HPCC Board Meeting  
September 2, 2021  

In Attendance:  

- Stephanie Walsh  
- Howard Degenholtz  
- Mary Beth Van Fleet  
- Kathleen Paola  
- Becky Marinov  
- Justin Bhagat  
- Jim Blakley  
- Bob Staresinic  
- Sabrina Culyba  
- Bill Reier  
- Judy Beck  

Called to Order at 7:05 P.M. by Stephanie  

Agenda:  

Welcome Bill!  
- Bill Reier was voted onto the board to fill an interim position since our last meeting.  

Communication:  
- Meeting minutes should be sent out more quickly; and published in the newsletter in a more timely manner.  
- The newsletter should also be sent out sooner than it is now.  
- Nancy Gorhing is now the newsletter editor. She is in the process of reviewing and updating current practices; and is working on a survey to get feedback on what people like to see in the newsletter.  
- Currently several options are on the table and will be further researched:  
  ○ We are paying $100 / month for Neon; it has additional modules we can get; It has MailChimp integration  
  ○ Neon doesn’t have good base for the newsletter  
  ○ Considering updated WordPress upgrade ($300) account in order to get plugins and use MailChimp ($700 / year)  
  ○ We currently pay $150/month (x 10 months) for formatting the existing newsletter  
    ■ We should let the current formatting person know if we’re going to change things with him if so decided.  
- Website - the business list needs updated. Kathleen to send preliminary list of businesses  
- Stephanie will send Bill the password to the Instagram account,
Approve Meeting Minutes - May, June and July, 2021

- A misspell of Stephanie’s name will be corrected in the July minutes. (Corrected 9/3/21)
- Vote to approve with correction of above:
  - Moved by Howard
  - Seconded by Bob
  - Yeas = unanimous (11)
  - Nays = 0
  - No Abstentions.
  - Minutes approved.

Membership Benefits (Sabrina)

- Reduction of fee for HPCC events
- Yard sale registration discount
- Yard sale map early - no address, just block and street (don’t want early birds)
  - Yard Sale registration closes on September 10 in order to be put on the map.
- Discounts to Garden Club events
- Create a memento - working with Union Project; e.g. a clay commemorative object to recognize HPCC membership.
- Bryant Street member discounts - need some strategy for ID’ing members (cards, phone)
  - Could pick up at MaryBeth’s shop
- Set up an HPCC table at the Yard Sale with membership information.
- Yard Sale maps should have HPPC logo and To Join - link printed on them.
- Our Facebook & Website posts re: Yard Sale should be updated to include how to become an HPCC member.

Updates

New newsletter person: Nancy Gohring

Welcome sign
- After several setbacks, the sign has been made and is in storage until the project is approved.
- Justin, who is an Architect, is in the process of drawing a City required design map of the installation. Upon approval, the sign will be installed.

Super Playground
- The design has been approved by the City Art Commission.
- The City will begin the breakdown of the current installation before year’s end.
- This will probably not occur this Fall which is a positive due to possible road closures.
- The HPCC Super Playground Committee is moving forward with the Pittsburgh Glass Center for mosaic art installations in the new Super Playground.

Historic Bridge restoration:
- A letter was submitted by the HPCC to the City regarding their proposal for the restoration.
The letter outlined all of our concerns and is under review by the City Art Commission at this time.

- It was noted that the sidewalk in One Wild Place is in very bad and possibly dangerous disrepair.
  - This sidewalk is used by many. It is severely cracked, uneven, and in some spots nonexistent.
  - Who is responsible for repair - the Zoo or the City?
    - Further research will follow with a reachout to the appropriate party.

Upcoming Community Meetings
- Sept: Park artists
- Oct: PWSA
- TBD: Office of Community Affairs about a new health initiative

Fall Activities
- Yard Sale
  - Jake needs 2-3 volunteers on the day of the yard sale to distribute maps
  - Volunteers would be needed around 8am and would be stationed at some high traffic areas (along Highland Ave, etc) to pass out printed listings to those who want them. 8-12pm would probably cover the period of greatest need.
- Stephanie will email potential volunteers
  - Emails will go out to membership.
- Parklet clean-up in preparation for Pumpkin Patch
- Pumpkin patch identified as a successful tradition!
  - Will schedule
- Halloween parade not yet firmed up.
  - The Children’s Committee will organize.
- Thanksgiving food drive is still under consideration.
- Light up night - nice tradition, not on same night as city light up night

Parklet
- Thank you to Rob Collins at the Bryant Street Market for generously paying the Parklet lease. We will share our gratitude and recognize Rob’s largesse with the Community.
  - Newsletter
  - Listserv
  - Print sign for him to hang up at the Market.
- Casa Brasil has graciously allowed us to use their water in order to create and maintain the new grass and plantings. We would like to reimburse them for water use.
  - Vote to reimburse Casa Brasil $100.00/month for water use.
  - Moved by Howard.
  - Seconded by Jim B.
  - Ayes = unanimous (11)
  - Nays = 0
  - No Abstentions.
Motion approved.

- New occupancy permit is still in process. There was some confusion with the URA receiving documents.
- Model for public engagement - part of larger effort to develop a Community Plan?
  - See Community Plan guide here: https://npg.pittsburghpa.gov/
  - Community input and participation will be essential moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.