



SQUIRREL HILL URBAN COALITION

BOARD MEETING

Minutes

September 16, 2025

Board Members: Ray Baum, [Dalia Belinkoff](#), Jacquelyn Cynkar, Lori Fitzgerald, Marshall Hershberg, [Martha Isler](#), [Rachel Lecrone](#), Vida Passero, [Karen Oosterhous](#), [Mary Shaw](#), Erik Wagner

Guests: Ben Peoples, Michael Widom, Chris Zurawsky, [Nolan Grimes](#), Joyce Mulkern, Jeff Mulkern, Colleen Cadman, Sean Harrington, [Helen Wilson](#), Tony Indovina, Anna Batista, Ashley Bryant, Councilmember Barb Warwick, Patsy Boone, [Ann Belser](#), Jan Raether, Bill Isler, Nicholas Prestayko, David Anglero

Staff: Maria Cohen

1. Treasurer's report - August Beginning Balance: \$27,541.86
Income: \$10,906.00 (Included 2 Treasure Awards Dinner Sponsorships (Platinum Beachler, Gold Peffer, Silver Belinkoff), Mag Advertisements and Summer Donor donations, sales donation from Samatha Murphy and TD raffle tickets
Expenses: \$16,889.31 (\$8,890 Western PA Conservancy Community Greening Program DCED grant, rent, payroll, supplies)
August Ending Balance: \$21,558.55
2. President's Report
 - a. **Chabad House**
Second Meeting - Community Interest - SHUC hosted two DAM meetings. The 2nd meeting had many more community members. SHUC is meeting with CMU about the parking and will meet with the Beeler community meetings. ZBA meeting is currently scheduled for 9/9/2025. There will be another community meeting hosted after to address other issues with the neighbors and CMU. This is CMU Chabad but not a CMU owned property. SHUC was asked for a letter of support. Lori's recommendation would be to write a letter of support after the parking issue is clarified. It is the same use. Motion to write a letter of support

for the Chabad Center of CMU contingent upon CMU parking agreement by Lori Fitzgerald; Motion Seconded by Ray Baum; Motion Carried

b. Fire

Huge, quick response by SHUC, primarily Maria - SHUC is partnering with Kids Plus Pediatrics to collect items. There has been an outpouring of support from the city, District 5, Red Cross, many community organizations and community members. We need volunteers to sign up for the collection at Kids Plus Pediatrics.

Barb Warwick is meeting with the fire department tomorrow to understand the fire and requirements about sprinklers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44AEA92AA13-58632572-jefferson#/>

3. Executive Director's Report

- a. Recap Garbage Olympics** - There were 8 volunteers with 2 CMU PACE students. One volunteer, Cathy, cleaned the Parking lot next to the Library. She offered to do more regular clean ups. We are planning to have more regular clean ups of that garage that has more garbage than other areas of our neighborhood. We are also planning to ask our firefighters to come over to hose the garage out after we are done if possible.
- b. Upcoming Events: Night Market** - Our final 10th Anniversary Night Market is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th from 6-10 pm. We really need board support for our litter patrol from 4 - 6 pm and during the event. Please sign up if you can. We will be selling the 2026 Squirrel Hill Calendar created by the SHHS at the Night Market.

Resource Fair - Our October 15th Resource Fair is quickly approaching. It will be from 11 am - 3 pm at our Squirrel Hill Carnegie Library. We will offer resources for our underserved and homeless community.

United Against Hate Week - This year, Stand for All Pittsburgh is celebrating United Against Hate Week October 19-25. They are creating a calendar full of opportunities for greater Pittsburgh to affirm community values of safety, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all, while raising awareness about the harmful impacts of hate and bias. To learn more about Stand for All Pittsburgh, there is a one-pager on the table to share more.

Fall in Love With Mellon Park - SHUC will again participate in the 2nd Annual Fall in Love with Mellon Park on Saturday, Oct 4 11 am - 2 pm. The event will take place in Mellon Park on the Center for the Arts side.

Point Breeze Annuals Event - Saturday, October 4th - Free Native Plants!

Park Rangers Fall Event - SHUC will participate in this Halloween inspired event on Friday, October 24th (3-5 pm) in Frick Park. More details to follow.

Day of the Dead - SHUC is again partnering with La Esculita to celebrate Day of the Dead on Sunday, November 2nd 11 a - 2 p at the post office parklet at Darlington. There will be performances, sugar skulls, crafts, food trucks and a parade to Riverstone to see the altar. The altar will be at Riverstone for 2 weeks before. We are looking into a tour of Turner Cemetery and/or a screening of Coco at the Manor. We will need volunteers for set up, clean up and during the event.

Holiday Mingle - The 3rd annual Holiday Mingle will be hosted at Propel Hazelwood on Wednesday, November 19th 6 - 8 pm. Greenfield, Hazelwood and Squirrel Hill are again partnering and our kickoff meeting will be this Thursday. We will need board support for this event.

FONLH Neill Log House - First year anniversary party. Nov 9th 11 - 3 pm with free foods and drinks appropriate for the period.

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Event - We have again been invited to participate in the Holiday Community shopping events. Potential dates: - Tuesday, November 4th; Thursday, November 6th; Tuesday, November 11th; Thursday, November 13th; Tuesday, November 18th; Thursday, November 20th; Tuesday, November 25th; Thursday, December 4th. The team asked that we get the form back to them by Sunday, Sept 21st.

Volunteer for the September Night Market:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44AEA92AA13-50944519-squirrel#/>

Volunteer for Resource Fair:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44AEA92AA13-58736448-volunteer>

Donations for Resource Fair:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44AEA92AA13-58386061-resource#/>

4. Action Item

PNC Accounts

Account ending in: 5054–SHUC primary account

Approve that the individuals with signing authority are: Dalia Belinkoff, Ray Baum, Mardi Isler

Account ending in 0636–Gateway/O'Connor's Corner Account balance: \$500.03

Approve rolling this account into 5054

Account ending in: 2978–Friends of Wightman Park Account: \$879.36

Approve rolling this account into 5054

Account ending in 2785-Planters Balance of \$258.

Approve closing account and giving funds to Uncover Squirrel Hill

Account ending in 0945-DCED Grant

(Account ending in 8199-Neill Log House Account. Signing authority: Martha Isler, Raymond Baum - No changes)

Motion to approve [Marshall Hershberg](#), Second the motion Lori Fitzgerald, All in favor

5. Committee Reports

- a. Bike Ped - Family Ride recap - Family Ride Walk was lovely. There were about 8 walkers with Park Ranger Chris. There were about 20 riders. There was an opportunity to connect with pizza at the end.
- b. Litter Patrol - Please sign up to support the September 27th Night Market.
- c. Tree Committee - SHUC received a grant to regreen Beechwood Blvd. The grant will be about \$133k. We will need volunteers to plant trees on a Friday or Saturday TBD. November 7, 8 have been proposed. Phase 1 is the lowest canopy. There will be between 245 - 270 trees. WPC grant to plant 20 trees. Tree Pittsburgh is hosting give away for private property owners.
- d. Tech Committee - No report

6. New Business

7. Old Business

8. AARP Walk Audit Presentation- Colleen Cadman gave presentation.

9. Wightman Traffic Safety- Chronology: May

9. **DOMI and Wightman Intersections** - Jan Raether Infrastructure Engagement and Performance Operations Manager, Office of the Mayor

Community responses and Questions

May board meeting- Jan presented the Wightman Traffic Safety Project

August board meeting - There was a rigorous discussion by the board. At that meeting the board voted to send a letter to the acting director of DOMI with questions and concerns.

September Executive Committee meeting - We did not hear from DOMI and resent the letter. The letter fell through the cracks with DOMI.

September Board Meeting - Jan is presenting to address some of the concerns - September board meeting. The engineers looked at larger vehicles with turns in a program designed to show how trucks would be able to move. The design intent is to slow down vehicles so that pedestrians are comfortable crossing the street. What is the chance the community will understand traffic calming? The safety measurements will be more visible than Stanton Ave. with flex posts and other features.

Pedestrian safety is the top priority. The traffic calming features will slow down cars making it safer for pedestrians.

Bartlett and Beacon intersections were corrected and revised.

Proposal for DOMI to install this as soon as possible before winter.

Motion Encourage DOMI to move forward with the project by Mary Shaw;
Second the Motion Marshall Hershberg; Motion carried

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn [Martha Isler](#)