

**Brookline Together**

**Community Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2020**

**7:00 pm Brookline Teen Outreach**

**Board Officers Present:**

President:	Caitlin McNulty	Membership:	Lois McCafferty
Vice-President:	Blake Plavchak	Business Development:	Jason Tigano
Secretary:	Ally Bove	Beautification:	Tony Griffith
Treasurer:	Bill Kim	Community Events:	Melissa Kilmer
		Newsletter:	Brock Boutwell

**Board Officers Not Present:** Jason Tigano (excused)

**Attendance:**

41 attendees

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order* at 7:01 pm by Board President Caitlin McNulty.

*Correspondence:*

- None of note

*Treasurer Report*

- \$29,132 = total cash balance
- Filing 2019 taxes within the next week

### *Committee Reports:*

- Finance (Bill Kim)
  - Motion to the board to approve the Newsletter committee's proposed budget through July 31 and table August-December 2020 budget subject to updated advertising revenue numbers. (Motion: Bill Kim; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brock Boutwell. No discussion. Motion carried.)
  - Next meeting is March 23 at Moonlite Café at 7pm. All are welcome if you're interested in assisting the Finance committee!
- Newsletter (Brock Boutwell)
  - March-April newsletter is now available. Was e-mailed to members yesterday, will be generally distributed to the public tomorrow via e-mail/social media/paper copies at local businesses
  - 4/3 = advertising deadline for May issue
  - 4/10 = content deadline for May issue
  - Alex Toner asked if the Newsletter committee has received any input recently re: what people want to see in the newsletter. Brock responded no, not recently, but the committee is very open to hearing suggestions! You can e-mail the committee at [newsletter15226@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter15226@gmail.com).
  - Instagram page: @brooklinenow
- Membership (Lois McCafferty)
  - Cover and some of the inserts for the 2020-2021 business directory has been sent to the printer; still working on coupons, ads, and updating business information.
  - Any businesses wanting to advertise or put a coupon can contact Linda Boss at A-Boss
  - Directory should be out by Memorial Day
  - Membership Mixer is being planned for this spring – details to follow
  - Will have a Membership table at the Community Yard sale from 8am-1pm on June 6, 2020 at the Rec Center. Volunteers are needed – contact Lois McCafferty
  - Next meeting (joint Membership and Business Development) is April 6, 6:45pm at Melissa Distel Photography
- Business Development (Jason Tigano absent; report given by Alex Toner)
  - Joint meetings with Membership committee have been highly successful
  - Brainstorming ways to activate empty spaces on the Boulevard – perhaps by hosting pop-up events, especially in conjunction with other events happening in the community
  - If you're aware of anyone with a business in the city looking for space, please notify the Business Development committee!
  - Would love new members to the committee – next meeting is April 6, 6:45pm at Melissa Distel Photography
  - New storefronts in Brookline:
    - Nail Nook, moved from Dormont
    - Menuette pop-up restaurant is moving into the former Parker's PGH location
    - Jar Candle Store now located in 800 Brookline Blvd (sharing space with Melissa Distel Photography)
    - Dance studio moving into former Cut & Style
    - Sandwich shop opening on the Blvd; currently under renovation
- Welcome Wagon (Pam Grabowski)

- 10 new packets sent for people moving into Brookline in February
- Working on creating a welcome wagon type of packet for new business owners. If you have suggestions for what to include, let any board member or Business Development committee member know!
- Community Events (Melissa Kilmer)
  - Yard Sale update from Lisa Wilson –
    - June 6<sup>th</sup>
    - Signage is out across from CVS and on fence along Blvd
    - Applications are available online; paper applications will start being available in stores this week
  - Breezefest
    - August 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Registration open online – vendor registration has been going very well. Rate is \$35 until June 1.
    - Have secured a stage – more details forthcoming
    - Working on planning a car show as well
- Beautification (Tony Griffith)
  - Welcome back, Tony!
  - Huge thank you to Lisa Wilson and Blake Plavchak for handling Beautification recently
  - Cigarette receptacles are hung all over the Boulevard – thank you to Lisa Wilson, Lisa Peach, and Blake Plavchak for spearheading this project! It received great press, including a segment on KDKA news interviewing Brookline Together president Caitlin McNulty about them
  - Earth Day cleanup is April 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Will include Boulevard cleanup as usual
    - Working with Tree Pittsburgh to plant a large flowering tree at the Jacob/Whited site
    - A Girl Scout troop will also be retiring the American and City of Pittsburgh flags at the Jacob/Whited site and putting up a new flag
  - Beautification Shed is coming! We will be able to store all of our supplies for beautifications.

### *Old Business*

- Retired Flag dropoff – Dan McKeever
  - Dropoff box will be installed soon (likely April)
  - Received a very kind donation for future replacement of flags

## *New Business*

- BT Calendar
  - Posted on our website and pinned post on Facebook; printed copies also available at meeting
  - Includes all community, board, and committee meetings, and all community events
  - If anything is incorrect or missing, e-mail us at [brooklinetogether@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinetogether@gmail.com)
- Census Grant
  - BT received a \$2,500 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation to host Census Day parties on April 1<sup>st</sup> to increase awareness about the census and hopefully spur participation. We will be hosting lunchtime parties at senior buildings in the neighborhood and an evening party on the Boulevard.
    - Contact Ally Bove if you are able to volunteer midday or evening of April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - We are working with Kayla Donohue, a Brookline resident working to increase Census participation
    - Per Kayla: part-time and full-time work with the Census is available, paying \$23.50 per hour. Information is available on the BT Facebook page, at the Brookline branch of Carnegie Library, and in person from Kayla.
- Announcements:
  - Announcement from Brock Boutwell, Newsletter Chair – after the May/June issue, Brock will be stepping down as chair/editor but will continue on the committee, so he can focus on new ventures. We do not yet have a replacement – if you are interested, please contact any member of the board.
  - Announcement from Lois McCafferty, Membership Chair – Lois will be stepping down in June and will be replaced by Samantha Melhorn (current Vice Chair) for the remainder of her term. Lois will still be a member of Brookline Together.
  - Discussion of board turnover – should we be concerned about the fact that several board members have changed over the first 15 months of the organization?
    - No one who has left their Chair positions have left the organization entirely; all are on good terms. As a new organization, we have a LOT of work to do, and not everyone was able to carry out a 2-3 year term of such a “heavy lift”.

## *Additional Questions, Comments, Concerns*

- Alex Fisher: Alex is a Boy Scout from Troop 6 at Resurrection Church, is working on his Eagle Scout project holding a donation drive for cat supplies. He will begin this Saturday on the Boulevard. The donation boxes will be located at: Pitaland, Antonio's, Sal's, Fox's, A Boss, Jolina's, West Liberty Cycles, Moonlite Café, and 802 Bean Company
- Dan McKeever: When the flag dropoff box is permanently installed outside Brookline Teen Outreach, they will be hosting a Grand Opening. Once we know for sure when this is able to be scheduled, we will work on planning this and will distribute the details.
- Melissa Kilmer: There have been police patrolling along the Boulevard more lately. In speaking with them, residents learned that if we call 3-1-1 and state that we like them there and would

like them to be around more often, the Commander may be more likely to make this a more frequent occurrence. So make your calls or use the 3-1-1 website to state that you like this!

- Pam Grabowski: the Commander usually comes to Block Watch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm at Magistrate Motznik's office. Come to Block Watch and tell him you like it!
- Eileen Papale: Troop 6 is collecting donations of clothing, books, etc and they'll receive 40 cents per pound. Donations can be taken to Resurrection Church; they'll be stored at the Church until Goodwill comes to pick everything up.
- Blake Plavchak: Several announcements from the City of Pittsburgh Office of Community Affairs (Leah was unable to make it tonight)
  - March 12: Women Business Enterprise conference from 8am-1:30pm at University of Pittsburgh. Free, but you have to register. If you want to register, you can go to Mayor Peduto's office's Facebook page and it's listed under Events
  - In partnership with UPMC, the Mayor's office has launched the Minutes Matter campaign, which involves training citizens to provide emergency care. Go to [minutesmatterpgh.com](http://minutesmatterpgh.com) to register to attend a training and learn more information.
  - Office of Management and Budget has released a Buying Guide, to let businesses know what type of contracts will be coming up for bid soon. The goal is to increase minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses gaining contracts from the City and its partners. This is available on the City of Pittsburgh website under OMB.
  - Christmas Tree recycling update: the Brookline Recreation Center was a major donation site. This year, 36 tons of Christmas trees were collected to turn into mulch. The mulch will be available for free in the spring, for pickup from the City. Locations will be announced at a later date.
  - Census: please participate and encourage your neighbors to participate! We must all be counted to determine our shares of funding, emergency management, elected representatives, etc.
  - City Cuts is back – if you or someone you know needs assistance with lawn mowing and can't find help, please visit [pittsburghpa.gov/citycuts](http://pittsburghpa.gov/citycuts)
- Kayla Donahue: For Allegheny county, it was estimated that each uncounted person in the 2010 Census resulted in us losing out on \$2,100 in monetary resources across the 10-year period. So if we want the funding, we MUST ensure everyone is counted!
  - Census forms will be mailed out on March 12
  - There will be 9,000 Census workers across Allegheny County, so be prepared to see many of them!
- Lance Rhoades: April 4 will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brookline Easter Egg Hunt at Tree of Life church. There will be 10,000 eggs. People need to preregister (so we break into age-appropriate groups across a 3-hour period) through the Tree of Life website. It is a free event, hosted annually the weekend of Palm Sunday.
- Caitlin McNulty: If you ordered Girl Scout cookies from Maeve McNulty, Caitlin has them here for you. There are more to sell, so you can buy some tonight!

Community meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. (motion by Ally Bove, seconded by Bill Kim, all in favor.)

Next meeting:

- Next community meeting Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm, Brookline Teen Outreach