

SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION



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SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2025

JCC Room 318

MINUTES

Board Members: Justin Berk, Lori Fitzgerald, Marshall Hershberg, Melissa Hiller, Martha Iser, Rachel Lecrone, Mary Shaw, Lisa Steindel, Erik Wagner

Guests: Clara Weibel, Scott McMurtry, Ann Belser, Reva Rossman, Nolan Grimes, Sean , Barbara Burstin, Ann Belser, Tony Pompeo, Joanie Kamer, Amy Dublin

Presentation by PWSA: Mora McLaughlin

1. Action Items

- a. Approve May 2025 minutes of Board meeting Lisa Steindel Motioned; Melissa Hiller Seconded; Motion carried

2. President's Report

- a. Connection with Marvista Contracting - Dalia attended the Marvista thank you to its customers event on Thursday, June 5 and then also attended the Opening event for Our Giving Kitchen on Sunday, June 8th. Michael Jacobs invited us to both events. Our Giving Kitchen opened at Forward and Murray near the Branch. It offers a space for volunteers to cook meals for struggling families and community members.
- b. Ryan Shazier Foundation - The Ryan Shazier foundation is planning to donate a signed item for our Treasure Dinner Raffle.
- c. Potent grants -city and otherwise Financials - We are looking into other funding sources and would welcome your input. The Pittsburgh Foundation offers a small and mighty grant program that is up to \$40,000 over a 2-year period that we might qualify for. We are also re-applying to DCED MSM Neighborhood Planning Grant in July and are looking into the MSM Elm Street grant. It is a 200-page application and would take up a lot of resources. We are trying to determine if it is worth the effort.

3. Financials/Treasurer's Report

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Beginning Balance: \$26,479.42

Income: \$12,550 including a \$10,000 commitment and income from Robert Levin and Dr. Kerry Bron to again be our presenting sponsors and a \$1,500 Sponsorship from Bill and Louise Rudolph. We need to continue to contact potential sponsors especially since this is the time of the year when we replenish our income for the year.

Expenses: \$ 11,096.57 (liability insurance, summer donor campaign mailing, magazine printing, office supplies, salaries and rent)

Ending Balance: \$30, 344.99

5. Executive Director's Report

- a. June Greenfield Pride Event - We were invited to participate in Greenfield Pride for the first time due to our strengthening relationship with Greenfield. It is hosted at Magee Field and Murray will be there in Pride gear. Please come out if you are able.
- b. Upcoming June Night Market Volunteering - Please come out on June
- c. Stand For All - Anti-Hate and Anti-bias prevention alliance whose mission is to mobilize the Greater Pittsburgh community to prevent, identify, and address bias and hate incidents in order to create a safer community of inclusion and belonging for all. I/we were asked to be on the communications committee.
- d. I-Volunteer Community Garden Clean Up - SHUC, Friendship Circle, the Branch and Church of the Redeemer are in the process of scheduling another community garden clean up and in June and the Branch will host a collection for our resource fair in October.
- e. Bloomerang Volunteer platform - Bloomerang our CRM/Donor Management platform offers an incredible platform for volunteer management. It offers ways to contact volunteers, send reminders, categorize the type of volunteer activities a volunteer enjoys and much more. This would be an incredibly streamlined approach to getting to know our volunteers, managing them well and having the best possible experiences for volunteers. The cost is 1400 annually for 250 and \$1900 for 500. Is it something worth investing in?
- f. Website Designer Update - SHUC put out an RFP for an updated website. The cost has gone up significantly since the last time we updated our site.

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in 2020. We were also able to get that site pro bono. The cost will most likely be \$15 - \$20k. There are ways to look at going through a more step by step process and breaking the cost out step by step. My favorite team is Benjamin Kostenbader and Dot Foundry. I recommend that we have more in-depth conversations with this group.

7. a. Bike Ped - Committee had a successful ride with conversations about bike loops, more intense social media, better crosswalks and work with the schools regarding transportation. There were also 20% Squirrel Hill residents at the last Bike Advocacy meeting.

B. Litter Patrol - Please volunteer for litter patrol for the next 3 Night Markets. Signups have gone out.

C. Build Environment- A DAM is scheduled for 2 projects: Mosaic art on the sidewalk and Tri-plex who still need to send its application. There is a question about if a DAM is actually needed for the second project.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

- a. Allderdice Tree Replacement and Tree Care
- b. Neill Log House - Regular Hours for tours 3 days a week. Please check the website. The main docent is a Park Ranger so the hours can vary.
- c. PWSA Presentation: Slides were shared. Replacing several water mains typically in the sidewalks which is not ideal. New water mains will be in streets. All lines will be replaced even private lines. There could be some disruption to service depending upon lead. They will communicate with residents affected and replace lines as quickly as possible. There is a map that will be on our website. The area is slightly to the west of Schenley Park, mostly Murdoch Farms. It typically takes about 2 weeks.