

Brookline Together Community Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021

Board Officers:

President: Caitlin McNulty

Vice-President: Blake Plavchak

Secretary: Ally Bove

Treasurer: Bill Kim; co-chair Mark Hopkinson

Finance Vice-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

Attendance:

All board members and dozens of Brookline Together members were present, as well as the candidates mentioned below and some of their campaign representatives and local news media. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook Live.

Caitlin McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2021 Candidate Night

- Candidates featured:
 - District 4 City Council
 - Anthony Coghil (incumbent, Democratic party candidate)
 - Bethani Cameron (Democratic party candidate)
 - Connor Mulvaney (Green party candidate)
 - Mayor
 - Bill Peduto (incumbent, Democratic party candidate)
 - Ed Gainey (Democratic party candidate)
 - Tony Moreno (Democratic party candidate)
 - William Parker (Democratic Party candidate)
- The livestream is available on our Facebook page; please watch!
- Thank you to the candidates for sharing your time and platforms with Brookline Together. We truly appreciate it.

Business Meeting

- February 8, 2021 board meeting minutes were approved (motion: Blake Plavchak, 2nd: Bill Kim, all in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)
- Treasurer Report – Budget Report
 - Current balance \$26,177 including today's deposit of \$2,677 from memberships
 - Outstanding reimbursements: checks were mailed over the weekend
- Committee Report Submissions – To save time, these are not being covered individually today. Will be linked to the livestream on Facebook and uploaded on our website.
- New Business

- BT will now be managing the Brookline Breeze 5K race with the City of Pittsburgh, which will allow more seamless integration with Breezefest. More information will be forthcoming.
 - If you're interested in helping, please let us know (brooklinetogether@gmail.com).
 - Breezefest vendor registration is open on our website (www.brooklinetogether.org)
 - Breeze 5K signups will begin soon but not yet available
- Old Business
 - Jacob/Whited site construction start date and plan
 - We were waiting for weather to break – now that the weather is improving, work will begin within the next month! The first step is moving earth and putting some utilities in.
 - Flags at Jacob/Whited and Cannon Park
 - In need of replacement
 - We have wonderful volunteers who handle these for us, but it's difficult in winter to swap the flags with bad weather (and a pandemic!)
 - Caitlin McNulty spoke with the volunteers today, and they plan to install new flags this week
 - Some trees at the Jacob/Whited site are beginning to encroach upon the flag pole, so we will get those trees trimmed next time we're doing work at the site.
- Announcements
 - Moore Park update (Blake Plavchak): The pool is in a lot of disrepair. The great news is that the City has made plans for \$900,000 in repairs. The sad news is that the pool likely cannot open until approximately July 4 this year.
 - Community Events update (Melissa Kilmer): Food Truck Tuesdays are starting next Tuesday, March 9th with the Franktuary truck!
 - Beautification update (Lisa Wilson): Please meet on Sunday, March 14th at 12:00 p.m. at Brookline Teen Outreach to help with a cleanup project around all of the trash cans along Brookline Blvd, which have become quite messy over the winter. This event has been rescheduled from a prior day when everything was too frozen to the ground.
 - Community Yard Sale (Lisa Wilson): Signups are live for the 2021 Community Yard Sale! Visit our website to sign up (click on Events). The yard sale this year is Saturday, June 5th. Your entry fee gets your house added to our yard sale map, gets you included in our marketing for the event, and benefits Brookline Together.
 - Community mural project (Caitlin McNulty): Sarah, a current intern at Brookline Teen Outreach, will be coordinating this project for a mural at Brookline Memorial Park. All members received an e-mail within the past 24 hours regarding the project. Please consider talking with her about this project! If you are not a member of Brookline Together, we'd still love for you to be involved in the project! Please e-mail us at brooklinetogether@gmail.com and we'll connect you to Sarah.
 - Chief Linda Barone from Pittsburgh Police introduced herself; she is now in Operations for our Zone and looks forward to working with us.
 - Gisele, Community Liaison in the Mayor's Office introduced herself and shared some announcements:
 - You can always contact her with questions/concerns at: gisele.betances@pittsburghpa.gov
 - Civic Leadership Academy is a free, virtual, 11-week course that teaches residents about the workings of local government. Classes begin April 14th. Now offered with Spanish translation. Applications close March 10, so act now! <https://pittsburghpa.gov/oca/cla>
 - COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program is available, with funding from federal and state governments. The application will be available beginning March 15 at <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/> .
 - The city is seeking artists to create public art. Information sessions will be held on March 15 and March 17. More information at: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/4726>

- The city is offering free online sessions regarding financial empowerment and taxes. More info at: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/fec/?&title=FEC>
- Khamil Scantling, founder of Cocoapreneur Pgh:
 - Cocoapreneur highlights black-owned businesses and can be found at: <https://cocoapreneur.com>
 - Khamil is also running for School Board in District 7.
 - Khamil can be reached at: khamil.scantling@gmail.com if you'd like to speak with her about either Cocoapreneur or her School Board campaign
- Rep. Jessica Benham, PA House District 36
 - Virtual Office Opening is planned! More details: <http://enews.pahouse.net/q/wwwpKjQ1Jy8uJlnQNTMtcPCmqpMkq1iucymQHn7J3dIEUGcZJ7DGuRycJhAg>

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm (motion: C. McNulty, second: Bill Kim, all in favor).

Notes for upcoming community meetings:

- May Community Meeting Theme: Summer Events and Projects
 - Presentations from Beautification Committee, Business & Community Engagement Committee, City Representative
- July Community Meeting Theme: Rising Brookline Real Estate Costs & Affordable Housing in Brookline

Mission: To promote a vibrant and livable community through collaborative initiatives that unify Brookline's business and residential interests.

Goals for 2021:

1. Increase membership
2. Increase revenue
3. Improve communications

Beautification Committee Report – February 2021

Chair: Lisa Wilson

Vice-Chair: Blake Plavchak

- **Monthly Meetings to be held 3rd Monday of every month between March and November of 2021.**
 - Meetings will be remote indefinitely.
- **Love Your Block Grant – Details of project to come following meeting with Bill Kim**
 - Project will need to involve volunteers
 - Be oriented towards community engagement/beautification
 - Will be focused on Jacob/Whited site
 - Budget is currently \$1,500 but upon approval of a 2021 grant will be \$3,000
- **We are planning on having at least 10 volunteer events this year.**
 - 2 events related to the Holiday Season
 - Hanging Wreaths
 - Cannon Park Decorations
 - Love Your Block Grant Event
 - 1 monthly clean up between March and September (7 total)
 - Events will include general clean ups, flower bed maintenance, Cannon Park maintenance, and other initiatives.
- **802 Bean Outdoor Café**
 - Need to confirm they still want to pursue this
 - If they do we will assist and remove the plants from the bed following approvals.
- **Shed**
 - Permit being applied for
 - Total cost of project is projected to be around 4 thousand dollars.
 - Project is dependent upon outcome of permit.
 - If denied smaller, and less expensive option will be pursued.
 - If permit is approved budget will be revised
 - Fundraising is in development to assist with this project
 - Raffle basket for community yard sale being considered
 - Will have variety of garden and beautification style goodies.
 - Several other ideas in development
- **Holiday Wreath fundraiser 2022**
 - Considering completely re-tooling how we fundraise for the wreaths.
 - More details to come



BROOKLINETOGETHER

Welcome Packet Committee Report to the Brookline Together Board

Welcome Packet Committee Report to the Board March, 2021

Committee Members Michael & Pamela Grabowski 412-343-2859

Narrative We sent out 31 new resident packets on March 1, 2021 for those who moved into Brookline in February.

Notable transfers:

722 Fordham Avenue purchased by Hyde & Dixon Homes LLC 11/20 for \$100,000 sold 11/20 for \$246,000

1408 Creedmoor Avenue purchased by Dani Aboud 11/19 for \$40,000 sold 12/20 for \$279,000

Informal Recommendation(s)

None

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Grabowski



Business & Community Engagement Committee Report to the Brookline Together Board

March 2021

Committee Members: Melissa Distel-Kilmer, Samantha Melhorn, Lisa Wilson, Nicole Taxel, Phil Behr, Lois McCafferty, Amy Fisher, Annette Ferrieri, Brock Boutwell, Jason Shymoniak, Chad Shannon, Ellen Clouse, Ashley Gill, Erin Skinner, Linda Boss, Sister Barb, Ken McNulty, Pamela & Michael Grabowski, Susan Meador, Katie O'Toole, Kelli Murphy

Location and Time: 1/21/21 & 2/18/21 via zoom

Attendance at Committee Meeting: Melissa Distel-Kilmer, Samantha Melhorn, Jason Shymoniak, Sr. Barb Boss, Katie O'Toole, Chad Shannon, Lois McCafferty, Nicole Taxel, Lisa Wilson, Annette Ferrieri

Introduction to 2021 Events:

Membership drive- in progress

- Business mailed, community emailed
- Window clings and welcome letters have gone out
- Business Thank You's being mentioned on Instagram
- Hand delivering a few welcome letters but mailing 95%

Blog/Newsletter -

- Amy Fisher made first post
- Katie O'Toole wrote 2nd post about Breeze5k.
- Plan to Showcase Blvd Businesses
- If you have a Blog post idea, please put it into AirTable under the Blog tab.
- call for volunteers

Food Truck Tuesdays - Starts March 16

- Starts March 16 and Runs till Nov 2, 2021
- Working on a raffle basket from Community bank for the First basket.
- Committee members will volunteer time to help at the membership/raffle table every week. We have enough committee members that each should only have to volunteer once every 8 weeks.
- Looking for suggestions or donations for future raffle baskets

New Member Mixer- April 22

- Linda, Jason, Sami & Annette volunteer to brainstorm ideas through email chats. If anyone else wants to help please let us know.

Memorial Day Parade -

- Annette is part of the South Hills Committee in charge of the parade and has reported that there will be no parade this year.

Yard Sale- June 5

- Since its outdoors we are planning to hold it
- Lisa is working on updating registration and figuring out next steps
- Banners & Flyers posted or will be posted soon.

Breezefest- August 14

- showmobile stage secured
- Carcruise-volunteers needed to help plan.
- Chad, Lois & Linda volunteered to help plan festival & vendors.

Breeze5k

- We are taking this on along with previous city members
- will be a sub-committee
- committee volunteers (Blake-chair, Melissa-co chair) Anyone who wants to help, let us know.

Halloween Parade -October30

- still unsure of possibility

Halloween Decoration contest- October

- chose to continue this yearly
- possibly add map and community voting?

Brookline Lights Up-November 27

Membership Holiday Party-December 13

Welcome wagon

- monthly, continued by Pam.

Meetings-

- Monthly, scheduled for 3rd thursday of the month

Committee will be delegating tasks on Airtable-

- Database system the committee be using for event organization & task delegation

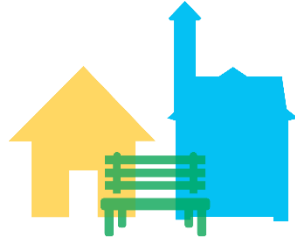
New ideas-Member perks

- Business Members - giving them tickets to events (Brookline or city-wide(baseball tix)) for free attendance
- Offering a larger sponsorship \$ bracket in exchange for guaranteed advertising across all events throughout the year ("gold sponsor")
- Partnering with other neighborhoods to cross-promote events & businesses, Looking for volunteer to reach out to other local communities to help cross promote businesses
- Making sure that we are upping our advertising
- Links to business members websites or social media on BT website
- Testimonials from businesses on "how" membership has helped them

Other notes:email melissakilmer@brooklinetogether.org to be added to theBusiness & Community Engagement Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Distel-Kilmer & Samanth Melhorn



BROOKLINETOGETHER

Welcome Packet Committee Report to the Brookline Together Board

Welcome Packet Committee Report to the Board February, 2021

Committee Members Michael & Pamela Grabowski 412-343-2859

Narrative We sent out 32 new resident packets on February 1, 2021 for those who moved into Brookline in January.

Notable transfers:

2258 Lynnbrook purchased by Hyde & Dixon Homes LLC 6/20 for \$85,000 sold December 2020 for \$229,900

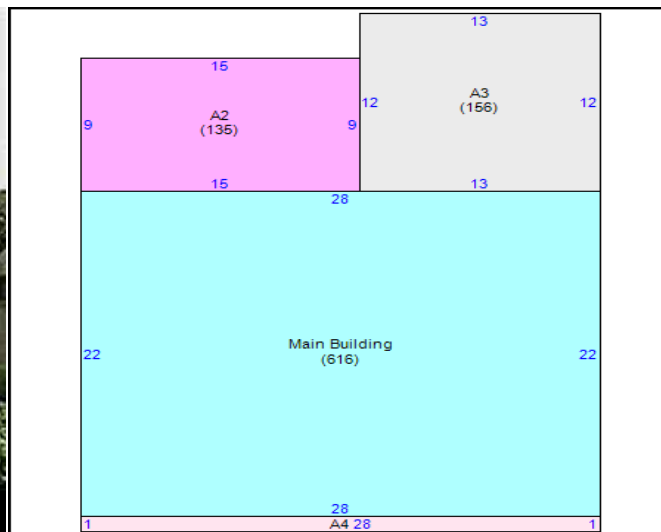
Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Grabowski

pamela.grabowski@verizon.net

Parcel ID : 0061-K-00188-0000-00
 Property Address : 2258 LYNNBROOK AVE
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15226

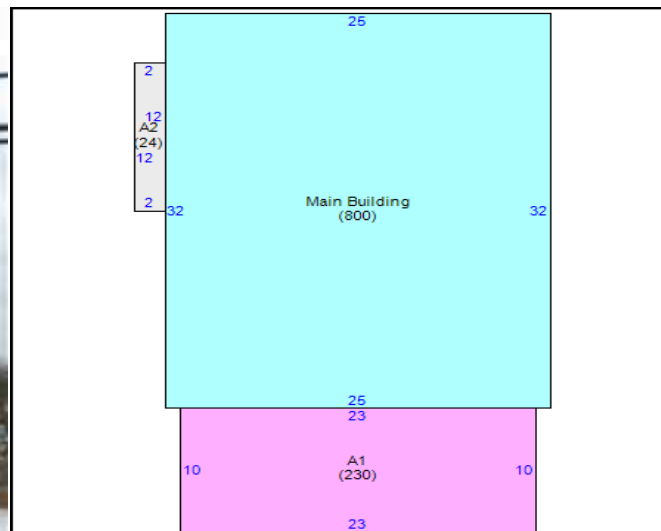
Municipality : 119 19th Ward - PITTSBURGH
 Owner Name : KAZOUR JILL H



Main Building		616 Sq. Ft.
A2	Porch Frame - Enclosed	135 Sq. Ft.
A3	Full Basement (conv main bldg) 1 story frame	156 Sq. Ft.
A4	1 story frame	28 Sq. Ft.

Parcel ID : 0097-G-00162-0000-00
Property Address : 722 FORDHAM AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15226

Municipality : 119 19th Ward - PITTSBURGH
Owner Name : KLIEWER JEANNE &
DAVIS JOHN H III (H)



Main Building

800 Sq. Ft.

A1

Porch Masonry - Open

230 Sq. Ft.

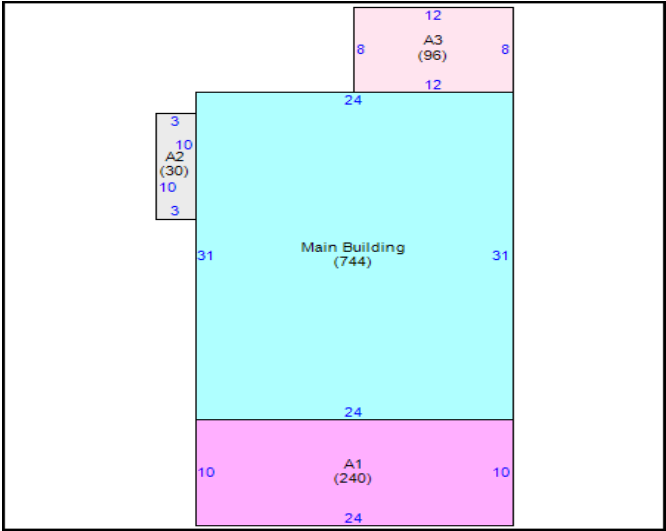
A2

1 story frame

24 Sq. Ft.

Parcel ID : 0096-J-00013-0000-00
 Property Address : 1408 CREEDMOOR AVE
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15226

Municipality : 119 19th Ward - PITTSBURGH
 Owner Name : MAZZOCCO JAMES DAVID
 GILL MICHELLE ASHLEY



Main Building		744 Sq. Ft.
A1	Porch Masonry - Open	240 Sq. Ft.
A2	Bay Area Frame	30 Sq. Ft.
A3	Porch Frame - Open	96 Sq. Ft.