

Brookline Together

Community Meeting Minutes: July 8, 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		
Treasurer:	Bill Kim		

Board Officers Not Present: Brock Boutwell (Newsletter) – sent report to Caitlin McNulty to share
Tony Griffith (Beautification) – committee member Lisa Wilson to report
Heather Fulton (Community Events) – committee member Lisa Peach to report

Attendance:

29 attendees

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Board President Caitlin McNulty.

SOAR Presentation: Blake Plavchak from Councilman Coghill's office presented for 10 minutes.

Approval of prior minutes:

May community meeting and June 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)
 - Main checking account has \$30,240; newsletter account has \$3,043, and Paypal has \$3,605. Total assets of just under \$37,000.
 - Next Finance committee meeting is July 15th, 7:00 at Moonlite Café.
- Newsletter (Caitlin McNulty, on behalf of Brock Boutwell)
 - First issue of the Brookline Now newsletter is being sent out this week.
 - Newsletter will be bimonthly – next issue in September
 - Instagram account: @brookline_now
 - Team is looking for ideas for stories – e-mail your ideas to newsletter15226@gmail.com
- Membership (Lois McCafferty)
 - Working on updating membership application
 - Committee is beginning to work on the business directory; this process will take a few months
 - Next meeting is 7/31 at 6:30pm at Melissa Distel Photography
- Business Development (Jason Tigano)
 - Working on a “toolkit” for local businesses, to help them in ways that may not be available from Urban Redevelopment Authority or other sources
 - Would like to team with Membership committee to poll property and business owners on their needs
 - Next meeting 7/15 7pm at Brookline Teen Outreach
- Welcome Wagon (Pam Grabowski)
 - Sent 43 packets in June
- Community Events (Lisa Peach, on behalf of Heather Fulton)
 - Art on the Blvd had 30 people attend; overall the event lost \$93.
 - Breezefest is 8/10 from 10am-4pm. 48 vendors have registered to date (last year had 55 total vendors)
 - Bark in the Park dog-friendly event will be scheduled for September; more details forthcoming soon
 - Halloween Parade is 10/26
 - Brookline Lights Up is 11/23
- Beautification (Tony Griffith)
 - The committee cleaned up the Jacob and Whited area around the Brookline sign. Will try to add this area to the contract with Plantscape next year for them to take care of it. In the meantime, a local couple who owns a landscaping company has graciously offered to take care of it for the remainder of 2019 for no charge.
 - Burgh Bees area is being cleared, then will work on adding utilities to the site
 - Lisa Peach obtained a grant for 28 cigarette butt receptacles. Blake Plavchak is helping BT figure out how to get approval to put them up along Brookline Blvd
 - Committee is in process of trying to get a shed to store all of our equipment for beautification
 - Next meeting is 7/15 at 6pm at Brookline Teen Outreach

- Next community cleanup is 7/28 next to the BROOKLINE mural on Brookline Blvd (between Pioneer and West Liberty)

New Business

- Some residents have asked about large trucks being parked at the Jacob/Whited intersection, near the lot that is for sale. After looking into this, we learned that the owner of the property has a permit to park commercial vehicles there. It appears that these vehicles are not at all related to the property or its sale, but are being used for road work along route 51 and are being parked at this property after-hours with an appropriate permit.
- Spirit of Community Award – this is a new award mechanism to recognize Brookline residents or businesses that have made significant contributions to Brookline.
 - There will be 4 categories:
 - Resident award
 - Business award
 - Legacy award – to recognize someone’s past work in the community. May be awarded to a person who is alive or deceased.
 - Rookie award – to recognize someone who is new to volunteering in the community but is making a significant impact.
 - Applications will be due 11/15
 - Ceremony will occur at the January 2020 Brookline Together community meeting.
- Volunteers are needed for the Brookline Together information table at Breezefest on August 10th. Please contact Lois McCafferty or e-mail brooklinetogether@gmail.com if interested.
- On August 24th, there will be a Moore Park 80-Year Community Celebration. Flyers are on the back table. The event will be family-friendly and will go on all day. This is being jointly hosted by Councilman Coghill’s office, the Guarino Group, and Brookline Together.
- Our next meeting is Monday, September 9th at 7:00 pm at Brookline Teen Outreach. Hope to see you there!

Questions/Discussion

- Can we get the city to trim the trees along Brookline Blvd before Breezefest?
 - Blake Plavchak will contact the city, and if they’re able to do it, Lois McCafferty will meet them to indicate which trees are problematic right now.
- Why is there no sidewalk along Brookline Blvd by the BROOKLINE mural? (Between Pioneer and West Liberty)
 - There is, actually! But debris from the hillside over it has overrun the sidewalk next to the mural. Within the next month, catch basins up above are being cleaned up and replaced, so debris should no longer fall over the hillside and cover up the sidewalk next to the mural.
- Question: where are the meeting minutes available?
 - On our website, www.brooklinetogether.org

Updates from local elected officials:

- Blake Plavchak from Councilman Coghill's office:
 - Councilman Coghill's office has submitted their capital budget request for the next fiscal year. They are asking for money to improve pedestrian safety along Brookline Blvd, from Pioneer Ave down to the Rec Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. (motion by Bill Kim, seconded by Jason Tigano, all in favor.)