

Brookline Together

Community Meeting Minutes

May 9, 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, Ally Bove, Blake Plavchak, Lisa Wilson, Samantha Melhorn Annette Ferrieri, Eileen Papale, Edith Davidson, Pastor Lance Rhoades, Ken McNulty, James Lumusco, Nora Davidson, State Rep. Jessica Benham, Thomas Scharff (City of Pittsburgh DCP Staff), Alicia Carberry (City of Pittsburgh); 3 additional people livestreaming on Facebook Live

Excused: Bill Kim

Caitlin McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

- Approve April 2022 Board meeting minutes. Melissa Kilmer motioned, Blake Plavchak second, 6 approved, no abstentions.
- Treasurer report: Tabled until next month; Bill Kim unable to attend this evening
- DAM Discussion and Vote: Petition to rezone 2430 Woodward St. from single-family dwelling to two-unit dwelling.
 - Motion (Caitlin McNulty): To approve the petition to rezone 2430 Woodward Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 to a two-unit residential dwelling. Second: Blake Plavchak
 - Yewande Olugbade, new owner of the building, was at the meeting to present.
 - Purchased in 2021 as a two-unit duplex and it has been operating as a two-unit duplex for at least 20 years, but found out afterward that the property was not zoned as a duplex with the city.
 - Ms. Olugbade also owns a vacant lot next door that is used as additional parking for the duplex.
 - Vote: All who voted were in favor; 0 opposed; 0 stated abstentions. Next, this will be forwarded to the city's Zoning Board for their approval.
- Blue Recycling Bins Presentation – Alicia Carberry, City of Pittsburgh
 - Beginning May 23, the City will be delivering 27,000 new 32-gallon blue recycling bins to homes and apartments with fewer than 5 units in Brookline and other South Pittsburgh neighborhoods.
 - Please place your recyclables directly into the bin; do not use plastic bags as they cause problems for the sorting machine
 - No changes re: what can go into your bin! Please recycle your plastic containers, cardboard, glass, metal containers, and mixed paper.
 - If you prefer a smaller recycling bin, you can call the city's 311 and request to swap for a smaller bin.
 - 5 of the 27,000 bins will have a "golden ticket" that entitles the winner to a prize package, so check your bin!
 - Questions? Contact Alicia.carberry@pittsburghpa.gov or recycling@pittsburghpa.gov

- BT Project Updates
 - Food Truck Tuesdays
 - Select “interested” on the Brookline Together Facebook event for up-to-date notifications when we post a menu or a truck update
 - Schedule is also available on our website, www.brooklinetogether.org then click on “Events”
 - Farmer’s Market
 - Begins May 15! Some farm vendors will not be starting until later this spring due to not having crops yet, but there will be several vendors there every week regardless.
 - Select “interested” on the Brookline Together Facebook event for up-to-date notifications about which vendors will be at the market each week.
 - Memorial Day Parade
 - Monday, May 30th at 10am
 - Parade starts at intersection of Pioneer and Brookline Blvd
 - Contact Melissa Kilmer if you’re interested in being IN the parade
 - We are specifically looking for someone with an antique car to assist us
 - Community Yard Sale
 - June 4 and 5, from 8am-2pm both days
 - Currently at 62 participants – wow!
 - Maps will be available:
 - on our website on Thursday, June 2
 - at Scoops and Binz on June 3
 - at the Rec Center on June 4
 - at the Farmers Market on June 5
 - Brookline Breeze 5K
 - Saturday, August 13th
 - The race and dog walk are both back!
 - Registration link available at www.brooklinetogether.org
 - Breezefest
 - Saturday, August 13th – After Breeze Race
 - Brookline Blvd will be closed down
 - Activities include:
 - Live music by DI Records: Reality Suite, Working Breed, Gabriella Salvucci, Jess from Dematus, Standard Broadcast, and Rebel Revolver
 - Shopping -- Over 75 vendors already signed up!
 - Food trucks
 - Free kids activities
 - Pharoahs Car Cruise
 - Business Networking
 - Meetings already held in January and May 2022
 - Future networking opportunities;
 - July 25 at 5:30pm

- October 24 at 9:30am
 - E-mail invitations are sent out to all Brookline Together Business Members
- Beautification Days
 - April 23: General neighborhood cleanup AND planted perennials on the business side of the Blvd – thank you to EVERYONE who donated to the fundraiser for this event! We were able to raise enough to make a big difference.
 - May 13: Planting perennials in the large bed at Pioneer Ave & Brookline Blvd – thank you to Meder’s in West Mifflin for discounted plants and to Pitt Moss for soil!
 - Date TBD: Planting perennials on the residential side of the Blvd
- We have a new community member who has volunteered to empty the cigarette receptacles on Brookline Blvd. Please encourage folks to use them!
- Community Garden
 - A small group of community members are meeting regularly and working out processes for the community garden at the Jacob/Whited site.
 - Soft launch in summer 2022; full launch in summer 2023
 - If interested in helping, please contact Blake Plavchak
- Mural project @ Memorial Park– Art Commission approval received in late April; details currently being worked out re: when the work will be completed. We’ll announce those details when available!
- July 2022 Community Focus: TBD Community Safety? If you have any suggestions, let us know! Otherwise, we’ll finalize a topic at the June board meeting.
- Reminders
 - If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about any of the events we talked about this evening, please reach out! Our e-mail is brooklinetogether@gmail.com.
- Other Announcements
 - (General announcement) Election Day is Tuesday, May 17
 - (from BT member James Lomuscio) Brookline Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, 5/31 at Amarah on the Boulevard. Signups at this link: <https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org/AppointmentTime.aspx> (use group code "C646"). There is a national shortage of donated blood; please help!

Melissa Kilmer motion to adjourn. Lisa Wilson seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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