



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 30, 2017**  
**Meeting Begin: 7:03 PM**  
**Meeting End: 9:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Kevin Brown (Chair), Murray Spencer, Evy Cruz, Marisa Waxman, Jenn Leupold, Sarah Kolansky, Chris Durham, Jon Adler, Jim Hartnett, David Zega (Vice Chair, via phone), Evan Finkelstein, Christopher Stromberg

Board Members Absent: Carl Jones, Matt Monroe

Others Present: Nicole Koedyker (SOSNA Programs Manager)

**Call to Order / Welcome**

Mr. Brown asked the Board to each mention something positive they have encountered in the neighborhood over the last month. Mr. Hartnett visited Sawatdee with a group of neighbors for the first time. Ms. Waxman walked down South Street earlier this afternoon and was excited to see all of the new businesses that are popping up. Ms. Leupold is excited to host her son's 3rd birthday party at the Igloo this Saturday. Mr. Adler attended Brad Dakake's farewell party at the Triangles and was surprised to see how many young children were in the neighborhood. Mr. Stromberg saw that the new daycare at 16th and Christian received approval to operate. Ms. Koedyker went to Kei Sushi and loved it! Mr. Durham enjoyed brunch at Chicks. Mr. Finkelstein was able to go to the MARC pool before it closed for the season, and saw that there more adults than children. Ms. Cruz was pleased at the enthusiastic response to her traffic study from pedestrians passing by her observation station. Ms. Kolansky also enjoyed Kei Sushi. Mr. Brown plans to meet someone interested in running for the Board at Magpie. Mr. Zega and Mrs. Zega had a mini getaway to the Jersey Shore with some new neighborhood friends. He was also delighted to see how clean 22nd Street is after the pilot street cleaning program.

**Approval of July 2017 Board Minutes**

Ms. Leupold moved to approve the July 2017 minutes. Mr. Durham seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Programs Manager Report**

Ms. Koedyker presented the report as submitted in the packet. She highlighted the 8/2 CHOP community advisory council meeting and struggle with replacing the broken bike lane delineators on the South Street Bridge. She announced that SOSNA will rejoin the Crosstown Coalition again, though we still have to pay our membership dues. Mr. Brown noted that there is a new chair of the Crosstown Coalition, which has supposedly ushered in a new era of efficiency and inclusivity. Mr. Finkelstein may join Ms. Koedyker at the 9/16 meeting. She also explained that the Scottish Rite



House is at maximum capacity, and receives all of their programming money from laundry and vending machines. They need more turkeys, more money, more attention from the councilman. They want to collaborate more with SOSNA for events/programs, and pointed to the Triangles concert series as an example. They are also interested in healthy eating programs, food shares, computer classes, and exercise classes. Ms. Koedyker asked if the Board might know of any resources that could help them or members who would like to volunteer at the Scottish Rite House. Ms. Leupold offered to help organize a chair yoga session. Mr. Stromberg suggested getting the local schools involved through a visiting program. Ms. Leupold added that if the residents use Medicare, they can get free memberships at the YMCA. Ms. Koedyker concluded the report by reminding the Board that her Objective Key Results (OKR) analysis will help prepare us for the annual Board retreat. She will also send the Board a draft application for the renewal of our participation in the CDC tax credit program.

### **Treasurer Report**

Mr. Adler presented the report as submitted in the packet. Our income for the month was \$26.17. We spent most of our funds on the Triangles concert series, and new chairs/tables for the Triangles. Ms. Koedyker accidentally located \$12,000 in Giving Grid (for Carpenter Green) donations in our Paypal account, after the website designer had asked for the Paypal credentials to link the account to our site.

### **Initiative Updates & Allocations**

#### **Wins & Successes**

##### ***COPS***

Ms. Waxman reported that the committee planned a tour of the revitalized Union Baptist Church Garden of Eden for Saturday, 9/9. The tour was just going to be for Soup Group members, but is now open to everyone. This will include a tour of the church itself, which was Marian Anderson's church. Ms. Leupold said PlanPhilly is interested in talking to SOSNA about this garden project.

##### ***Economic Development***

Mr. Brown reported that the Dines Out event at Kei Sushi was very successful, as tickets were sold out. He invited businesses to the next Econ Dev meeting, and has gotten a good number of responses thus far. The co-chairs of the committee are streamlining their processes, and will be focusing on Business Spotlights, and a "Good Neighbor" award in the next month.

##### ***Clean & Green***

Mr. Hartnett that the second rain check workshop this year had a packed house. Mr. Brown, who was in attendance, asked the audience how many were at their first SOSNA meeting, and discovered that it was a large proportion. Mr. Hartnett also reported anecdotally that he has received many positive reactions about the street cleaning program. About half of the Board confirmed that they have heard positive comments about street cleaning as well.

##### ***Carpenter Green***

Ms. Kolansky reported that DCED grant is en route to us, and that the contract should be signed within two weeks. As soon as it is signed, we can start spending the grant money on construction., but we sign a construction contract before the money is in hand. Mr. Brown said we are already



talked to one company; Mr. Stromberg will soon receive a bid which will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review. Mr. Stromberg said that the dog run section will remain the same design (turf grass surfacing), but will neither be referred to as a “dog park”, nor marked as such with signage. If we receive inquiries about the dog park from concerned residents and donors, we’ll have to tell them that we can’t advertise it for this use for insurance reasons. Mr. Brown says Lyft has pledged to donate \$25,000 in exchange for including a branded art installation. If we are going to go with Lyft’s suggestion of in-ground reactive lights, Ms. Kolansky is concerned that we would have to wait on construction until after the lights are installed. Mr. Stromberg is still confident that break ground this fall, though we may be too late to make planting season.

### ***Safety***

Ms. Cruz reported the success of the annual Light Up the Night event on 8/1 and the PSA-1 meeting on 8/25 (with guest speaker Larry Krasner). She noted that the guest speaker series might not be as regular in the future, but rather seasonal.

### ***Zoning***

The report, submitted by Marcus Ferreira, states that a big win for the month was the introduction of suggested presentation limits, which helped to keep a very full zoning agenda (five projects!) to a manageable run time.

### ***Triangles***

Ms. Koedyker reported the success of the 8/20 party thrown in Brad Dakake’s honor, complete with a cake reading “Without you, the Triangle would be square”.

## **Ongoing Projects/Roadblocks**

### ***COPS***

Ms. Waxman said we might need another co-chair to assist Louise Linton. Ms. Linton might run for the Board, but otherwise we will need a new Board member to become a liaison for the committee.

### ***Economic Development***

Mr. Brown said that SOSNA needs to maintain regular communication with our sponsor C & R Building Supply. Mr. Finkelstein recommended that the Econ Dev committee create a Business Spotlight for them to show our appreciation.

### ***Clean & Green***

Ms. Kolansky reignited a conversation from the last Board meeting about neighbors who were interested in paying for private street cleaning. Our program at the moment does not clean the entire neighborhood. Ms. Kolansky is interested in SOSNA starting a fundraising campaign to discover how much we can afford to expand. Ms. Waxman said we could try to expand by one cluster of blocks at a time. Mr. Zega believes we should focus on expanding on commercial corridors, not small residential streets. He added that we should start to consider how SOSNA would formulate an annual appeal to residents. He estimates that we would need to spend \$30,000 to hit all of the major corridors on a regular basis. In the meantime, we should be more specific with the cleaner about what our daily goals are. Mr. Stromberg suggested that we make the Clean Block Reps responsible for soliciting neighbors for street cleaning funds. We would pool the incoming



funds to make sure that low income blocks would be covered in the expansion as well. Mr. Durham suggested asking local businesses for money; Mr. Brown responded that we should distribute a form letter asking for a predetermined donation amount (perhaps \$250-500).

Mr. Hartnett presented an allocation for money up to \$6000 to pay for the continuation of a street cleaning pilot program to run from September 2017 through December 2017 and including a month-to-month prorated contract with ABM and additional marketing expenses. Ms. Cruz moved to allocate; Mr. Zega seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

### ***Carpenter Green***

Mr. Brown said that the committee's upcoming challenge is to come up with an appropriate art installation that would satisfy Lyft. Depending on the cost of the art installation, we may need to ask Lyft for more money, especially since the timing of the design could interfere with the construction. Mr. Stromberg noted that the lighting grid that is in place would not support an extravagant light display, and suggested that we use the blank walls on the adjacent property for a mural. Mr. Zega said Councilman Johnson wants to do another check presentation, which could be at a general meeting or a separate groundbreaking event. Mr. Brown would prefer the presentation to happen sooner rather than later, since we don't exactly know when the groundbreaking is, and the councilman might forget about it. The Board agreed that the election on 10/16 is probably the best time.

### ***Safety***

Ms. Cruz noted that the Walkability Implementation Initiative has stalled for the moment, as the committee still needs to organize meetings with the Streets Department and Councilman Johnson's office. We are also working to revive the stoop lightning campaign, with a combination of educational materials and (hopefully) light bulb giveaways.

### ***Zoning***

Marcus Ferreira sent a letter to the Board in support of a transit-oriented development zone for the South Street BSL station. The Board unanimously approved the letter to be sent to Councilman Johnson. Mr. Adler reported that mixed-use project at 22nd and Christian could not be voted on because of errors in the refusal paperwork. Mr. Brown added that the developer will go to the ARC before coming to next month's zoning meeting. Mr. Durham asked for an explanation of CMX 2.25 (proposed by the Zoning committee as a solution to the limitations of CMX 2 and CMX 2.5), which Mr. Adler provided.

### ***Triangles***

Ms. Koedyker said that the Philadelphia Water Department is interested in installing green stormwater infrastructure at all three Triangles. The Board agreed that this collaboration is worth pursuing. The Board also gave Ms. Koedyker unofficial approval to explore the permanence of the Triangles. She would like to host a community visioning session, similar to the one for the Chocolate Factory last month. Ms. Koedyker shared a request from Wes at Raja Yoga for SOSNA to sponsor a fall yoga series to be held on eight consecutive weekends in the fall. Ms. Leupold noticed that the participants are being charged for tickets, and wants to know how those proceeds will be used. Ms. Koedyker responded that the ticket proceeds would go to Raja Yoga. Ms. Kolansky wants to know



why the instructors aren't donating their time. Ms. Leupold is uncomfortable with SOSNA advertising this event on Raja Yoga's behalf prior to receiving Board approval. Mr. Durham suspects this event series is an insurance liability, and stated that SOSNA should be added to Raja Yoga's general insurance if we are to move forward with this plan. He added that he is against the idea of Raja profiting from the ticket proceeds in addition to receiving a donation from SOSNA, and said that the event should be free for participants. Ms. Waxman agreed that it should either be free for participants or serve as a SOSNA fundraiser. Ms. Koedyker asked if the Board would approve of a pay-what-you-wish jar. The Board would approve of this approach if it were an onsite physical jar, and not an online solicitation. Ms. Leupold said that a CPR-certified must be present at all times. On a related note, Mr. Brown would like to eliminate the current rule that the Triangles committee can spend as much money as they fundraise. Once Board elections are over and we have appointed a new liaison to the committee, he wants SOSNA to absorb the committee instead of treating it as an affiliated organization. Mr. Brown added that the yoga series should be advertised as a free event. Despite her misgivings about the current proposal, Ms. Leupold is pleased that we have found a way to extend the usage of the Triangle into the fall.

Ms. Koedyker then presented the revised allocation for \$320 (\$40 PER CLASS FOR 8 CLASSES RUNNING 9/10/2017 - 10/29/2017) to pay a yoga instructor from Raja Yoga to lead a fall yoga series at the Grays Ferry Triangle; provided that Raja add SOSNA to its general liability insurance cover. We added the provisos for insurance and CPR certified-person present requirements. Mr. Durham moved to allocate; Mr. Spencer seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **Quarterly Priorities**

### **Website**

Mr. Finkelstein reported that the script for the website is almost complete; he still needs to receive some biographies from Board members. Ms. Koedyker met with Josephine (website designer), who is still waiting for a tax-exempt form for Google Services. The launch date is supposedly 9/1, but probably will be pushed back by at least a week. Mr. Finkelstein intends for the new website to utilize a blog format for updates instead of the current model of random, disjointed sections. He expects committees to contribute posts every once in awhile. Mr. Finkelstein and Ms. Koedyker will be regular contributors. Ms. Koedyker will take headshots of the Board to be included with their bios.

### **New Business**

Mr. Brown is meeting with the Goldenberg Group (who is responsible for the Stanton playground improvements) next week, as they are interested in buying a large parcel on Lombard Street. Mr. Adler noted that Madeline Shikomba from NOWAC has requested a meeting, as she wants to discuss the future of the Philadelphia 2035 plan from the Planning Commission, as well as neighborhood parking. Mr. Brown asked the Board if there would be any downfalls to having the



conversation, since he doesn't think there would be much controversy as long as we avoid talking about Washington Ave rezoning. Mr. Adler and Mr. Stromberg disagreed, citing NOWAC's failure to follow procedure at zoning meetings as a reason not to have any discussion. Mr. Spencer, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Koedyker have agreed to represent SOSNA at this meeting.

Ms. Cruz mentioned that the American Heritage Credit Union will be opening its first branch in our neighborhood, and is interested in setting up a community advisory council similar to what exists for the CHOP Roberts Center. She asked the Board to think about who would be ideal representatives for this council, and forward any suggestions. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that we still need a volunteer to manage the SOSNA table at the Roberts Center's community event on 9/16.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Adler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00. Ms. Leupold seconded. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.