

Brookline Together Board Meeting

May 13th, 2024 via Zoom and in person at Brookline Teen Outreach

Attendance: Caitlin McNulty, Don Mudrick, Blake Plavchak, Lisa Wilson, Melissa Distel-Kilmer, Mark Hopkinson

Excused: Bill Kim

Meeting called to order by Caitlin McNulty at 7:05 PM.

March community meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Don, seconded by Melissa. All approve.

DAM – Nancy Hirsch (nancy.hirsch@pittsburghpa.gov) for Patrick Reade (Contractor) that performed work on gas line repairs on behalf of People's Gas

- Property of 1844 Jacob Street (R1D-L/H CASE DCP-ZDR-2023-07763) was used to store materials, tools, and vehicles during gas line replacement project from January to August of 2023.
 - o Property owner allowed contractor to use their property for staging and storage but did not obtain the proper license from the city.
 - 12' trailers, tools and equipment, materials (i.e. gravel and sand), dump trucks for hauling, pipeline storage.
 - o Property owner and contractor have zoning violations which need to be addressed because of a long process involving city planning to obtain the proper licensure.
 - Seeking a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) at the next meeting on June 13th, 2024.
 - Nancy will prepare a report for the city planning and for public consumption for the public comment period until the ZBA meeting next month.
 - o Goal is to go through the proper procedures to retroactively award a permit and remove the zoning violation against the contractor.
 - o Previous contractors have used the property.
 - o Agency Counter application contains the information regarding the zoning violations against the property owner.

URA Housing Resource & Housing Opportunity Fund 2025 Allocation Plan presentation by Eric Bernheimer (ebernheimer@ura.org):

- Survey link provided to determine how the \$10 million in annual URA funding for affordable housing should be spent in 2025 in the city of Pittsburgh.
 - o <https://bit.ly/HOF2025>
- Programs include the following and are granted on a first come/first serve basis.
 - o Down payment and closing cost assistance program.
 - o Homeowners' assistance grants/loans for home repairs (\$15k grant, \$20k forgivable loan).
 - o Housing stabilization grants for back rent, mortgage payments to avoid evictions and foreclosures in crisis situations.

- Free legal assistance for renters and homeowners
- Small Landlord Fund, available if tenants have HCV or under 80% of average local income (AMI, set by HUD).
- Low-rate construction loans.
- Funded by tax dollars, Community Block Grant program, and American Rescue Plan funds.

Membership Report by Melissa:

- Membership stands at 43 businesses and 31 residents. Memberships can be purchased on the Brookline Together website.

Events Report by Melissa & Don:

- Yard sale applications being accepted through May 24th, 2024. Sale is on June 1st & 2nd.
 - \$20.00 for non-BT members; \$10.00 for members. Free for businesses.
- BreezeFest (August 10th)
 - Stage is still needed for the musicians; however, stages are unavailable or expensive.
- Breeze 5k (August 10th)
 - Registration still open on BT website with a goal of 450 runners registered.
 - Sponsorships available!
 - First National Bank is sponsoring water tables.
 - Volunteer sign-ups are coming soon.
- Memorial Day Parade to start at Cannon Park, up Brookline Blvd to Pioneer, left on Pioneer to West Liberty, left up West Liberty to Mount Lebanon.
- Food trucks are scheduled out until November and the most recent line up can be found on the BT website.
- Farm Market will begin on June 2nd (same day as the Yard Sale).
- Corn hole tournament signups are on the BT website. Will be held June 12th at Red's Good News
- Bowling League's last meetup for the season is May 17th.

Beautification by Lisa and Blake:

- The flower beds on the Boulevard have been maintained well by the adopters.
- Lisa noted we did not receive donations of plants this year and was seeking plants from the community.
 - Planting and another clean up will be held on May 18th at 10 AM, meet at the Conex box next to A Boss Opticians.
- Blake noted that the Cannon Park historic landmark designation has been through preliminary review by the Planning and Historic Review Commissions and were approved.
- Wednesday, May 15th, city council to vote on the designation.
- Final approval is expected on May 21st at the next Historic Review Commission meeting, with the anticipation that the designation will be granted by Memorial Day.
 - Eagle Scouts are repairing the monument fencing, seating and landscaping.

Welcome Wagon by Caitlin:

- Six packets mailed out in April and there were no notable transfers.

Special Election for Secretary and Community Events Co-Chair:

- Victoria Contreras received the most votes for Secretary position.
- Renee Kostas received the most votes for the Community Events Co-Chair

New Business/Community Forum:

- Don Mudrick: Division 4 Public Works facility is under construction and is on track to be completed and in service by Winter 2025.
- Ashley Bryant: There will be an International Parade and Festival on June 8th from 12 pm to 6 pm at Market Square.
- Dan from State Rep. Jessica Benham's office: Another shredding event will be held in the area, most likely in October at the Brookline Rec Center.

Caitlin motions to end, Don seconds, all board members approve. Meeting ended at 8:26 PM