

Brookline Together Community Meeting Minutes January 10, 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, Blake Plavchak, Melissa Kilmer, Lisa Wilson, Bill Kim, Sami Melhorn

Excused: Ally Bove

Caitlin McNulty called the meeting to order at (7:01 PM)

- Approve December Minutes ALL Approved
- Treasurer Report
 - Budget Distribution
- Guest Speakers
 - Jourdan Hicks – Public Source - jourdan@publicsource.org - 5-10 minutes
 - Opportunity for residents to tell their stories in the community
 - two weekly newsletters: Pittsburgh Public Roundup & Develop PGH (regarding community and business developments)
 - No Pittsburgh for Real - learn more about the city, school district, etc. in a 12 week course format.
 - open internships, for young adults interested in journalism & storytelling.
 - “From the Source” podcast (in its 3rd season).
 - “First Person” storytelling platform, covering a range of topics relevant to this city.
 - www.publicsource.org - website link. Non-profit organization.
 - <https://www.publicsource.org/from-the-source-podcast/>
 - Tosh Chambers (tosh@move-pgh.com) – Move PGH – Mobility Hub Presentation – 30 minutes
 - MovePGH - city led pilot program to create a sustainable alternative to car ownership, introduces and coordinates transportation modes to get around. Uses Port Authority, Healthy Ride, Scoobi, Zipcar, Waze, and the Transit App. Led by Spin.
 - www.move-pgh.com
 - Spin Scooters - dockless e-scooters for rent, owned by Ford, City’s DOMI has been preparing for launch.
 - 1,000 scooters available. They can be used with ‘geofencing’ and other policies to aid operations.
 - 70% off for those qualifying for income assistance, options for no credit card or smart phone.
 - 25% off trips started in “Access Zones” - Hazelwood, Hill District, Homewood, others

- Designated deployment points and corrals.
 - Move PGH Hub to dock and charge scooters and provide transit information. Can advertise local businesses.
 - If there is demand and support, mobility hubs may include: carshare, moped, carpool, bike rack, benches, public art, greenery, parcel storage, coffee stand, etc.
 - Can only be placed in non-residential zoning, drawing power from adjacent lampposts, near frequent service transit, must have adequate space, highly used/trafficked, preserve safe access to buildings, etc. and located in parking lanes or on sidewalks with about 6 feet of clearance.
 - piloted in temporary areas, scooters are free-range (parked in legal parking space). Deployment points, minimums, parking corrals, etc. used to ensure communities have access
 - Hot spots in Brookline appear to be Brookline Blvd and Rossmore Avenue.
 - Three potential locations: Brookline @ Wedgemere; Brookline @ Stebbins, Brookline @ the Cannon/near Queensboro
 - Survey link for feedback: <https://forms.gle/SnycYZe68EAGNvsQA>
 - Public comments and questions regarding site selections. Concerns around traffic at Queensboro and Brookline Blvd.
 - Public usage in Brookline is lower than surrounding areas: July-Dec 2021 1,500 scooter trips (.04% of all city trips). Data will be added to the regional data hub soon.
 - Advertising process: Spin manages the content on the screens; the city has restrictions on certain types of content permitted.
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- Randi Stewart – With an Eye Design – Brookline Park mural artist
 - Unable to attend; information provided by Caitlin.
 - “First Draft” of the mural was presented, seeking community input to relay to the artist.
 - March - will be re-presented with changes, seeking more feedback then, but hoping for consensus.
 - Art commission final review in April-May. Installation planned in June, with completion in July/August.
 - Notes: better identification of the people in panel 3’; swap out church and add fire station; collage of all of the churches; graffiti on the mural to be addressed by an anti-graffiti coating; three-year approval window for the mural to address concerns.
 - Comments will be accepted on the Brookline Together Facebook page.
- Old Business
 - Membership
 - 19 community; 29 business members (30 community, 62 business end of 2021)
 - Events
 - Updates
 - 2022 Plan
 - Website
 - Calendar distribution - Coming soon!
 - New membership mixer possible
 - event @ Red’s Good News
 - January 24 is the first member business networking event.
 - Business Members will be emailed with information
 - Food truck Tuesdays
 - Sunday Farmers market (permit being approved) 10 am - 2 pm, mid-May to October.

- Breeze 5k is back!
 - Beautification
 - Updates
 - Jacob/Whited
 - Community Garden Planning
 - Set meetings with individuals that reached out (led by Blake & Lisa) to discuss pricing, feedback, etc.
 - Initial clearing done & stormwater flows were observed for grading and to avoid flooding.
 - Parking area is being determined; soil supplies and other materials are being obtained.
 - Dead trees will be removed; digging to be done to add electric and water lines.
 - Six to eight weeks for new lighting. Meter needs to be repaired.
 - Goal: be ready in March for season opening.
 - Mural –review concept drawing for approval
- New Business
 - 2022 elections -
 - Members must be present to vote
 - President, secretary, and beautification committee chair are up for re-election.
 - Caitlin McNulty retained as President,
 - Ally Bove retained as Secretary
 - Lisa Wilson retained as Beautification chair
 - Only BT members are eligible to vote
 - Voting procedure online? Show of hands by current members.
- Reminders
 - 311 Calls and Brookline Together regarding overflowing trash cans, large amounts of trash left next to cans and are not being picked up. Related to staffing issues related to COVID-19 protocols, and trash collection is first to be cut. Email Brookline Together and file a complaint within 311 if there are continuous issues with trash so it can be worked on.
 - Dept. of Mobility does not see the same issues in terms of pedestrian risks that the Brookline Together organization does despite evidence provided. This will be addressed this spring by the city traffic engineers
- Other Announcements
 - Rep Benham: tuition waivers for those in kinship (children cared by family members outside of the foster care program) care programs at state universities.
 - educational and community programs are being developed: April 6, drive through senior fair 10 am - 1 pm
 - Office will be closed on 1/17/2022 for MLK Day.
 - Dan Gladis - New Chief of Staff DGLadis@pahouse.net
 - Legislation map changes: currently in the redistricting process; in the community comment phase.
 - Brookline will all be encompassed under Rep. Benham.
 - Brookline Block Watch meetings have been canceled until March.
 - Questions regarding dirt bikes in Brookline Memorial Park - police won't chase dirt bike riders. Knowing where the people live, or when they usually arrive will help police to address the issue.

- Carnegie Library: Child storytimes canceled through January for all libraries.
 - <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/events/>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. (Caitlin McNulty made the motion; Bill Kim seconded the motion.)

Notes for upcoming community meetings:

March 2022 Community Focus: Community needs assessments and conversations – in person and virtual?

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
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