing for the Magazine and postage, employee salaries, FONLH intern salary which was transferred back to SHUC in November for total expenses of \$ 24,217.21. The invoices for the Magazine will go out this week to balance some of the costs related to the Magazine.
4. President’s Report
 - a. Deer Management Update – The Committee met with the rangers. Sixty eight deer were culled and 39 of those were donated to the Food Banks. Each hunter fills out a form when they are in the park and when they kill a deer for good tracking.
 - b. Friends of Neill Log House Update – Construction is OnTrack except for an issue with delivery of the roofing shingles. The city will replace the steps which are considered a trail. A new fence will be added. A grant was

requested to create a garden. There was also a recent \$25k unsolicited grant received in November.

- c. URA Grant Approved – Grant received for more benches and planters. Mardi is reaching out to merchants and will have locations by January. Locations will include Wilkins, Northumberland, and Forward
- d. Special Tech Report – migration to Google - Scott Bluman – Tech Update – Scott has been volunteering to update our SHUC site, email and google drives. SHUC will migrate to google workspace to bring everything together into one system. 3 reasons: 1) Cost \$3 per user; cost will be about ½ for email 2) Ease of use – all in one place 3) Security and support

5. Executive Director's Report

Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt - Refillery Nov 25th Noon - The Refillery and Uncover Squirrel Hill are planning for a fun scavenger hunt for small business Saturday on Saturday, November 25th starting @ 12 pm – 4 pm. Participants will be able to participate in a fun scavenger hunt while shopping and dining in the Squirrel Hill Business District. Murray the Squirrel will be at the event for ½ hour photo ops at 3 participating merchants. There will be fun prizes from our favorite merchants including The Refillery, Dobra Tea, Steel City Vintage, Bull River Taco, Ten Thousand Villages, Jewish Community Center (JCC), European Wax Center, Games Unlimited, Amazing Books & Records, Chocolate Moose and Riverstone Books. Please share and come out if you are able!

- a. December 2nd Uncover Wine Walk 4 to 8 – Please come out for the Holiday Wine Walk the first Saturday of December from 4 – 8 pm. The Wine and food will be amazing! Murray will also be out for photos @ the Christmas Tree on Forbes from 3-5 pm. Pets and children of all ages welcome! Please come out to join in the fun!
- b. 10,000 Villages Tues Dec 5th – portion of sales to SHUC – Tuesday, December 5th from 4 – 7 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to pick up some unique, incredible holiday gifts and maybe a treat for yourself. A portion of the sales go back to SHUC. It sounds like Dalia and Melissa H will be able to volunteer the evening of the event Please come out to say Hello and show your support!

- a. JCC CFLK Update - The next in the Excerpts we should talk about is:

December 7, 2023, 7-8 pm

Excerpts We Should Read, Talk About and Act On: Important Passages to Guide Us towards Reconciliation

Join us for Zoom conversations based on book excerpts that can impact how we move towards reconciliation as a community and as individuals.

No need to read the books; we will share excerpts and guide discussion.

Discussions are held the first Thursday of each month from 7-8 pm via zoom and began in October. Please register @ the JCC CFLK site. We will also include the information in the SHUC Newsletter. The October discussion was “An Unspeakable Hope” by Leon Ford. Leon was there to lead the discussion and it was powerful and beautiful! The November discussion was postponed to do important programming regarding the conflict in Israel. The book was “The Book of Forgiving” by Desmond Tutu. We will update you if and when it is rescheduled.

Coming up:

December 7, 2023 7-8 PM

Pardeep Kaleka and Arno Michaelis

The Gift of Our Wounds: A Sikh and a Former White Supremacist Find Forgiveness after Hate

January 4, 2024 7-8 PM

Alice Wong

Year of the Tiger: An Activist Life

- c. Holiday Mingle - On Tuesday, November 28th from 5 – 7 pm @ Propel School in Hazelwood, we are partnering with the communities of Hazelwood, Squirrel Hill and Greenfield to host a fun family friendly event sharing the holiday traditions and history of the traditions with fun crafts from each community. There will be food, prizes, games from Playful Pittsburgh, a fun zone from the Carnegie Library and the City will join. Mayor Gainey might even make an appearance! Prizes and donations from: Little’s (grand prize \$100 and other small prizes, Games Unlimited, Riverstone Books, possibly Silk Elephant, Napolis pizza discounted and sponsored by Cohen Chiropractic Trigger Point Center, LaGourmandine, Hazelwood Community Kitchen, Hazelwood Café and possibly Bunny Bakes have all contributed. Everyone we talk to is so excited about this event! It is even more important given the challenges we have faced as a community and in our World.
- d. Community Challenge Response – As most are well aware we have faced several challenging and even frightening situations that faced in our neighborhood after the October 6th Attack in Israel. The best news is that our community stood together in resilience and our city stepped up quickly. Two examples: When Allderdice was tagged with anti-Semitic sentiments on the

retaining wall facing CDS, the response from the city was immediate. The graffiti squad had everything clean up within hours. When on Halloween, the Gazabo, residents and a car in Summerset @ Frick Park were all vandalized with anti-Semitic, LTGBQA+ and other hateful sentiments Zone 4, the graffiti squad, the Summerset HOA, the city, Jake Pawlak, the Mayor, Councilmember Warwick and showed their support and acted quickly! Zone 4 was there immediately, the graffiti squad moved quickly, the Mayor and Commander asked when Trick Or Treating would be and sent out extra patrols. Everyone was onboard to turn on the lights, host without any fear and to have more “cow bells”. The result was an incredible amount of trick or treating enjoying the fun and kiddos from neighboring communities still joining us! If you see someone isolating and you are able please reach out. This is the time to support each other!

6. Committee Reports

- a. Built Environment – The zoning board declined the Irish Centre. Hall of Sciences Building for CMU DAM with OPD will be in December. CMU set up a preliminary meeting next Wednesday, 11/29 @ 7 pm via zoom to share as a courtesy before the DAM in December.
- b. Litter Patrol – No report
- c. Ped-Bike – No report
- d. Treasure Award’s Dinner – It was a wonderful event. There were approximately 168 attendees.
- e. Trees and Parks – Murray Ave – December 1st is the deadline. There will be approximately 10 on Beechwood Blvd. Councilmember Warwick’s office is looking into the Murray Ave business district. The city will need to give SHUC the right to plant with an encroachment permit.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- a. 2024 SHUC Meeting Schedule and Holiday Calendar – Lisa Steindel helped to create the calendar.

9. Announcements

- a. City is looking for volunteers for our Snow Angels program to help seniors and people with disabilities. SHUC will share out!

Adjourn