

## **HPCC Board Meeting September 2, 2021**

### **In Attendance:**

- Stephanie Walsh
- Howard Degenholtz
- Mary Beth Van Fleet
- Kathleen Paola
- Becky Marinov
- Justin Bhagat
- Jim Blakley
- Bob Staresinic
- Sabrina Culyba
- Bill Reier
- Judy Beck

Called to Order at 7:05 P.M. by Stephanie

### **Agenda:**

#### **Welcome Bill!**

- Bill Reier was voted onto the board to fill an interim position since our last meeting.

#### **Communication:**

- Meeting minutes should be sent out more quickly; and published in the newsletter in a more timely manner.
- The newsletter should also be sent out sooner than it is now.
- Nancy Gorhing is now the newsletter editor. She is in the process of reviewing and updating current practices; and is working on a survey to get feedback on what people like to see in the newsletter.
- Currently several options are on the table and will be further researched:
  - We are paying \$100 / month for Neon; it has additional modules we can get; It has MailChimp integration
  - Neon doesn't have good base for the newsletter
  - Considering updated WordPress upgrade (\$300) account in order to get plugins and use MailChimp (\$700 / year)
  - We currently pay \$150/month (x 10 months) for formatting the existing newsletter
    - We should let the current formatting person know if we're going to change things with him if so decided.
- Website - the business list needs updated. Kathleen to send preliminary list of businesses
- Stephanie will send Bill the password to the Instagram account,

## **Approve Meeting Minutes - May, June and July, 2021**

- A misspell of Stephanie's name will be corrected in the July minutes. (Corrected 9/3/21)
- Vote to approve with correction of above:
  - Moved by Howard
  - Seconded by Bob
  - Yeas = unanimous (11)
  - Nays = 0
  - No Abstentions.
  - Minutes approved.

## **Membership Benefits (Sabrina)**

- Reduction of fee for HPCC events
- Yard sale registration discount
- Yard sale map early - no address, just block and street (don't want early birds)
  - **Yard Sale registration closes on September 10 in order to be put on the map.**
- Discounts to Garden Club events
- Create a memento - working with Union Project; e.g. a clay commemorative object to recognize HPCC membership.
- Bryant Street member discounts - need some strategy for ID'ing members (cards, phone)
  - Could pick up at MaryBeth's shop
- Set up an HPCC table at the Yard Sale with membership information.
- Yard Sale maps should have HPCC logo and To Join - link printed on them.
- Our Facebook & Website posts re: Yard Sale should be updated to include how to become an HPCC member.

## **Updates**

New newsletter person: Nancy Gohring

Welcome sign

- After several setbacks, the sign has been made and is in storage until the project is approved.
- Justin, who is an Architect, is in the process of drawing a City required design map of the installation. Upon approval, the sign will be installed.

Super Playground

- The design has been approved by the City Art Commission.
- The City will begin the breakdown of the current installation before year's end.
- This will probably not occur this Fall which is a positive due to possible road closures.
- The HPCC Super Playground Committee is moving forward with the Pittsburgh Glass Center for mosaic art installations in the new Super Playground.

Historic Bridge restoration:

- A letter was submitted by the HPCC to the City regarding their proposal for the restoration.

- The letter outlined all of our concerns and is under review by the City Art Commission at this time.
- It was noted that the sidewalk in One Wild Place is in very bad and possibly dangerous disrepair.
  - This sidewalk is used by many. It is severely cracked, uneven, and in some spots nonexistent.
  - Who is responsible for repair - the Zoo or the City?
    - Further research will follow with a reachout to the appropriate party.

### **Upcoming Community Meetings**

- Sept: Park artists
- Oct: PWSA
- TBD: Office of Community Affairs about a new health initiative

### **Fall Activities**

- Yard Sale
  - Jake needs 2-3 volunteers on the day of the yard sale to distribute maps
  - Volunteers would be needed around 8am and would be stationed at some high traffic areas (along Highland Ave, etc) to pass out printed listings to those who want them. 8-12pm would probably cover the period of greatest need.
- Stephanie will email potential volunteers
  - Emails will go out to membership.
- Parklet clean-up in preparation for Pumpkin Patch
- Pumpkin patch identified as a successful tradition!
  - Will schedule
- Halloween parade not yet firmed up.
  - The Children's Committee will organize.
- Thanksgiving food drive is still under consideration.
- Light up night - nice tradition, not on same night as city light up night

### **Parklet**

- Thank you to Rob Collins at the Bryant Street Market for generously paying the Parklet lease. We will share our gratitude and recognize Rob's largesse with the Community.
  - Newsletter
  - Listserv
  - Print sign for him to hang up at the Market.
- Casa Brasil has graciously allowed us to use their water in order to create and maintain the new grass and plantings. We would like to reimburse them for water use.
  - Vote to reimburse Casa Brasil \$100.00/month for water use.
  - Moved by Howard.
  - Seconded by Jim B.
  - Ayes = unanimous (11)
  - Nays = 0
  - No Abstentions.

- Motion approved.
- New occupancy permit is still in process. There was some confusion with the URA receiving documents.
- Model for public engagement - part of larger effort to develop a Community Plan?
  - See Community Plan guide here: <https://npg.pittsburghpa.gov/>
  - Community input and participation will be essential moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.