

Brookline Together Board Meeting Minutes November 9, 2020

Board Officers:

President: Caitlin McNulty

Vice-President: Blake Plavchak

Secretary: Ally Bove

Treasurer: Bill Kim; co-chair Mark Hopkinson

Membership: Lois McCafferty; co-chair Samantha Melhorn

Business Development: Jason Tigano; co-chair Jason Shymoniak

Community Events: Melissa Kilmer

Beautification: Tony Griffith; co-chair Lisa Wilson

Newsletter: Brock Boutwell

Attendance:

Board members/co-chairs present: Caitlin McNulty, Lisa Wilson, Ally Bove, Melissa Kilmer, Brock Boutwell, Bill Kim, Lois McCafferty, Samantha Melhorn, Blake Plavchak, Mark Hopkinson, Jason Tigano

Members & guests present: Ben Hayes, Sarah Baker, Eileen Papale, Connor Mulvaney, Lance Rhoades, Ken McNulty, Renee and Todd Shelly, Chris Hamm, Perry Zilka, Harrison Kinzler, Deacon Lyons, Linda Boss, Ellie (last name not listed)

Regrets:

Caitlin McNulty called the board meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

- Correspondence – none of note
- Treasurer Report
 - Bank account balance \$22,406
 - Newsletter account balance \$1,945
 - Please send any outstanding reimbursements to Bill Kim
- Committee Submissions
 - Finance
 - Committee met on 10/26 and reviewed all budget proposals from each committee for 2021
 - Discussion re: committee budgets –
 - Clarifying Newsletter expenses
 - Adding funds for Community Yard Sale and Breezefest in 2021 (these events did not occur in 2020)
 - Motion from Bill Kim to approve Newsletter 2021 budget, Second: Caitlin McNulty, all in favor, motion carries.
 - Motion from Bill Kim to approve Community Events 2021 budget, Second: Blake Plavchak, all in favor, motion carries.
 - Motion from Bill Kim to approve Membership & Business Development 2021 budget, Second: Caitlin McNulty, all in favor, motion carries.
 - Newsletter
 - Many changes coming! Committee met November 5 and approved the following:
 - Moving toward a permanent online presence on the Brookline Together website, potentially with quarterly or semi-annual print issues.
 - Will be formatted similar to a blog page; 2+ articles per month
 - Still working out details of how advertising will work – committee will be contacting current advertisers

- Membership & Business Development
 - Looking into giveaway promotions at community events
 - 2021 membership applications will be created soon and sent to current members
 - Changes requested to website:
 - Add “Become a Member” button
 - Add “Join a Committee” button
- Welcome Wagon
 - No report this month
- Community Events
 - Food Truck Tuesdays – 2 weeks left. Nakama on 11/10/20, Hot Dawgz on 11/17/20. We will resume Food Truck Tuesdays in 2021!
 - Light up night – we’ll be doing a ceremonial lighting of the tree in Cannon Park on Saturday 11/28/20 around 5:30pm, but unfortunately other events will not be held this year due to COVID restrictions.
- Beautification
 - Garbage Olympics was a success, collecting LOTS of trash from Brookline Blvd and Trelona Way (alley behind the south side of Brookline Blvd)
 - Volunteer schedule to empty cigarette receptacles on Brookline Blvd has been implemented
 - Landscaped area in front of Red’s on Brookline Blvd has been cleared to make room for outdoor seating
 - Plan to do the same in front of 802 Bean and Antonio’s – date/time TBD
 - Fundraiser for holiday lights was extremely successful, raising over \$5,000
 - Wreaths were refurbished and bulbs replaced on 11/6/20 and 11/7/20, replacing 2800 bulbs in 2 hours! Thanks to the 14 volunteers who helped with this.
 - 11/21/20: Need 5-6 volunteers for fluffing the wreaths and repairing brackets for installation, beginning at 8am
 - 11/22/20: Need volunteers to decorate the tree at Cannon Park, beginning at 11am
- New Business
 - Proposed coffee shop at 2415 McNeilly Rd – presentation from Chris Hamm (engineer), Perry Zilka (architect), Todd Shelly (owner)
 - Black Dog Coffee House – next to Black Dog car wash and dog wash.
 - Requesting a variance from the city to allow parking in front of the building (rather than behind the building).
 - Will also have a setup for 6 cars in a drive-through line, but can also bypass around the drive-through line behind the building.
 - Proposing 3 parking spots in front of the building. Access to the spots will be by entering the drive-through bypass and driving around the building, then pulling into a parking spot.
 - Concerns expressed by meeting attendees re: people backing out of parking spaces not being able to see people pulling out of the drive-thru line and/or people entering/exiting the warehouse next door.
 - Owners and consultants stated they would be willing to add landscaping or something to separate the coffee shop exit from the warehouse entrance/exit.
 - Employees are not included in those 3 spots; they’ll be parking elsewhere on an adjacent lot owned by the same property owner.
 - Bicycle parking will also be available.
 - Connor Mulvaney from South Hills Safe Streets offered their organization’s assistance in safe bicycle infrastructure planning.
 - Proposed art mural at Brookline Memorial Park
 - L-shaped wall near the fields = ideal for public art

- Sarah Baker: intern at Brookline Teen Outreach, Art Therapy masters student at Seton Hill University. Wants to include the teens at BTO in conceptualizing and creating the project. Also seeking feedback from all Brookline community members – you can e-mail Sarah with your thoughts! sh.baker@setonhill.edu
 - Brookline Breeze changes
 - Brookline Breeze has requested that Brookline Together consider taking over stewardship of the race.
 - Background: the Brookline Breeze is part of the City of Pittsburgh’s foot race schedule, so the race would happen on some level regardless of whether there was a separate organization running it. (This means that Brookline Together can still host Breezefest to accompany the Breeze even if we don’t take over the race.)
 - The large sponsorships are controlled by the City, so our organization would not receive that money.
 - The current race co-chair/consultant would be willing to continue helping for a fee
 - We are not sure how much money the race has brought in during past years – several board members indicated they would want to know more about the financial aspects before making a decision.
 - Caitlin will take these comments/concerns to the current Brookline Breeze leadership. If you have additional questions or concerns, please e-mail us at brooklinetogether@gmail.com.
 - Motions to be presented to voting membership
 - Board position titles: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer (who also chairs Finance), Finance Vice-Chair, Business and Community Engagement Chair and Vice-Chair, Beautification Chair and Vice-Chair. Consolidating Community Events, Business Development, Membership and Newsletter into one committee titled Business and Community Engagement.
 - Will consolidate duties for more cohesive approach to communication and involvement in the business district and community as a whole.
 - Consensus to keep it at 9 board members but make the changes detailed above.
 - At the last Board meeting (October 12, 2020): Motion by Caitlin to transition board position titles to President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer (who also chairs Finance), Finance Vice-Chair, Business and Community Engagement Chair and Vice-Chair, Beautification Chair and Vice-Chair; seconded by Bill, all board members present voted “yea”, motion carries. This issue will be moved forward to the November community meeting for a full membership vote.
 - At tonight’s Community meeting (November 9, 2020): This motion was passed by a 9-to-1 vote by the members present.
 - Decrease number of community/public meetings from 6 to 4.
 - Consensus to transition to 4 public meetings per year. If there’s a special presentation that is needed, we can always add a special meeting.
 - At the last Board meeting (October 12, 2020): Motion by Caitlin to transition to 4 public meetings annually, seconded by Blake, all board members present voted “yea”, motion carries. This issue will be moved forward to the November community meeting for a full membership vote.
 - At tonight’s Community meeting (November 9, 2020): This motion was 50% “yes”, 37.5% “no”, 12.5% “abstain”. Without a clear response or supermajority in favor, we will table this until the January 2021 meeting and revisit.
- Announcements
 - Holiday party cancelled due to COVID restrictions

- The City's Snow Angels program is looking for volunteers – info is on our Facebook page
- South Hills Safe Streets is doing a memorial ride in remembrance Austin Fike this Saturday, November 14th at 11:00 a.m. from the Cannon to the memorial at Brookline Blvd and Pioneer. Info is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/277260113597579>
- Tree of Life Church is hosting its Festival of Trees December 3-6, from 5-8pm each evening. It will be socially distanced and safe!
- Tree of Life Church is also hosting a free naloxone distribution on November 23 from 6:30-8pm.

Motion by Caitlin McNulty to adjourn at 8:39pm, seconded by Bill Kim, all in favor; meeting adjourned.