



Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Meeting Begin: 7:06 PM
Meeting End: 9:42 PM

Board Members Present: Kevin Brown (Chair), David Zega (Vice Chair), Murray Spencer, Evy Cruz, Jim Hartnett, Marisa Waxman, Jenn Leupold, Evan Finkelstein, Sarah Kolansky, Chris Durham, Carl Jones

Board Members Absent: Jon Adler, Matt Monroe, Christopher Stromberg

Others Present: Nicole Koedyker (SOSNA Programs Manager), Meei Ling Ng (SOSNA member, local artist), Loretta Lewis (trustee for the Union Baptist Church), Larry Shaeffer (SOSNA member)

Call to Order / Welcome

Union Baptist Church Garden Proposal → Meei Ling Ng

Mr. Brown welcomed our guests and invited them to share their project with the Board. After 185 years, the Union Baptist Church has decided that it's time to revamp their garden. Ms. Ng is proposing to establish a food garden and an art installation that would provide fresh vegetables, flowers and fruits to the church's soup kitchen and other guests, attracting volunteers/neighbors/visitors to visit the church and garden. The proposal also includes an education program for gardening, cooking/healthy eating, art, and lifestyle classes. Ms. Lewis considers the project a way to build a stronger connection with the neighborhood. The grass plot will be changed to 11 raised garden beds in Phase 1, followed by more flower/herb plantings around the garden's statue (Phase 2), and an orchard made of recycled A/C unit planters (Phase 3). Ms. Ng will be partnering with the Philadelphia Orchard Project for Phase 3. Ms. Waxman and Mr. Durham asked if the garden will be open to the public. Ms. Lewis responded that the fence will remain after being replaced with better materials (fingers crossed for wrought iron!), but the garden will be publicly accessible. Phase 1 is already underway, but additional funding is needed for Phases 2 and 3.

Ms. Koedyker asked Ms. Ng and Ms. Lewis what kind of support they are requesting from SOSNA. Ms. Ng wants to replace two dying trees with fruit trees and would like SOSNA to pay for their removal (\$3380 is the estimated cost of removal). Ms. Lewis wants to connect SOSNA's Soup Group with the church's soup kitchen, since the 92-year-old volunteer who heads this kitchen would like a little relief after 20 years. The deadline for completing the raised beds is end of July, and they want to use the woodchips from the tree removal for these beds. Mr. Durham asked about their maintenance plan. Ms. Ng will train a farm crew to ensure the longevity of the garden. Mr. Shaeffer suggested that the project could morph into a "friends of" group, like the Friends of Julian Abele Park. Mr. Durham also wanted to know if the church/Ms. Ng will ask for more money for this project in the future. Ms. Ng will most likely seek out more funding until all three phases are



complete, but would like to gain some of the proceeds from Blocktoberfest, which is not associated with SOSNA. Ms. Ng also mentioned that they are working on setting up a GoFundMe account for crowdsourced fundraising.

Approval of May 2017 Board Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously after two typographical errors were corrected (archived minutes are now up-to-date). Mr. Brown noted that we will start posting the minutes on our new website, hopefully in August.

Programs Manager Report

Mr. Brown and Mr. Zega thanked Ms. Koedyker for killing it on Instagram, and her other work thus far. Ms. Koedyker presented the PM report as submitted in the packet. She intends to start an email chain with other CDCs for better collaboration across the city. She'd like to clean up the backyard so we could have the option for outdoor meetings. The pedestrian plaza permit for the Triangles will be a top priority in the coming weeks. Ms. Koedyker reiterated her need for website content from Clean & Green, Triangles, and Economic Development.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Adler was not present, but he submitted a report for the packet. Mr. Brown said the Triangles Committee has been great at fundraising. In the future, he wants these two reports (Programs Manager and Treasurer) to highlight how much spending money we have, track our spending, and examine our neighborhood impact related to spending. Mr. Zega thinks it would be very useful to have this knowledge readily accessible for any of us. Ms. Kolansky wants this information to be clear about money that is supposed to be set aside for Carpenter Green.

Initiative Reports & Allocations

Clean/Green

Mr. Hartnett presented the report as submitted in the packet. He had nothing but good things to say about our street cleaning pilot program. Our street cleaning specialist, Zamir, stops in to the SOSNA office to wash his hands and often brings the trash back here in a rolling can. He leaves the trash can in the backyard. Mr. Durham asked if we can have him follow behind the trash truck. Ms. Kolansky responded that he is targeting certain areas on their trash days. Mr. Zega said that Zamir is not going to solve our litter problem entirely and that the trash guys aren't the only perpetrators. The pilot program will hopefully influence the public's littering behavior. Ms. Waxman remarked that the city is looking for pilot neighborhoods to use behavioral economics to reduce litter. Ms. Leupold wants to know if we should circulate an FAQ to the committees so they have some talking points to share with constituents and keep everyone in the loop.

Safety

Ms. Cruz presented the report as submitted in the packet. In response to the committee's plan to have Larry Krasner (DA candidate) speak at August's PSA-1 meeting, Ms. Waxman wondered if we should host the Krasner meeting somewhere besides the SOSNA office to generate and accommodate a higher turnout. Mr. Brown noted that Councilman Johnson wants to extend the



traffic calming proposed in the Walkability Plan Implementation to Christian Street. Mr. Zega said the Stanton playground renovation has been delayed because of insurance problems, but they still plan to have it completed by the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Triangles

A report was submitted for this month's packet. Mr. Brown met with Anthony from ReMAX about their request for a refund of their Plazapalooza contribution, and thinks that we do not have to go through with the refund. Ms. Leupold wanted to be certain that SOSNA did deliver on what we promised our sponsors. She warned that regardless of external factors, sponsors will ultimately blame the Board for issues with events that bear our name.

Mr. Brown reported that Brad Dakake has stepped down as the chair of Triangles and suggested that we honor him with a community happy hour. Ms. Waxman suggested that SOSNA buy something for the Triangles in his name. The committee meetings are now only an hour long. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that we need to find a new chair for the Triangles committee.

Mr. Durham made an allocation for \$340.00 to purchase four delineator posts (bollards) to be installed at the Grays Ferry Triangles now or in the future to replace missing or damaged delineator posts and ensure compliance with City of Philadelphia requirements for maintenance of the space. Mr. Zega seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Zoning

No chair was in attendance to present the report that was submitted in the packet. Mr. Spencer was pleased/relieved that we had a projector to use for the June meeting. Ms. Koedyker said Lauren Vidas wants one of the committee members to attend the ZBA hearing for 2623 Christian Street on July 19th. Mr. Spencer responded that this issue can be discussed at the Zoning workgroup meeting. Mr. Brown informed the Board about the history of the project at 2623 Christian, specifically regarding a contentious oral agreement between the developer and near neighbors. Ms. Vidas wants SOSNA to take a more vocal stance beyond our role as moderator to protect our neighbors. Mr. Brown asked if anyone on the Board had a strong opinion on the matter. Mr. Spencer responded that there is no precedent for SOSNA advocating on behalf of neighbors or developers in such a situation. Mr. Durham added that we shouldn't jeopardize our reputation for impartiality. Ms. Leupold lamented that developers have taken advantage of people in the past, and that SOSNA should do something about it, but acknowledges that since there isn't a written proviso, the agreement is unenforceable. Mr. Brown said that since the land will inevitably be developed, the neighborhood can't fight this forever. He felt that the most the neighbors could do is push back against the special exemption as "punishment," and force the developer to build by right.

COPS

Ms. Waxman presented the report as submitted in the packet. She asked if we can have a happy hour in the PHS Pop-Up Garden or if we should save our use of the Pop-Up for a Carpenter Green fundraiser. Ms. Cruz agreed that we should wait for the fundraiser. Ms. Kolansky said that the happy hour should be a recruiting effort for new clean block reps.



Economic Development

No report submitted this month.

Monthly Priorities

The big event of next month is the July 17th CCRA/SOSNA meeting at the Philadelphia School regarding protected bike lanes on Lombard and South Streets (5:30-7pm).

Mr. Zega reviewed our success in meeting the goals that were set at the Board retreat. We are not very far along with remapping Washington Ave. We are close to receiving a \$50,000 grant for Carpenter Green. Stakeholder engagement could be better, but we were just presented with a great opportunity in the Union Baptist Church project. Improvements to the SOSNA brand still needs to be discussed. We have not yet finished the new website.

Mr. Finkelstein suggested that SOSNA invite more people to the Washington Avenue remapping discussions to increase the diversity of perspectives and gather widespread support. Ms. Kolansky says we had to renew our lease and insurance for Carpenter Green's land. She found out we are not insured for the proposed dog park and the Redevelopment Authority requires us to have insurance. The City of Philadelphia is self-insured, so ideally they would take ownership of the park, but otherwise we need to consider dropping the dog park. Mr. Finkelstein asked the committee chairs/liasons to send website content directly to him. Mr. Spencer added that we need to find a 15th board member.

Calendar Review

This discussion was tabled in the interest of time. Ms. Koedyker will circulate events to the Board via email.

New Business

Circling back to the Union Baptist Church proposal, Mr. Brown felt that the quote for the tree removal is too expensive. Mr. Zega and Mr. Hartnett agreed that we need to see a cheaper quote. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Waxman had no problem with paying for the tree removal as quoted considering last month's \$6,000 grant for the Marion Anderson Pop-Up Pool. Ms. Leupold wanted to fund the tree removal with the understanding that the garden will be a public space, not just a visual improvement for the church. She didn't consider the garden as much of a public asset as the pool. Ms. Waxman sees this as an opportunity for SOSNA to connect with churches. Mr. Brown was concerned that all of the other churches will start asking for funding as well. Mr. Durham wasn't convinced that the church will maintain the space and keep it open to the public. Mr. Zega believed that supporting such a project fulfills several Board retreat goals and gets rid of an eyesore. Mr. Brown was in favor of giving money to erase an eyesore, if the project can ensure a better quote for the tree removal, quick construction, and external programming. It is not clear how much funding Ms. Ng still needs to complete the project. Ms. Leupold did not want our gift to be restricted to the



tree removal. The rest of the Board agreed. Ms. Leupold made an allocation to donate \$2,500 to the UBC-Garden of Eden project for use in establishing a space supporting access to food, green space, blight improvement, and community engagement. Mr. Spencer seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. This gift would not require the project to provide a second quote.

Ms. Cruz made an allocation for the purchase of 2-3 folding sidewalk signs/chalk boards (estimate up to \$150 for supplies) for use by SOSNA to promote meetings to increase attendance. The Board wanted to reduce the allocation to one sidewalk sign and \$125. Ms. Leupold made a new allocation for the adjusted amount. Mr. Hartnett seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Kolansky called for an allocation of \$524 for mowing of Carpenter Green property by Moon Landscaping. The mowing took place on 6/8 and since that was the first mowing of the summer they had to mow it with the mower multiple times. Mr. Zega made the allocation. Mr. Finkelstein seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Cruz made an allocation for up to \$300 to fund a pilot program for a free stoop light (LED) bulb giveaway as part of a new Lighting Campaign called "Lights On SWCC!". The funding will be used to purchase approximately 40 LED dusk to dawn bulbs that will be part of a larger campaign to increase lighting and raise awareness in the neighborhood.¹ This allocation never came to a vote because of overwhelming pushback from several Board members citing "a lack of purpose" and "no evidence of past success as measured in hard numbers."

Ms. Cruz made an allocation for up to \$250 for general SOSNA event supplies that will initially be used for the Light Up the Night event for National Night Out. This will include the purchase of a folding table (6' Fold in Half Outdoor Table) and a new pop-up awning for SOSNA use, as well as glow sticks to giveaway at the event. This allocation did not come to a vote, as the Board wished to deliberate the prices of the table/awning in an extended discussion via email.

Carpenter Green - Fundraising Update (Kevin)

Mr. Brown informed the Board of Lyft's offer to sponsor the park for \$50,000. Option A for sponsorship is naming the park after the company. Mr. Brown wanted to offer option B: a sponsored event series, a branded art installation, and a designated pick-up spot with visible branding. Ms. Kolansky had no problem with the event series being branded by Lyft. She did not want the park named after them, and didn't feel that we needed the money that badly. She wants SOSNA to be careful about our relationship with larger companies. Ms. Leupold stated that

¹ At the 2017 Board retreat, "Find a grant or donation similar to the PECO CFL giveaway for LED bulbs to give to neighbors" was one of the action items for the Safety committee.



transparency is key with those kinds of relationships. If we do partner with them, Lyft may provide promo codes for the SOSNA listserv.

Mr. Brown noted that the Triangles committee had not made an allocation for new tables and chairs because the Board needs to discuss the high cost over email.

Ms. Leupold noted that we are obliged to publicize the election. Ms. Cruz said it would be too weird to have a Board position given away so close to the election.

Adjournment

Mr. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 (good lord). Mr. Finkelstein seconded. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.