



SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION BOARD MEETING  
August 19, 2025, JCC Room 318  
MINUTES

Board Attendees: Ray Baum, Justin Berk, Dalia Belinkoff, Jacquelyn Cynkar, Marshall Hershberg, Jeremy Kazazz, Martha Isler, Rachel Lecrone, Lisa Murphy, Vida Passero, Karen Oosterhous, Rivkee Rudolph, Mary Shaw, Erik Wagner

Guests: Allie Azzerello, Kira Monji, Ezra Adelman, Tony Indovina, Helen Wilson, Laura Byko

1. Action Items

- a. Approve June 2025 minutes of Board meeting - Mardi Isler motioned to approve, Mary Shaw seconded, Motion carried
- b. Acknowledge lack of July, 2025 minutes – No meeting

2. President's Report

- a. PNC Banking - SHUC has a new Account Manager, Sara Bias. We are working on streamlining and consolidating accounts.

Paul Litman Katz is a signatory on all our accounts. He is no longer SHUC's Treasurer nor a Board Member. Therefore, it was moved by Marshall Hershberg and seconded by Ray Baum that Paul Litman Katz be removed as a signatory on SHUC accounts. The motion carried, with all in favor.

- b. Chabad CMU Project - SHUC hosted a DAM on Monday, August 4, 2025 concerning Chabad of CMU's desire to tear down and build a community building for students on the 5100 block of Beeler St. The new building requires variances for setbacks.

Although information was received during the DAM meeting that the neighbors of the project on Beeler St. had no objection to the Chabad project, no community members were present for the meeting. Accordingly, it could not be determined what the feelings of the neighborhood/community were.

It was requested that Board members who knew of neighbors on Beeler St., or in the vicinity of the Chabad project reach out to the Built Environment Committee so that we can hear their concerns and feelings. We will reach out to CMU as well.

- c. Shout Out/Thank you Tree Grant - SHUC applied for a grant to plant trees along Beechwood Blvd. The plan is for 345 trees to be planted in five phases. Board Approval will be required if the grant is successfully funded.
- d. Community Garden Update - The Church of the Redeemer has a community garden space and has agreed to collaborate with SHUC, the JCC (and St. Edmunds?) to design the space and decide on plantings and determine administration. Jacquelyn Cykar volunteered to join the community garden committee. Rivkee Rudolph offered I-Volunteer support from the Friendship Circle.
- e. Goats/Neill Log House - Shout out to Mardi for getting the goats for landscaping!

4. Financials/Treasurer's Report - July Budget

**Beginning Balance: \$19,791.34**

Income: \$12,500 (\$5500 in TD sponsorship (Isler, Dollar Bank, Boyce), Magazine revenue and Summer donor campaign)

Expenses: \$10,884.66 (Magazine postage, bookkeeping, payroll, rent, office supplies)

**Ending Balance: \$27,541.86**

5. Executive Director's Report

- a. Update: DCED Main Street Matters (MSM) Neighborhood Planning Grant -The grant proposal is due August 31, 2025, and it will be submitted by that date. We are gathering letters of support from the department of City Planning and Senator Costa's office.
- b. Event Update: SHUC supported National Night Out, which was very successful. We participated in Hazelwood Back to School Blast Off and will participate in Pittsburgh's Got the Runs—a project of the Mon Water Project. Hazelwood (Hazelwood Green) on Wednesday, August 27th 5 - 8 p.
- c. Resource Fair Update - The Resource Fair is planned for Wednesday, October 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 pm. At the Squirrel Hill Carnegie Library. We will need volunteers the day of the event. There will also be a collection at the Squirrel Hill

Library for care supplies and a packing event on Tuesday, September 30th at the Branch. Special Thanks to Jacquelyn Cynkar who is housing the collections, putting together the flyer, helping with resources and more.

- d. Night Market Volunteers - SHUC needs volunteers for litter patrol and booth support for the upcoming August and September Night Markets. Please volunteer to support us!
- e. SHHS/SHUC 2026 Squirrel Hill Calendar -The SHHS is putting together a "then and now" SH calendar for 2026. SHUC is planning to partner by distributing and selling the calendar.
- f. Immaculate Collection – NFL Draft - Allegheny Cleanways is putting together a city wide litter campaign for Fall and Spring leading up to the NFL draft. They would like neighborhoods and communities to get involved by sharing info about clean ups that are happening and adding additional cleanups if possible.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a. Bike Ped - Announcement about upcoming event. We will create a volunteer sign up.

## 7. New Business

- a. Wightman/Darlington intersection - DOMI's plan is going to make Darlington more highly trafficked. Mardi Isler motioned to submit a letter to ask how DOMI responded to the feedback they received from the community. Jeremy Kazzaz seconded the motion adding a request for a traffic study; Mary Shaw opposed; Motion carried.

8. DAM Presentation: EV Charger Project (Allie Azzerello) - EV charging strategic plan was created in 2021 and the city was awarded a grant to begin installing EV chargers. In 15217, approximately 5% of cars are EV's, which is one of the higher percentages in the city. The charging stations will charge 4 cars at a time. The first phase is expected to happen in the Fall, followed by a phase in summer of 2026.

Squirrel Hill EV chargers: Beacon/Bartlett lot: 4 stations (8 spaces)Planning 4 charging stations with 8 spots taken up at Beacon/Bartlett lot.

Forbes/Shady Lot: 4 chargers (8 spaces). All at Shady Ave. end of lot.

Bartlett Street by Shady : 2 charging stations and 4 parking spaces. This would be in Phase 2 which will be implemented in approximately a year (2026).

9. Meeting Adjourned