



Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021

The Friendship Community Group (FCG) held a regularly scheduled 2021 board meeting on September 8. It was held at Baum Grove Park.

Call to Order

1. Sara DeLucia called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Board of Directors (“BOD”) members (“Members”) in attendance: Sara DeLucia (President), Tom Youngs (Treasurer), Tom Hritz (Secretary), Logan Burdwood, Dinora Putman, Carla Lukehart, Joe Mattis and RJ Hubert. Regrets from Vince Manetti, Evan Stein, Jayne Bower, Rod Cunningham and Danielle Novick. A quorum was noted to be present.

Consent Agenda Items for Information

1. August 2021 FCG BOD Meeting minutes
2. Finance Committee Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. Zoning and Development Committee Report

Items for Discussion and, as Appropriate, Approval

1. Jayne Bower signed us up for the Garbage Olympics. It will be held on Saturday, 9/18. It starts at 9 a.m., but all should assemble at Baum Grove at 8:30 a.m. We discussed what items can be taken by the city. Also, it was recommended that if a weapon is found, do not touch it but note where it was so it can be reported to the police.
2. The FCG Fall Quarterly Community Meeting is planned to be held at the Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church (Friendship Ave. & Roup St.) on Thursday, 10/14 at 7 p.m. Annual BOD elections are scheduled to be held as well as a presentation from PWSA (details below).
3. PWSA has agreed to hold a neighborhood presentation on their new stormwater containment plan and how it will impact residents of Friendship. Sara emailed our contact at PWSA to invite them to present at the Fall Community Meeting on 10/14 and she is waiting for a reply. It is known that the project will result in increased PWSA rates.
4. FCG Representation on the Baum Centre Initiative (BCI) is still needed as our two neighborhood representatives have stepped down. Sara will talk with Susan Petersen about representing Friendship as Susan already attends most meetings as a representative of her church.

Updates

1. Baum Grove Asphalt Art Grant Wrap-up (Sara)
 - a) We will need to do post-project metrics to detail the impact of changes to the intersection on traffic. We will also need to have a follow-up meeting with DOMI to discuss what worked well and what didn't.



- b) Tony Garcia, who helped with the street design, will host a post-project feedback session to get input on the project as a whole.
 - c) The art image is now owned by the FCG and we are free to use it as we wish. It can be used on our website, on Friendship merchandise or whatever we choose to do with it.
 - d) We have extra paint to do touch ups on the art as needed. Jayne Bower is keeping cans that were already opened in her house and new, unopened cans are currently in the Baum Grove shed. However, they cannot be kept there over the winter due to the cold. We will need to find another location for them in someone's house.
2. Outreach Committee (Carla)
- a) Moving meetings from Tuesdays to Thursdays due to schedule conflicts many committee members have on Tuesdays. Which Thursday of the month is yet to be determined.
 - b) Members entertained the idea of having a Pumpkin Stroll on Halloween night again this year. It will be discussed further.
 - c) Members also brought up the idea of a Holiday party in December but feel there will still be concerns due to the pandemic. It was suggested to have it in Baum Grove and to open up the discussion with neighbors to see if we can get heaters and decorations.
3. Baum Grove Committee (Logan and Carla) had no updates, but asked the BOD to start thinking about planting on the hillside adjacent to Roup St. In the Fall.
4. Zoning and Development Committee (ZDC). Tom Youngs updated on the following:
- a) Pittsburgh Glass Center proposed renovations, including those of the old Horoscope Lounge. The drawings and designs presented at August's Zoning and Development Committee meeting were shared. It is possible that a DAM will be needed given they will need variance approval for lack of parking spaces onsite.
 - b) There has been no progress on the new Howard Hanna building at Baum and S. Graham. No Zoning Board hearing has been scheduled. The ZDC is waiting to determine recommendations for next steps.
 - c) A new hearing for the Children's Home noise issues is being scheduled due to issues with the original hearing. This led to a new sound study which was done after 10 p.m. Its results will be used at the new hearing. The Children's Home has also bought St. Lawrence O'Toole church and its activities building. It is anticipated that any new construction will require variances and will provide an opportunity for FCG to partner with BGC to further negotiate on correcting its noise issues in its current building and avoid similar issues with the new building.
 - d) Construction at Penn and S. Atlantic has led to some issues and concerns, but there has been no response about them after they were taken to the developer. Nearby neighbors have had no new issues as of late.
 - e) The scaffolding permit for the Aldi on Baum Blvd. is up for renewal on 10/31/21, but there is little FCG or concerned neighbors can do about having the city deny it.
5. Nominating Committee
- a) The BOD discussed possible nominees for the opening board positions. Per FCG bylaws, nominee information needs to be shared with the community for three weeks before the election. The election is scheduled to be held at the 10/14/21 community meeting. Most Members agreed to reach out to Friendship neighbors to encourage them to run for a position.
6. Pittsburgh Foundation Playpark Funds
- a) The Play Park Fund awarded to FCG's predecessor still exists and is being kept by the Pittsburgh Foundation. Since FCG no longer oversees the play park and it now belongs to Pittsburgh Public Schools, FCG needs to let the Pittsburgh Foundation know that the funds can be used for something else.

New Items

1. Baum Grove Intersection Bollard Theft
- a) The bollards at the center of the Roup/Fairmont/Harriet intersection on the north piece of artwork have been stolen twice. Both times the city has replaced them. Sara has asked Philip Wu, City Planner, to place cameras at the intersection to try to identify thieves in the future should they be taken again, but the city cannot allocate resources for that.



Standing Open Items

1. Friendship Montessori School – no update
2. Bloomfield Community Plan
 - a) This is moving forward. BDC is waiting on work by Philip Wu, City Planner, before they can continue.
 - b) John Axtell will draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the BDC
3. Baum Grove Volunteers – recruitment ongoing
4. FCG Website – RJ is working on it to update it

Adjournment and Future Meetings

Tom H. (Carla) moved to adjourn the meeting. Sara adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

All meetings are open to the public. Note – all meetings are subject to cancellation, date changes or to be held through teleconference or a form of online video.

- FCG board meetings will be held in person in Baum Grove as weather permits or at a member's house if not.
- Zoning and Development Committee on the first Tuesday of each month at the Pittsburgh Glass Center.
- Outreach Committee on a Thursday (TBD) at 6:00 pm in Baum Grove or elsewhere (TBD) if necessary.
- Baum Grove Committee on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at a member's home (next meeting TBD) unless otherwise noted.

Tom Hritz, Secretary

Friendship Community Group

These minutes were approved at the October 13th, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.