

Brookline Together Community Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022

Board Officers:

President: Caitlin McNulty

Vice-President: Blake Plavchak

Secretary: Ally Bove

Treasurer: Bill Kim

Finance Co-Chair: Mark Hopkinson

Community & Business Engagement Chair: Melissa Kilmer

Community & Business Engagement Co-Chair: Sami Melhorn

Beautification Chair: Lisa Wilson

Beautification Co-Chair: Blake Plavchak

Present: Caitlin McNulty, Melissa Kilmer, Mark Hopkinson, Bill Kim, Lisa Wilson, Brendon Miller-Boldt, Ken McNulty, Ryan Keane, Tom Smith, Thomas Scharff (DCP Staff), Mike Maloch (DOMI), Darren Davis (South Hills Landscaping), Joe Nagy (JBird Landscaping), State Representative Jessica Benham, Mayor Ed Gainey, Rebekkah Ranallo (Office of the Mayor), Chrisarah Johnson (Office of the Mayor), Melvin Hubbard EI (Office of the Mayor)

Excused: Ally Bove, Blake Plavchak, Sami Melhorn

Caitlin McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

- Approve February 2022 Board meeting minutes. Bill Motioned, Melissa second, 5 approved, no abstentions.
- PLI-LO-2020-04171 Approval Review
 - Location: 2244 Whited Street – Parcel: 0061-P-00180-0000-00
 - Presentation provided shows so far dead and overgrown brush and trees that have been removed from the site. Trees have been falling onto property owners' lots and brush is creeping onto the street.
 - All equipment is owned to perform the work.
 - Geotechnical investigations completed (boring samples, etc.)
 - Proposed lot dimensions 70 ft wide to approximately 200 feet (estimate to tree line) for 8 lots (maximum size)
 - Compactable dirt roller to be used to roll in compatible fill. Drains into the hillside to drain rainfall.
 - 30 ft back from wedged curb. Unknown if there will be driveways/garages.
 - Invite jbird@jbirdlandscapingllc.com, Thomas.scharff@pittsburghpa.gov planningcommission@pittsburghpa.gov, and subsequent emails
 - Darren Davis: 412-874-6664
 - Joe Nagy: 412-999-4790
 - From Thomas Scharff: Visit <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/planning-commission>. Email testimony will be accepted until the business day before the meeting at 12 p.m.
 - **Motion:** To accept the proposal from LAD Construction, Inc. to grade and ready the parcel 0061-P-00180-0000-00 located at 2275 Whited Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 site for future development. Bill second Caitlin's motion
 - Vote results: 6 Approved, 0 Rejected, 0 Abstained
- Brookline Mural Approval Review

- Brookline Memorial Park
- Latest version (display) was distributed to the board, BT membership, and community via social media outreach for comment and feedback from March 7th – March 21st
- New version received overwhelmingly positive feedback
 - Presented to the Brookline Together meeting attendees.
 - Kickoff in June, commence in August.
- April 27th is the Art Commission hearing date.
 - Email testimony to pacd@pittsburghpa.gov
 - Email testimony will be accepted until 12 p.m. the business day before the meeting.
 - Mail a letter to 200 Ross St., 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 - Mailed testimony must be received by two business days before the meeting.
 - Join the Zoom Meeting - Use raise hand function to request to speak during the relevant agenda item.
 - Call into the Zoom Meeting on your phone - Press *9 to use the raise hand function, and be called on to speak during the relevant agenda item.
 - <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/ac>
- **Motion:** to approval the current version of the mural design for submission to Art Commission for comment and final review at the March 23rd Art Commission hearing. Motion by Caitlin, Seconded by Melissa.
- Vote results: 6 Approved, 0 Rejected, 0 Abstained
- Community Conversation
 - Traffic and pedestrian safety on Brookline Blvd and parallel streets
 - Mike Maloch – Senior Project Manager, Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) –
 - Ryan Keane: suggests traffic ‘quieting’ methods by submitting a request to the city DPW. Concerns over traffic moving from Brookline Boulevard to Bellaire.
 - Also suggests ‘green lanes’ to segregate lanes.
 - Bill Kim: Brookline Boulevard and Stebbins, stop sign, no signal. Crosswalk and lines are not illuminated and therefore yielding is not performed correctly. Parking space lane used for cars to drive in looking for a parking spot and then quickly darting back into street traffic.
 - Mike: Solution could be trimming trees, using illuminated crosswalk signs, or eliminating crosswalk. But a study would need to be completed first to determine best option.
 - Caitlin: Cars turning while pedestrians are moving through intersection (Glenarm & Queensboro). Suggestion would be to lengthen red light.
 - Mike: Pros and cons of extending red light duration, which is regulated. Will take a month to investigate and make changes to the red-light timing at the intersections on the Brookline Boulevard corridor.
 - Caitlin, from Facebook: no crosswalk at bus stop intersections.
 - Mike: Put in a 311 request.
- Rebekkah Ranallo – Neighborhood services manager in the office of Mayor Ed Gainey. The department will work with community groups on various quality of life issues.

- Rebekkah Ranallo, Neighborhood Services Manager, Rebekkah.ranallo@pittsburghpa.gov.
- Melvin Hubbard, Community Advisor, Melvin.El@pittsburghpa.gov.
- Chrisarah Johnson, Community Liaison Chrisarah.johnson@pittsburghpa.gov,
- Mayor Gainey introduced himself and announced that there will be community meetings with Brookline in the mayor's office in the future
 - Mayor Gainey also offered to take a few questions but there were no questions submitted.
- Old Business – Brief updates
 - Membership update – Melissa Kilmer
 - Memberships are coming in, 53 business, 44 community. Membership applications are online
 - Events
 - Food truck Tuesday start March 15th at 820 Brookline Blvd 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 - South Side BBQ Company
 - Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day, May 30th, 2022.
 - Yard sale
 - Registration is on the website
 - June 4th and 5th
 - Beautification – Lisa Wilson
 - Updates
 - Community Garden Planning
 - Set meeting with individuals that reached out
 - Allegheny CleanWays, April 2nd, starting at noon. Cleaning the hillside of Pioneer.
 - https://www.flipcause.com/hosted_widget/volunteer_step2/NTA2NDM=/104127
 - Ages 14 and up due to traffic
 - Meet at Moore Park
 - Post clean up meeting at Red's Good News
 - April 23, Earth Day cleaning and planting volunteer event
 - Donation request posted for perennials, mulch, etc.
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 - March 18th – Wreaths are coming down! Starting at 8 AM.
 - Repairs will be needed.
 - Some of the lamps in storage have been sold.
 - Jacob and Whited Community Garden
 - Grading to be finished and utilities will be installed soon.
- Treasurer's report – Bill Kim
 - URA Grant completed and will cover remaining grading work at the Community Garden.
 - Brookline Breeze grant received.
- New residents – Welcome Wagon

- 19 new resident packets sent in March for those moving in the neighborhood in February
- Reminders
- Other Announcements
 - Rep Jessica Benham
 - Drive through Senior Fair 10 am to 1 pm April 6 at Brentwood Civic Center Parking Lot.
 - 18 Park Drive, Brentwood.
 - Caitlin McNulty - Brookline Teen Outreach fundraiser, “Night At the Races”
 - April 30th – Limited tickets!
 - <https://www.brooklineteenoutreach.org/nightattheraces>
 - Thomas Scharf – Department of City Planning office for Brookline
 - Email: Thomas.scharff@pittsburghpa.gov
- Caitlin motion to adjourn at 8:04 PM. Bill Kim seconds the motion.

<https://www.brooklineteenoutreach.org/nightattheraces>

Notes for upcoming community meetings:

May 2022 Community Focus: TBD

Mission: To promote a vibrant and livable community through collaborative initiatives that unify Brookline’s business and residential interests.

Goals for 2022:

1. Increase community involvement
 2. Increase tangible community impacts
 3. Improve communications
 4. Create generative funding streams
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