**Brookline Together**

**Community Meeting Minutes: September 9, 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

Treasurer: Bill Kim Community Events: Heather Fulton

**Board Officers Not Present:** Brock Boutwell (Newsletter) – sent report to Caitlin McNulty to share

**Attendance:**

34 attendees

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order* at 7:04 pm by Board President Caitlin McNulty.

*Approval of prior minutes:*

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

*Correspondence:*

* None

*Committee Reports:*

* Finance (Bill Kim)
  + YTD financial reports for donations and expenses, and statement of financial position were distributed.
  + Reports for this year’s events, including Breezefest, Yard Sale, Art on the Blvd were also distributed
  + $34,488.47 cash balance currently; $4,614.64 in newsletter account
  + YTD 2019: $15,054 in (events, membership dues, general donations) and $8,942 out
  + Finance Committee report from July/August meeting:
    - Worked out an arrangement with Community Bank to allow Newsletter Committee to pay for printing more easily
    - Discussed Small Games of Chance license for community events
    - Mark Dudding, CPA will take care of filing SPDC taxes from last year, which hadn’t been completed
  + Finance questions:
    - Linda Boss asked if checks from businesses for Breezefest ads were cashed yet; Bill Kim said they were all deposited today and should be
    - Vinny’s Pizza has not yet paid for their Breezefest ads; Linda Boss will follow up
    - An attendee asked about the cost of the newsletter; it costs slightly over $500/month to print using an online printing company. This is a discount compared to the $900 we used to pay for a shorter, more black-and-white newsletter.
* Newsletter (Caitlin McNulty, on behalf of Brock Boutwell)
  + September issue of Brookline Now came out today. Paper copies are on the Boulevard, and electronic copies will be distributed within the next 2-3 days.
  + November issue is being worked on now; contact [newsletter15226@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter15226@gmail.com) with any ideas or submissions!
* Membership (Lois McCafferty)
  + Discussed business directory for 2020 – committee is researching printing costs, interest from local merchants
  + Committee is working on updating list of local businesses and making sure all information is current
  + Working on a series of social media posts highlighting business members
  + Had membership table at Breezefest and Moore Park Celebration
  + Next meeting 9/16/19, 6:45pm at Melissa Distel Photography, 800 Brookline Blvd
  + Join Brookline Together for 2019 anytime!
* Business Development (Jason Tigano)
  + Next meeting 9/16/19, 7:00pm at Brookline Teen Outreach
  + Trying to work with local businesses to help them obtain grants from Urban Redevelopment Authority to improve facades
  + Trying to network with new property owners and/or new business owners – trying to match potential business owners with landlords looking to lease business space. Contact Jason Tigano or come to the meeting if interested in more information
* Welcome Wagon (Pam Grabowski)
  + Sent 37 new resident packets in August
  + Interesting purchase of note: a house on Gallion was purchased for $20K by an out-of-state company that specializes in rent-to-own and was then sold for more than $210,000
  + Need more welcome postcards – Caitlin McNulty has more and will give them to Pam to continue including them in each welcome packet
* Community Events (Heather Fulton)
  + 2 more events this year:
    - Halloween Parade, October 26. Boulevard will be shut down; parade from cannon to BTO. Costume judging inside BTO. Paul Drabick is trying to get the “Ghostbuster car”, which may be available in exchange for a donation to a local food bank.
    - Light Up Night, November 30. Can actually do a LIGHT UP of a tree this year, because electrical outlets have been added at the Cannon park. Looking into various family-oriented events to bring people to the Boulevard, and highlight small businesses because it’s also Small Business Saturday
  + Next committee meeting: 9/16, 7pm, at Moonlite Café. Please attend if you’d like to help with either of these events!
* Beautification (Lisa Wilson)
  + Fall cleanup will be Saturday, October 19th from 10am-2pm
    - 45-50 students from Pitt will be helping from Pitt Make a Difference Day
    - Councilman Coghill’s office will be donating food from Fox’s Pizza for volunteers
  + Working on putting cigarette receptacles on the Boulevard
    - Blake Plavchak and Caitlin McNulty are finishing the proposal to the city’s Department Of Mobility and Infrastructure to gain permission to mount the receptacles onto city-owned signs along Brookline Blvd. Will likely be approved as a 5-year agreement.
    - Receptacles are already present; they were obtained as part of a grant.
    - Beautification Committee will organize a sign-up list of people who will empty them weekly. Several meeting attendees volunteered their services, and Caitlin McNulty mentioned some Brookline Teen Outreach volunteers who may be interested
  + Also need some help with DogiPot bags along the Boulevard.
  + Next meeting 9/16/19 7:00pm at Brookline Teen Outreach

*Old Business*

* Burgh Bees:
  + 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
  + Writing a grant through the Urban Redevelopment Authority to fund the addition of water and electrical utilities to the site; this seems hopeful. The grant is due October 1.
  + Questions:
    - Can we bring our own hives?
      * No, not yet, but once it’s established we will explore this possibility with Burgh Bees.

*New Business*

* A guest speaker was expected at this meeting, but she does not appear to be here. Will follow up and reschedule.
* Brookline Together is putting together an advisory council of local residents and business owners to gain informal perspectives regarding the direction of the organization and ideas for the future of the organization

*General Announcements*

* Brookline Teen Outreach’s A Night At The Races fundraiser is selling out quickly; get your tickets soon!
* Monday, December 9th, 5-8pm: Brookline Together’s holiday party. More details to come!
* Tree of Life church is looking for businesses or groups or families to sponsor a tree at their Festival of Trees fundraiser on December 5-8. More information is available under the Events tab at [www.godlovesbrookline.com](http://www.godlovesbrookline.com)

*Questions/Discussion*

* One attendee asked some questions about the Night at the Races fundraiser for Brookline Teen Outreach; Caitlin McNulty explained more details about the event.
* One attendee asked some questions to clarify the role of Brookline Together in representing business owners vs. residents; we clarified that Brookline Together is happy to represent everyone with an interest in Brookline
* An attendee asked for information regarding what a $25 Community Membership includes; Lois McCafferty answered this question.
* An attendee asked for clarification regarding the resident survey; we clarified this is an ongoing survey that is open to anyone
* An attendee asked if we receive any financial support from city government. A brief discussion followed regarding Brookline Together’s status as our neighborhood’s Registered Community Organization and a 501©3 charitable organization.

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

Next meeting: Monday, November 11, 7:00pm. James from Honeycomb Community Funding will be the guest speaker at the meeting – will discuss how Brookline Together may be able to partner with them for various projects.