

**Brookline Together**

**Community Meeting Minutes: November 11, 2019**

**7:00 pm Brookline Teen Outreach**

**Board Officers Present:**

President:	Caitlin McNulty	Membership:	Lois McCafferty
Vice-President:	(Bill Kim)	Business Development:	Jason Tigano
Secretary:	Ally Bove	Beautification:	Lisa Wilson (interim)
Treasurer:	Bill Kim	Community Events:	Melissa Kilmer (interim)
		Newsletter:	Brock Boutwell

**Board Officers Not Present:** n/a

**Attendance:**

41 attendees

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order* at 7:02 pm by Board President Caitlin McNulty.

*Approval of prior minutes:*

September community meeting minutes were approved by the board. (Motion: J Tigano, Second: B. Kim, vote to approve unanimous.)

*Correspondence:*

- None

*Special Presentation:*

- Katie Sawyer, transportation engineer and senior project manager with City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI)

- City is working on traffic calming projects. Initial focus is on the worst areas, where 85-90% of people are speeding
- You can have your street evaluated by going to the DOMI website and filling out the application. You'll also need to show that your neighbors generally support traffic calming measures on your street. If you want help communicating with DOMI about your street, contact DOMI or Brookline Together for assistance
- Also working on safety issues in busy corridors, such as Brookline Blvd, to improve pedestrian safety and decrease speeding without pushing traffic off the main road onto residential side streets.
- Ms. Sawyer brought aerial maps of Brookline Blvd and the surrounding areas and encouraged residents to come speak with her about specific concerns. Many meeting attendees did so.

*Committee Reports:*

- Finance (Bill Kim)
  - 3 new members paid dues since last month
  - Total balance down \$1900 since 10/1, mostly related to paying annual insurance premiums and paying the final bills from Breezefest
- Newsletter (Caitlin McNulty, on behalf of Brock Boutwell)
  - November issue of Brookline Now came out last week. Paper copies are on the Boulevard, McNeilly/Sussex businesses, senior high-rises, and Potomac Ave businesses. Electronic copies were sent to Brookline Together members on 11/4 and to non-members on our e-mail list 3 days later.
  - January issue is being worked on now; contact [newsletter15226@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter15226@gmail.com) with any ideas or submissions!
    - Deadline for new ads = Dec 6
    - Deadline for new content = Dec 13
- Membership (Samantha Melhorn speaking on behalf of Lois McCafferty)
  - Working on 2020-2021 business directory
  - Twice-weekly social media posts highlighting our business members
  - Will have a table at Brookline Lights Up
- Business Development (Jason Tigano)
  - No meeting this month
  - Assisted Chuong's to work with the city and quickly reopen after a recent code issue
- Welcome Wagon (Pam Grabowski)
  - Sent 20 new packets in October
  - Notable transfer: a home on Fordham which sold for \$64,000 in March 2019 and resold for \$213,500 in Sept 2019
- Community Events (Melissa Kilmer)
  - Brookline Lights Up is scheduled for Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - Activities will include: balloons, face painting, a toy drive, movies, nativity scene, photos with Santa, karate demonstrates, more TBA
    - Tree lighting @ the cannon @ 5pm

- Working with Brookline Elementary school to do holiday window painting in several of the businesses along Brookline Blvd that expressed interest
- Tree decoration will occur by the cannon on Friday 11/22 from 2-5pm. All are invited!
- Lights along Brookline Blvd will be hung the week of 11/18. Donations are being accepted; the cost of having a bucket truck come and hang and then take down the lights is significant.
- Beautification (Lisa Wilson)
  - Fall cleanup was a success, and Brookline Together solicited excellent donations from Lowes of Bethel Park, Rollier's, and Busy Beaver. A BIG thank you to those businesses for the donations to beautify Brookline!
  - Working on approvals from the city to hang cigarette butt receptacles on poles along the Blvd.
  - Working on identifying a location and donation of materials to have a permanent shed to store beautification materials.

### *Old Business*

- Jacob/Whited
  - Lot has been cleared sufficiently for addition of the apiary at the Jacob/Whited site
  - Burgh Bees should be breaking ground on the grading of the plot very soon
  - Brookline Together submitted a grant through the Urban Redevelopment Authority to fund the addition of water and electrical utilities to the site. We are awaiting response.
    - This grant will greatly help us use some of the space as a community garden, which was identified earlier this year as a top priority for Brookline residents.

### *New Business*

- Community Volunteer Platform
  - Please let us know if you have ideas regarding how best to communicate when we need volunteers for various events.
  - If you follow us on Facebook – thank you! But make sure you also interact (“like” or “comment”) with our posts to ensure that you will continue to see our posts.
- Flag Retirement Receptacle
  - Dan McKeever, with help from Clint Burton, has taken the lead on fundraising and ordering stainless steel drop box to be stored at Brookline Teen Outreach, where people can drop flags that are faded/tattered/otherwise in need of retirement.
  - Funds are still needed. Please contact Dan McKeever, or reach out to Brookline Together and we will put you in touch with Dan.
- Board Vacancies
  - There are 2 board vacancies for 2020. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact us at [brooklinetogether@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinetogether@gmail.com) no later than December 6<sup>th</sup>. The requirements for nominees are that they must a current Brookline Together member and have served on a Brookline Together committee.

- Vice-President: assist the president with leadership of the organization
  - Blake Plavchak has been nominated
  - Additional nominations are due 12/6
- Community Events chair: lead planning of community events such as Breezefest, Art on the Boulevard, the Halloween Parade, etc.
  - Melissa Kilmer has been nominated (and has been filling in the position on an interim basis since the prior chair stepped down)
  - Additional nominations are due 12/6

*Additional Questions, Comments, Concerns*

- Leaders from Brookline Baseball and Brookline Youth Hockey expressed concern about the lack of appropriate lighting at Memorial Park, leading to some issues with vandalism.
  - There had previously been money in the city's Capital Budget for improvements in lighting, but unfortunately the cost estimate was inaccurate and it wasn't enough to cover the necessary replacements
  - Zone 6 commander has been increasing patrols in the area
  - We will continue to monitor this situation
- Amy Fisher (Pawburgh Photography) is selling 2020 calendars with beautiful photos of Pittsburgh for \$21. Contact her to purchase one.
- Tree of Life church's Festival of Trees is upcoming. More information is available in the November issue of Brookline Now.
- James from Honeycomb mentioned that he will be setting up a community meeting to discuss what businesses people would like to see in Brookline. (Brookline Together will share our survey information from James, because we asked this question of survey respondents throughout 2019.)
- Eileen Papale shared that bagged yard waste will be picked up on Saturday 11/16 curbside.
- Lance from Tree of Life Church shared that they are working with the county Sheriff's office and Wal-Mart to provide everything needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.
  - Call Tree of Life to sign up for this; you MUST pre-register
  - 240 spaces are available.
  - Pickup will be Tuesday 11/19 from 11am-2pm and will include a turkey and everything else required to cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner
  - This program does NOT require proof of income.
- Lee Herbner asked if we can hang veteran banners on the Blvd similar to what Castle Shannon and other local towns have.
  - First step: need to buy and install the correct brackets onto the electrical poles. (Brackets are there, but they aren't the correct kind.)
  - Then will need Art Commission approval for anything we hang there
  - Then can get banners made and hung
  - This will require significant fundraising.
- Brookline Together's holiday party is Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> at Brookline Teen Outreach. All members should be receiving invitations in the mail any day.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. (motion by Jason Tigano, seconded by Bill Kim, all in favor.)

Next meeting:

- Holiday party Monday 12/9, open to all members, RSVP to Heather Fulton
- Next community meeting Monday 1/13, 7:00pm, Brookline Teen Outreach