

Brookline Together Community Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021

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

Attendance: Ally Bove, Blake Plavchak, Melissa Kilmer, Mark Hopkinson, Lisa Wilson, Sami Melhorn

Excused: Caitlin McNulty, Bill Kim

Ally Bove and Blake Plavchak called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

- May 10, 2021 community meeting minutes were approved. (Motion: B. Plavchak, 2nd: M. Kilmer, all in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.)
- Treasurer Report – Budget Report
 - Tabled to June due to Treasurer being unexpectedly unable to make meeting
- New Business
 - Beautification
 - Cleanups – next BT-organized cleanup date TBD, but a separate group is doing a cleanup in Brookline with 20-50 volunteers this weekend.
 - Shed – no updates; apparently need a site plan before moving forward and engineering approval to ensure that the fill on the lot is stable enough for a shed to be placed on it. Beautification team is working on finding these professionals to assist us.
 - Fundraiser – raised around \$500. Blake will be sending fundraising letters to elected officials to raise additional funds once we get the necessary approvals to ensure the shed project is moving forward.
 - Business & Community Engagement Committee
 - Yard Sale
 - the Community Yard Sale on June 5th was a success.
 - We received some helpful suggestions but no negative reviews.
 - Participation was high – 70 participants (households, Rec Center, and businesses)
 - There were some unused spaces at the Rec Center, which was unfortunate because we had turned people down after selling out.
 - The food truck at the Rec Center seemed to be pretty busy.
 - Participants have been returning their yard signs to us – signs should be returned to Lisa Wilson.
 - Food trucks
 - Food Truck Tuesdays have been very successful, except this past Tuesday 6/8 the turnout was low.
 - Discussed potentially varying the times in the summer months to have at least 1 truck there past 7pm – Melissa will look into this option
 - Due to the great turnout, a second truck will be added in some weeks, if the food truck association has additional availability
 - Raffle baskets

- Current basket is from A-Boss. July basket will be organic goods from one of our Breezefest vendors. Thank you to those who provide items and donations for the monthly raffles!
 - Discussed whether to add cash entries, but we do not have the appropriate small games of chance license for the monthly raffles to do so. Will likely continue with online-only entries.
 - T-shirts came in – we can take cash or possibly Paypal to sell those at Food Truck Tuesdays and Breezefest. They are royal blue with a yellow Brookline logo inside the silhouette of the state of Pennsylvania. Pricing and methods of payment will be determined in the upcoming days.
 - Breeze
 - The City’s Office of Special Events and Brookline Together agreed earlier this year that Brookline Together would take over organizing and fiscal responsibilities for the Brookline Breeze upon completion of a contract. A contract had not yet been provided by the city, but in early June the city asked our organization to take on additional responsibilities for 2021 including recruitment of a large number of volunteers. The Board decided that we could not commit to this given the large scope of work and lack of a formal contract. Therefore, Brookline Together is not currently sure of the details regarding the Breeze; if it occurs in 2021 it’ll be run by the City. Brookline Together will be glad to sign a contract for 2022 and subsequent years pending receipt of such a contract from the City.
 - Breezefest
 - Breezefest planning is going well. Vendor registrations are near 50, and 3 food trucks have registered.
 - The permit has not yet been approved by the City.
 - Melissa will check with Caitlin regarding rules for the Breezefest raffles.
 - The Pittsburgh Pharaohs car club is going to organize a car cruise during Breezefest.
 - Working to find a DJ or live music entertainment; Melissa is waiting to hear back from her contact for live music acts
 - Blake suggested planning a Brookline Talent Show in the future.
 - Finance – no meetings over the past month; will table Finance update due to committee Chair being unable to attend today
- Old Business
 - Jacob/Whited site construction start date and plan update – tabled due to Bill Kim being unable to attend today
 - Welcome sign at Jacob/Whited
 - Love Your Block Grant – Blake submitted the 2021 grant last week; plan is to combine our 2020 money (which wasn’t disbursed due to COVID budget challenges, but will be disbursed in 2021) to replace the Welcome sign at Jacob/Whited
 - Initial concept design attached (see below). Feedback:
 - Is it too modern or industrial in appearance / can we make it a little bit more “homey” or use materials that match Brookline’s dominant architecture (brick, wood, craftsman elements)?
 - Likely will need Art Commission approval for the design
 - Mural – project description and concept drawing attached (see below)
 - The City’s Department of Public Works will take care of repairing the wall upon which the mural will be added
 - We submitted a Duquesne Light Grant Request on May 1 for \$10,000 for the project and has the support of Councilman Coghill

- The design and timeline will go before the community during a public meeting
- Art Commission approval will be needed
- We will need to commission an artist to do the work
- Probably won't occur until late 2021 or early 2022
- Feedback: minimal; everyone seemed fairly clear that this is a concept but not a final design. Would like more information re: which places / images were chosen for this concept rendering and why.
- Questions/Announcements
 - Councilman Coghill's Urban farm concept at Memorial Park – still in planning phases
 - The City's "City Cuts" lawn mowing program is not active yet this year due to COVID-induced budget restrictions, but the "Community Cuts" website is active wherein people can get connected to neighbors who may be able to assist them in lawn maintenance.
 - Property owners can contact 311 to have rat baiting done on their property.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. (Motion: A. Bove, 2nd: B. Plavchak, all in favor).

Notes for upcoming community meetings:

- July Community Meeting Theme: Rising Brookline Real Estate Costs & Affordable Housing in Brookline
- September Community Meeting Theme: TBD

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

Location: Jacob/Whited

Purpose: To replace current welcome sign which is in need of repair and sinking into the ground

Notes: Metal sign on stone base. White areas indicate cutouts in metal. Sign will be backlit so that the sign emits a glow at night for higher visibility



Project Name: Brookline Community Mural

Project Scope: To create a mural that celebrates Brookline's residents and history, while looking forward to the possibilities that our youngest community members will one day create.

Project Location: Brookline Memorial Park - 1399 Oakridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 - The wall facing the dek hockey rink that used to be the bathrooms and changing rooms for the Rec Center Pool (now obsolete). This site includes bathrooms and concession stand currently being renovated for neighborhood sports teams by the City of Pittsburgh. Wall is approximately 150ft long and 25ft high at its tallest point.

Project Description: Over the past 5 months, a community art therapy intern provided by partnering nonprofit organization, Brookline Teen Outreach, has been conducting interviews with community members focused on the history and future of the neighborhood and what should be captured in the mural to reflect the community as a whole. The scope of the mural project is community focused as it considers the future of the community and its members. The mural may also provide a way to build connections among community members and the neighborhood youth organization. The mural will provide an opportunity to use the resources we have as well as branching out and deepening community relationships.

Concept Art: Based on community member interviews, historical research, and Brookline Together input

