

**Brookline Together**

**Community Meeting Minutes: September 14, 2020**

**7:00 pm Meeting held via Zoom and Facebook Live**

**Board Officers Present:**

President:	Caitlin McNulty	Membership:	Lois McCafferty / Samantha Melhorn
Vice-President:	Blake Plavchak	Business Development:	Jason Tigano
Secretary:	Ally Bove	Beautification:	Tony Griffith / Lisa Wilson
Treasurer:	Bill Kim / Mark Hopkinson	Community Events:	Melissa Kilmer
		Newsletter:	Brock Boutwell

**Board Officers Not Present:** Lois McCafferty; Jason Tigano

**Attendance:** 16 attendees

**Proceedings:**

After some technical difficulties with Facebook Live, the meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Board President Caitlin McNulty. We were unable to use Facebook Live, but we sent the Zoom meeting details by text, e-mail, and Facebook Messenger to people who we knew were trying to log in, and posted the Zoom meeting details on our Facebook page and in the meeting's Event page.

*Correspondence:*

- Business Development committee working to resolve a parking issue in the neighborhood

*Treasurer Report*

- Current bank account balances:
  - Main account: \$28,544, some is grant money that will be used for specific purposes.
  - Newsletter account: \$1,928

### *Committee Reports:*

- Finance (Bill Kim)
  - Finance committee meeting scheduled for September 28 at 7:00pm via Zoom; contact Bill Kim if you'd like to join
  - Will review committee budgets for approval at the 9/28 meeting
- Newsletter (Brock Boutwell)
  - New printed issues still on hold due to COVID-19
  - Planning to resume electronic versions of newsletters ASAP. Current advertisers will be included in the e-newsletters but not charged again until printed issues resume (hopefully in early 2021)
  - Next e-newsletter will include information about the new businesses that have opened in the neighborhood in the past few months
  - Still working on identifying a new committee chair
  - Next meeting September 15 at 8:00pm via Zoom; contact Brock Boutwell if you'd like to join
- Membership and Business Development
  - Membership (Sami Melhorn):
    - Directory is printed! Just distributed to businesses along the Blvd
    - Electronic version will be posted to our website ASAP
  - Business Development (reported provided by Jason Tigano, given by Caitlin McNulty):
    - Healthy Streets plan is being submitted tomorrow for approval from the city. This will enable some sidewalk changes on Brookline Blvd to allow for increased outdoor seating
    - Some new businesses that have opened:
      - Kickstand sandwich shop
      - Oak Hill Post
      - Exotique
- Welcome Wagon (Pam Grabowski)
  - 14 new resident packets sent out for those who moved to Brookline in August
  - Notable transfers:
    - 802 Eathan – purchased \$75,000 and sold \$133,900
    - 1200 Brookline Blvd – purchased \$30,000 and sold \$100,000
  - September mailing will include reminders to complete the Census
  - Advertising space is available in the Welcome Wagon packet – contact Pam Grabowski or the general e-mail [brooklinetogether@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinetogether@gmail.com) if you'd like to advertise your business, or if you want to advertise a community event or other happening
- Community Events (Melissa Kilmer)
  - Working on figuring out what we can do for Halloween Parade and Brookline Lights Up with COVID restrictions
  - Food Truck Tuesday starts next Tuesday 9/22. It'll be on Brookline Blvd, near the intersection with Stebbins. It goes through Tuesday 11/17. The flyer is on our webpage and the schedule of food trucks will be released on our Facebook page tomorrow.
- Beautification (Tony Griffith)

- Holiday Lights Fundraiser – have received 22 donations so far. Goal is \$4,000 Donations being accepted at [www.brooklinetogether.org/donate](http://www.brooklinetogether.org/donate)
  - Will pay for: refurbishment of lights (new bows, new and brighter bulbs that were voted on by community residents), cost of installation and uninstallation
  - HUGE thank you to Phil Behr, Farmers Insurance for his extremely generous donation to help us toward our goal.
- Garbage Olympics! We are participating. Our pickup point is at the intersection of Stebbins Ave and Trelona Way – we'll tackle the trash in the alley and hopefully have enough volunteers to send satellite crews to other spots in Brookline
  - Saturday, September 26, 9-11am – we must report our total at 11am!
  - Meet in front of Brookline Teen Outreach to collect bags/gloves/grabbers
    - Volunteers: WEAR FACE MASKS
    - People can bring their own gloves and grabbers if they'd like to
    - Let us know if they're aware of places around the neighborhood with a lot of trash collecting
    - Can collect hard-to-recycle items including TVs, etc.
  - We'll create a Facebook Event for this and start seeking volunteers ASAP
- Working on Beautification plans for 2021 – big cleanups but also smaller impactful events throughout the year
- Next meeting October 5 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Contact Tony Griffith or Blake Plavchak if you'd like to join.

#### *Old Business*

- Our contract with the URA is being finalized for work at the Jacob/Whited site
- Census Grant
  - Successful events at Mazza Pavilion and Parkside Manor were held in late August
  - Figuring out if we can still do a community event
- Flag Receptacle has been installed at Brookline Teen Outreach next to the community bulletin board. Thank you to Dan McKeever for all of his work in obtaining this for the community, and in planning a lovely dedication ceremony last month!

#### *New Business*

- Presentation from Kevin McPhillips from PaCEO: the Pennsylvania Center for Employee Ownership
  - Pittsburgh has the nation's first citywide task force on employee ownership, as a partnership between the City of Pittsburgh, universities, businesses, and economic development organizations.
  - They'd also like community organizations like Brookline Together to help

#### *Announcements:*

- Significant improvements have been made at the Brookline Rec Center:
  - Wheelchair-accessible bleachers installed
  - Restrooms upgraded
  - Parking lot lights replaced (work in progress, will be finished around the end of October)
- City of Pittsburgh is seeking input on the 2021 budget. <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2021-operating-budget>
  - Wednesday, September 16 at 6pm: Zoom public forum regarding the operating budget. You can register to participate at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scu-oqzsqE9P0g-JyegyC9Zi6ez\\_RNfBN](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scu-oqzsqE9P0g-JyegyC9Zi6ez_RNfBN)
- September is National Recovery Month
  - Learn to use person-first language to reduce stigma. Consider taking the pledge at [www.unityrecovery.org/person-first-pledge](http://www.unityrecovery.org/person-first-pledge)
  - Narcan distribution on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm at Tree of Life church in Brookline. You don't need a prescription, you don't need to provide your name, and you'll be taught how to use the Narcan.
- Great virtual library resources are being offered by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh: <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/services/virtual/>
- Tree of Life church's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Trees is being planned for December 3-6, and they would love community members to sponsor a tree!
  - The event: The sanctuary is emptied of its chairs and is instead filled with trees, and people decorate trees however they'd like – different colors, themes, etc.
  - Registration is available now! [www.GodLovesBrookline.com/trees](http://www.GodLovesBrookline.com/trees) or call the church at 412-531-0590.
- Send ideas for the newsletter to the Newsletter committee! E-mail them at [Newsletter15226@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter15226@gmail.com)

*Additional Questions, Comments, Concerns*

- None
- Contact us at [brooklinetogether@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinetogether@gmail.com) if you'd like to add anything!

Community meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. (motion by Bill Kim seconded by Blake Plavchak, all in favor.)

Next meeting:

- Next community meeting Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, Brookline Teen Outreach or on Zoom (we will announce meeting details closer to the date)