



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**  
**Meeting Begin: 7:06 PM**  
**Meeting End: 9:01 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Chris Durham, Carl Jones, Matt Monroe

Others Present: Tanya Seaman (Safety Committee member), Nicole Koedyker (SOSNA Programs Manager)

**Call to Order / Welcome**

Mr. Brown welcomed the Board and thanked the members who will be leaving after next month's election (Mr. Adler, Ms. Leupold, Ms. Waxman, and Mr. Jones). Mr. Brown said that he recently walked past the Union Baptist Church's Garden of Eden and stopped to talk to Meei Ling Ng (the garden's designer) about the success of the project. Ms. Ng presented him with a tomato in the shape of a heart, symbolizing the fruit of our collaborative labor.

**Safety Committee Lighting Campaign**

Ms. Tanya Seaman made a presentation on behalf of the Safety Committee, which is proposing to start a neighborhood lighting campaign. The project's goals are to gather information about the current usage of outdoor lighting, raise awareness about the importance of using outdoor lighting, increase usage of outdoor lighting throughout the neighborhood, and encourage neighbor interaction at the block level. The campaign includes a public awareness component (i.e. flyers and social media posts) that will build momentum for a monthly "Step Night" in which neighbors spend a few hours in the evening outside on the sidewalk. The campaign will also send out a public survey to get a sense of how many neighbors currently use their outdoor lights. A dusk-to-dawn lightbulb will be awarded to a select number of survey participants. After a few months of the campaign, a follow up survey will be distributed to measure any impact the campaign has had on the lighting situation.

Ms. Cruz then made an allocation request for up to \$150 to fund the lighting campaign (Lights On, SWCC!). Ms. Leupold moved to allocate, and asked that the amount be doubled to \$300. Mr. Spencer seconded the allocation. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Waxman noted that many homes in the neighborhood do not even have outdoor light fixtures. Mr. Adler requested that the giveaway include a light fixture to hold the bulb if we are doubling the allocation amount. Ms. Leupold suggested that we incentivize neighbors to participate in "Step Night" with something like water ice. Mr. Brown added that the "Step Night" component is the part of the campaign which excites him the most.



### **Recognition of Departing Members**

Ms. Koedyker unveiled a large unjarred cake from The Baker's Jar to celebrate the end of Ms. Waxman's, Mr. Adler's, and Ms. Leupold's service on the Board. The remaining members lamented the loss of the three's ultra-pragmatic skill set, although we will still get to benefit from Ms. Waxman as a co-chair of COPS, Mr. Adler as a co-chair of Zoning, and Ms. Leupold as an integral part of Blocktoberfest, the SOSNA Election Committee, and the Friends of Julian Abele.

### **Approval of August 2017 Board Minutes**

Ms. Waxman made one correction, which is reflected in the archived minutes. Mr. Spencer moved to approve the August minutes. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

### **Programs Manager Report**

Ms. Koedyker reviewed the report as submitted in the packet. She was pleased with the turnout for the general meeting, even though most of the audience were existing members. The presentation from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia was particularly successful, and may be followed by a neighborhood walking tour in the near future. Ms. Waxman remarked that the presentation focused mainly on churches, which is a clue that we should engage more with those congregations.

Ms. Koedyker reported that the Crosstown Coalition meeting also went well. The 25 RCOs represented discussed common ongoing issues such as litter, parking, and Vision Zero. Ms. Koedyker volunteered to join the coalition's Sustainability Committee. Mr. Brown jumped in to talk about the success of the Safety Committee's Krav Maga self-defense workshop, especially the sponsorship from Chicks that allowed the event to be free. Ms. Leupold noted that she had heard a lot of interest from neighbors who hadn't been able to attend the event. Ms. Koedyker said that the owner of the Krav Maga studio is interested in hosting more regular events in the future.

Ms. Cruz asked to share a recap of the meeting with NOWAC at the beginning of the month, which was attended by Mr. Brown, Ms. Koedyker, Mr. Spencer, and Ms. Cruz. Mr. Brown stated that NOWAC wants to solve the parking issues by limiting parking to one street permit per household, as well as building automated garage towers. They also want to expand IRMX zoning on Washington Avenue to attract tech companies that will provide high-paying jobs. NOWAC is willing to work with us on rezoning Washington Avenue for this purpose. Mr. Spencer pointed out that Lauren Vidas is largely responsible for mending fences between the two organizations, and continues to do so as Zoning co-chair. Mr. Stromberg thinks that a unified force with NOWAC and East Point Breeze Neighbors will be key to swaying Councilman Johnson to take action on Washington Avenue.

Ms. Koedyker continued her report with the South x Schuylkill meeting on traffic calming, noting that the Councilman is installing stop signs at Lombard and Taney after near neighbors erected a "Make Taney Safe Again" banner at that intersection. She also met with the new drone research company on Washington Avenue. Mr. Brown suggested that FOCA collaborate with them because the school has a robotics program. He added that this company, whose employees are mostly local, can serve as a model for attracting new businesses to Washington Avenue, since the company picked our neighborhood over the Bok building.

### **Treasurer Report**



Mr. Adler presented the report as written in the packet. The only large expenditure for the month—besides new furniture for the Triangles—was the street cleaning program. Even though this is his last Board meeting, Mr. Adler said he will help create the next few reports to ease the transition for the next Treasurer.

## **Initiative Updates & Allocations**

### **Wins & Successes**

#### ***COPS***

Ms. Waxman presented the report as written in the packet. Highlights of the month include the school supplies drive for Stanton and Chester Arthur schools, and linking the Soup Group members with the UBC at tour of the Garden of Eden on Sept 9th.

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

Ms. Koedyker presented the report as written in the packet. Highlights include a successful SOSNA Dines Out at Kei Sushi, and the establishment of a Welcome Packet subcommittee (in partnership with COPS) to start working on a the packet for residents that will serve as a base for a business packet. Ms. Leupold believes we already have a welcome packet archived somewhere, and will look for it. Nolan Tully, one of the co-chairs of the committee, is running for the Board.

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

Mr. Hartnett presented the report as written in the packet. He announced that we have a new street cleaner, who has increased our amount of bags collected per diem by tenfold! Mr. Stromberg revealed that his own kids have been inspired by the program to start their own street cleaning/dog walking/babysitting service with their friends.

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

Ms. Kolansky presented the report as written in the packet. This month's highlight was a \$25,000 check received from Councilman Johnson.

#### ***Safety***

Ms. Cruz presented the report as written in the packet. The aforementioned self-defense workshop was the highlight of the month, in addition to the approved allocation for the lighting campaign bulb giveaway.

#### ***Zoning***

Mr. Adler presented the report as written in the packet. Mr. Brown submitted the letter of support for the TOD zone bill (drafted by the Zoning Workgroup) to city council.

#### ***Triangles***

Ms. Koedyker presented the report as written in the packet, noting that we finally got a certificate of insurance. She also reported that PWD spoke to the committee about the potential for stormwater infrastructure at all three triangles.

### **Ongoing Projects/Roadblocks**

#### ***COPS***

Ms. Waxman requested an allocation for \$200 for the design/printing of door hangers to promote the SOSNA Soup Group, particularly to neighbors not connected digitally to SOSNA. Ms. Leupold



wants to add general info about SOSNA in addition to Soup Group to the promo materials. Mr. Adler moved to allocate; Mr. Spencer seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Waxman requested an allocation for \$100 to be used as an award for the Stanton student demonstrating dedication to the community & the people in it (akin to the Cutner award at Chester Arthur). Mr. Finkelstein wants us to make a video of an interview of the winner or the presentation ceremony. Ms. Waxman replied that we would need to get the students to provide permission slips so they can be recorded. She also said that COPS collaborate with Stanton to name the award after an alumnus. Ms. Cruz moved to allocate; Mr. Zega seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

### ***Economic Development***

Ms. Koedyker reported that Yeeroh will be the host of the next SOSNA Dines Out, but we still need to set a date. The committee also needs to select a business for the next Business Spotlight. They will ask C & R Building Supply if they want to be next.

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

Mr. Hartnett reported that the committee is continuing to gather data from street cleaner. They also want to revitalize the Clean Block Rep network.

### ***Carpenter Green***

Ms. Kolansky reported that there are still contract issues with DCED grant. Mr. Stromberg mentioned that we are finalizing the construction bid, and our top pick wanted to know what materials we will be using for benches, lights, etc. Mr. Stromberg wasn't satisfied with the quality and aesthetic of the default materials offered by Parks and Rec. Since Parks and Rec doesn't yet own the park, he wants us to pick our own materials outside of the default catalog (at a comparable price). Parks and Rec stated that it won't authorize a sprayground element unless it's someone is available to turn it on and off. Mr. Stromberg said we would agree to do it ourselves. We are moving forward with the construction without confirmation from Lyft on their art installation, but there will still be time for their portion to be added. Mr. Zega asked when we have a concrete timeline. Mr. Stromberg believes groundbreaking will happen in November, and construction will be completed by the end of the year. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in March. Mr. Zega wants to consider inviting Councilman Johnson to the groundbreaking.

### ***Safety***

Ms. Cruz said the Walkability Plan Implementation Project has stalled because we need to schedule meetings with the Streets Department and Councilman Johnson's office. Mr. Brown wants to clarify who at Streets we are meeting with, since there are conflicting reports.

### ***Zoning***

Marcus Ferreira of the workgroup wrote in the report that the committee still needs to create an opposition letter to Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell's bill that would increase parking minimums for many types of new developments.

### ***Triangles***



Ms. Koedyker decided not to present an allocation for a fall Jazz series. She stated that the committee needs to send letters of support (from SOSNA & local businesses) for a permanent pedestrian plaza permit to Councilman Johnson.

## **Quarterly Priorities**

### **Calendar Review - commit to volunteering dates**

Ms. Koedyker asked the Board to review the events for the month of October and commit to volunteering at one or more of them. She added that the cleanup of the SOSNA office's backyard has been rescheduled for 9/30. Mr. Brown said that he is trying to compile a list of the "super volunteers" who we have come to consistently rely upon for special events.

### **Year-end Fundraising**

Mr. Brown said that Giving Tuesday will be a chance for us to push for some year-end fundraising. He suggested that we have a targeted appeal to people who have recently bought a house worth over a certain amount, but he is open to any other ideas. Ms. Koedyker will consider having the monthly newsletter sponsored by local businesses. Ms. Leupold brought up the idea of using Amazon Smile, but she can't recall if we've ever reached the threshold to receive a check in past fundraising drives. Ms. Kolansky suggested that we become a donation option for Recyclebank rewards. E.M. Stanton has already successfully used Recyclebank rewards to pay for a compost pile.

### **4th quarter commitments to finalize annual priorities (OKR)**

No time to discuss. Mr. Brown will move this conversation to an email thread following the meeting.

## **New Business**

Ms. Koedyker reported that the Pemberton Community Garden wishes to be a grantee for Blocktoberfest, and they request that SOSNA be the conduit sponsor. The Board agreed unanimously to be their sponsor. Ms. Leupold suggested that SOSNA also apply to receive funds from the proceeds. She added that there is still an opportunity for SOSNA to be a sponsor for the event; the naming rights for the second stage are still available. The Executive Committee resolved to discuss the possibility of being a sponsor.

Mr. Stromberg proposed that SOSNA move its office to the coworking spaces at the repurposed First African Baptist Church. He noted that we only have large meetings at night, so we could reserve the conference room as needed. We would only need to rent a small office for Nicole. Ms. Kolansky and Ms. Cruz raised concerns about the lack of storage space. Mr. Zega anticipated that the cost of the space will eventually rise with the market. He also raised concerns about a lack of privacy, and the need for SOSNA meetings to take priority when it comes to reserving the community meeting spaces. Mr. Brown asked the Board to list the pros and cons of moving to this space in a shared spreadsheet after the meeting.

## **Adjournment**



Mr. Brown implored the Board to share information about next month's election on social media, in person, etc. Ms. Leupold pointed out that we still need to find members for the Election Committee. Mr. Adler moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Leupold seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.