

# SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



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Board Meeting, April 16, 2024, 6:30 PM  
Minutes

Board Members: Ray Baum, Lori Fitzgerald, Martha Isler, Heather Graham, Marshall Hershberg, Joe Ott, Jeremy Kazzaz, Jon Prince, Rachel Lecrone, Vida Passerro  
Guests: Barb Warwick, Ann Belser, Scott McMurtry, Scott Bluman, Sean Harrington

## Welcome

1. Roll Call - Maria
  - a. Announce Guests
2. Action Items
  - a. Approval of March Minutes – Joe Ott Motioned to accept; Dalia Belinkoff Seconded, the motion carried.
  - b. Approval of Intern Hiring - Heather Graham Motioned; Joe Ott Seconded, the motion carried.
  - c. Approval to submit Grant for Lunar New Year Funding – The timing did not work for the grant.
  - d. Approval of Financial Policy – There are times when the money is passed through. It is difficult to have a singular policy. SHUC will table this policy and review it at a later date.
3. President's Report
  - a. Neill Log House Update –There will 8 sconces total in the log house for lighting. Construction for the floor will start this Thursday. The proposed amendment is for 5 extra feet.
  - b. Deer Management Update –The Mayor held a follow up meeting. Erika, our Park Ranger, and the USDA shared how the demonstration program worked. They harvested 108 total in both parks. Almost 10,000 meals for the food bank. Mardi headed up the Q&A. “If we can't bring into balance with just bow hunters, is there anything we can do to better balance the population? Sharp shooters were described as working in other communities. The Mayor was asked for opinions, everyone in the room was in favor.
  - c. Benches and Planters Update – The benches are ordered. Rachel Lecrone has a friend who will survey with a locator and create a drawing.
  - d. Need Board Member to fill Treasurer Position – Trying to find a Treasurer.
4. Fiscal Report
  - a. P & L March – In March, SHUC's beginning account balance was \$23,230.79. SHUC's income was \$23,593.38 with \$20k from the Forbes Funds grant for payment to our consultant, sponsorships for the Magazine, and some income from our Winter donor campaign. Expenses were \$8,929.41 mainly including our typical expenses and postage for the spring Magazine. The account balance at the end of March is \$37,593.38.
5. Google Workspace Update – Scott Bluman, our technology volunteer, described how he is helping to consolidate everything under google workspace. We thanked Scott for getting us off an antiquated system.
6. Executive Director's Report
  - a. Migration to Google – Scott Bluman shared the update. We are expecting the full conversion by the end of the summer and are very thankful to Scott and Owen for their support.
  - b. Clean Sweep Update – Clean Sweep week has already started. Approximately 10 groups are going out this week including the Starbuck's team and most of St. Edmunds students!

Please consider coming to support us this Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 9 am – 12 pm for our finale, the in person clean up and if you are able please sign up to support us at the SHUC booth. I need to leave at 11 am so it would be very helpful to have a volunteer at the SHUC booth 11 am – 12 pm. The first 50 participant will receive Sunglasses from Pepper on Troy Hill. Prizes from Games Unlimited, Bagel Factory, Little's, Sunburst and Amazing Books!

- c. Blue Zone Update –SHUC has been in conversation with the Blue Zones Communities. Our community does not require a full-scale Blue Zone program. It would be a Blue Zone activate program where changes to policy and engaging our community would be the important elements for Squirrel Hill. Our community has most of the places including parks, access to good food sources, transportation, schools, activities for all ages and more. Phipps is onboard to partner and is hosting a Blue Zone inspired Dinner on Thursday, 4/25 in case you are interested in experiencing a delicious plant-based dinner with an amazing cooking demo. Within the next few weeks, SHUC will more formally reach out to the JCC and other potential partners.

Can watch “Live to 100,” Netflix, for background – National Geographic researcher, Dan Buettner hosting and taking us on a journey to visit the “Blue Zones” areas identified in the late 90s where many live to 100 or over with excellent quality of Life.

#### 7. Committee Reports

- a. Built Environment – Letter of support was sent for the RK Mellon project to the planning committee.
- b. Litter Patrol Earth Day/Clean Sweep Week – See clean sweep week above.
- c. Ped-Bike – Councilmember Warwick is helping revamp and improvements interchange near the parkway. A community meeting will be set up. Committee is working with Greenfield transportation committee and in some cases Hazelwood. Parkway Forward, Pocasset and a parallel intersection with a bike path. A draft is being finalized for comment with submission for 4/22 for a meeting in May.
- d. Trees and Parks – Scott Bluman has been looking at a tree canopy, GIS and list of Tree tenders. The Grant deadline is on May 1<sup>st</sup> for intent and June 1<sup>st</sup> for submission. The target is a large stretch of Beechwood. CDS and Colfax will not impede on the grant because there is a school funding source. Funding request from the state for Murray Ave.

#### 8. Old Business

#### 9. New Business

- a. Task Force to Consider Acknowledgement of Squirrel Hill Veterans – Proposal from Stanley Lederman to recognize our Squirrel Hill veterans with banners. Board members Jon Prince an Erik Wagner will join a task force to consider the proposal.

#### 10. Announcements

- a. Mayor's office – N/A
- b. Council – Councilmember Warwick's office took the concept from Squirrel Hill of group and individual clean ups to her other communities. They have 8 scheduled during the week.  
Learn and earn City program from the city; Share with local merchants.
- c. Bathrooms in the city are not open yet.
- d. Padded track @ Schenley needs repair
- e. Arbor Day – Please come on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for a fun, family friendly event. SHUC will have a booth and Murray will be there.

Adjourn – Mardi Isler adjourned.