



Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

Sara DeLucia, FCG President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Sara welcomed all attendees. 14 individuals were noted to be in attendance. All were encouraged to post questions in the Chat section.

Tom Youngs noted that he believed the February 2, 2022, Annual Planning Meeting Minutes had already been approved at the February 9, 2022, Board of Directors meeting so the Consent Agenda was revised to reflect that. The minutes for February 9, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, the Zoning & Development Committee March 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes and financial report were revised to be items a through d on the agenda. Items were approved with Tom Youngs making the motion and Sara seconding it. All in favor.

Audit Committee Results- Joe Mattis spoke about and submitted the annual audit. There were fewer activities than in 2020. The checking account has less than \$1,000. Checks and receipts written matched properly. He noted that there are three different insurance policies FCG has and must pay for. Everything seemed appropriately documented. Results were approved. Motion made to accept by Tom and seconded by Sara. All in favor.

Items for discussion, and as Appropriate, Approval

- a) **Baum Grove Committee March 2022 Committee Minutes.** Logan Burdwood spoke of two main concerns with Baum Grove- the bare hillside on Roup and the light/electricity issue. He has gotten one estimate on the latter problems of \$3,500 to repair fixtures and connections. He also spoke of the PWSA requirement for a backflow device to be installed which we will need a plumber for. He also mentioned the Stormwater tax where Baum Grove is taxed at Tier 2 because of the amount of impermeable surface.
Duquesne Light has also mandated the trimming of trees at Baum Grove. Sara mentioned Diana Ames as someone who may be of help who has worked with Duquesne's arborist in the past. Carla stated that she has identified super tough groundcover plugs to remediate the bareness of the hillside along with some mulch.
- b) **Budgets** Tom Youngs stated that there is \$32,000 in the savings account and we are in good financial condition. The expenses of Baum Grove are the main financial focus of FCG. He also mentioned that if funds granted for a project in one year are not used and the project not completed, they must be asked for again in the next budget year. The motion to accept the budget was made by Tom Youngs and seconded by Emily George. All in favor.
- c) **Good Neighbor Project** Emily spoke of the door hanger and her Sunday Zoom meetings with others on the door hanger effort. \$870 has been raised to print the door hangers. She spoke of the need for block volunteers for distribution and the fact that there may be surplus funds after printing. Sara expressed the desire for a motion to restrict the use of any surplus funds for this project. Emily came up with this motion: "FCG accepts donations for the GNP and restricts the use of the funds to printed materials for distribution and other funds for future initiatives upon review and approval of the Board". Motion was approved. All in favor.

- d) **Approval of Babich Acoustics Invoice** The Friendship Community Group (FCG) Procurement Policy requires that two bids be obtained for any purchase greater than \$500.

FCG's Zoning and Development Committee (ZDC) in December 2021 and January 2022 was working closely with neighbors near the Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) in regards to its expansion plans. Many neighbors were concerned that the expansion and its exhaust fans and HVAC equipment would increase the amount of ambient neighborhood noise.

The PGC was scheduled to present to the Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) on January 13, 2022, to obtain special zoning exceptions and zoning variances, and while neighbors wanted to support the local institution's plans, the neighbors did not want to do so without an understanding of the current ambient noise in order to use as a baseline reference for post construction and any potential increased noise.

The neighbors asked if FCG would pay for a sound study in order to prepare for the January 13 meeting. Babich Acoustics, who was recommended to FCG by an architect neighbor, was able to accommodate the accelerated schedule for the sound/noise study. Sara and Tom spoke, discussed pricing with the consultant, reviewed FCG's finances and based upon this exigent need approved of the \$2000 expense to contract with Babich Acoustics for baseline ambient noise readings. With this verbal approval, ZDC attended the January 13 ZBA meeting and formally requested a continuance, which was granted, until February 10, 2022.

Sara signed the contract with Babich Acoustics on January 27, 2022, and services were performed. Motion to approve payment made by Tom Youngs and seconded by Nancy Cohen. All in favor.

- e) **RCO Expansion** Registered Community Organization designation. Friendship is larger than our definition per the city. We may have to file for this designation. Tom Youngs will work with John Axtell to formalize this.
- f) **POB Pickup** Larry Laude has been picking our mail up weekly at the post office. Sara asked if someone else could take over this task. Nancy volunteered and will email Larry for convenient time to get key etc.
- g) **FCG/BGC Joint Board Meeting** Tom Youngs mentioned that the rise of development on Penn Ave makes this important so both groups can be on the same page.
- h) **F4** Sara said it will take place the day before Mother's Day, May 7th. In the past it has had a flower sale, music, grilling of lunch refreshments, a raffle and maybe a book sale. There were vendors who participated in the past. What permits do we need? Different permits come with different costs and requirements. Sara stated that maybe it could be flowers and music only. Her sister, Jayne Bower, has graciously said that she can help with flower sales. Elizabeth said she can look into a block party permit. We will need help with marketing and volunteers. There seemed to be a broad interest of attendees to help in this fundraiser.
- i) **Change of Address with the state** Nancy stated that she sent the Department of State of Pennsylvania the change of address form on February 11 after having secured Rick Swartz' permission to use BGC's address as FCG's physical address. Per the state on March 9, 2022, they have not even opened mail received after January 24, 2022 so FCG's form is still in limbo.

j) **Other Items:**

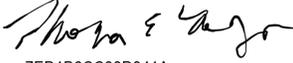
Sara mentioned that March 14th is the deadline for *Bulletin* entries. She would like to have the Board of Directors of FCG mentioned in the next issue and maybe the Good Neighbor Project and asked Emily if she could give her some text about it and perhaps a picture.

Also, March 24 is the community Zoom meeting with the Board. Tom mentioned that perhaps Heather from the Glass Center might be able to say a few words.

Sara also asked Carla if she can meet with others to parse Outreach Committee activities. Colleen expressed interest in helping Carla with this.

At 8:30 p.m. Logan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carla. All in favor.

These minutes were approved at the September 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

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