



Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

The Friendship Community Group (FCG) held a regularly scheduled 2021 board meeting on August 11. It was held at Baum Grove Park.

I) Call to Order

1. Sara DeLucia called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following Board of Directors ("BOD") members ("Members") in attendance: Sara DeLucia (President), Tom Youngs (Treasurer), Jayne Bower (Vice President), Tom Hritz (Secretary), Logan Burdwood, Rod Cunningham, Dinora Putman and Danielle Novick. Regrets from Vince Manetti, Evan Stein, Carla Lukehart, Joe Mattis and RJ Huebert. A quorum was noted to be present.

II) Consent Agenda Items for Information

1. July 2021 FCG BOD Meeting minutes
2. Finance Committee Report
3. Housing & Business Borders (HBB) Committee Report
4. Baum Grove Safety / Asphalt Art Report

Sara asked if there were any objections to the items on the meeting minutes and consent agendas. As there were no objections to the agenda items, these items were adopted.

In discussing the HBB consent agenda, Tom Youngs (Danielle Novick) moved that

Resolved: The FCG BOD approve the changing of the name of the Housing and Business Borders Committee to the Zoning and Development Committee based on majority vote of the committee members.

The motion carried.

III) Items for Discussion and, as Appropriate, Approval

1. Quarterly Community Meeting
 - a) The BOD agreed that based upon our bylaws the community picnic and community asphalt art painting event qualified as our community meeting for the 3rd quarter of the year as it has in past years. The event was broadly advertised and well attended by members of the Friendship community.
 - b) We discussed holding our 4th quarter community meeting on the second Thursday in October. It will include our annual election of new board members and possibly a presentation by PWSA on anticipated work to be done in Friendship.
2. FCG Representation on the Baum Centre Initiative (BCI)
 - a) The BOD is looking for a Friendship representative, or preferably two, on BCI since Barbara Adams needs to step down and Brian Sullivan is not interested in taking her place. It was suggested that this



representative(s) be a board member and/or someone who lives closer to Baum Blvd since BCI decisions may have more of an impact on them.

3. Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Grant / Baum Grove Safety Improvement (Sara)
 - a) The neighborhood asphalt art painting event was a huge success. Danielle Novick noted the time contributions of Rod Cunningham, Dinora Putman, Tom Hritz, and especially Sara Delucia who was there for nearly every minute of the event with a motivating and positive attitude.
 - b) Sara stated that the city of Pittsburgh changed its position and now requires that ownership of the artwork be signed over to the Friendship Community Group. Also, there is at least 1 missing ballard that will need to be replaced by the city.
 - c) Rod will work on finding a contractor to remove snow from parts of the artwork area at the north end of the project to make the crosswalks more accessible
 - d) The community picnic that was held on the Saturday of the 2-day painting event was also successful and was attended by many Friendship community members who we don't often get to see.
4. Yard Sale Summary (Logan)
 - a) There were nearly 60 participants in this year's yard sale and the majority of them reported that it was well attended and successful. Logan refunded one participants' fee because he stated that he didn't have many customers. He had a table set up in Baum Grove.
 - b) Logan asked for feedback since it was his first time organizing such an event. All who attended the yard sale reported it was well run and the map/guide was well put together.
5. Garbage Olympics (Jayne)
 - a) Jayne asked if there was interest in the Garbage Olympics this year. It will be held on Saturday, September 18th and the deadline to sign up for it is fast approaching. The BOD asked her to sign us up and will encourage residents to participate.
6. 2022-2023 Board Nominations
 - a) With the agreed upon BOD election to be held earlier than past years, we have one or two less weeks to find nominees. Sara encouraged all exiting board members to find a nominee as a replacement. Danielle stated she had a conversation with LeeAnn (corner of Harriet/Roup) about running and LeeAnn seems interested. Logan said he will send out an email to those on the yard sale email group to see if there is any interest.

V) Updates

1. Neighborway Update
 - a) The MoveForward PGH sponsored event originally scheduled for Friday, 7/16 at 5 pm was moved to Friday, 8/27 due to rain. As a reminder, MoveForward PGH will be highlighting the Lawrenceville and Bloomfield/Friendship Neighborway projects by promoting a bike ride along both Neighborway routes, beginning in Lawrenceville and ending in Baum Grove. Danielle stated that nobody from MoveForward PGH contacted her about using Baum Grove this Friday.

VI) New Items

1. Baum Grove Neighbors (harassment incidents)
 - a) The recent incidents involving extremely inappropriate behavior and sexual threats to a Friendship resident and one of the asphalt art artists by Friendship resident Mark Demler were discussed. Charges are being considered by the City of Pittsburgh for attempts to interfere with a public right of way. Additional charges are being considered by the two woman he accosted. As a Pittsburgh Public School teacher, these charges may threaten his career. Danielle suggested meeting with Mark to make sure he understands the gravity of these charges on his career and not pressing charges at this time, but doing so in the future if there are similar incidents of this behavior by him. Jayne suggested moving forward with pressing charges against him since he is working with children and this behavior



is totally unacceptable. Tom Youngs stated that it appears the city has already pressed charges against him. No decision was made on how to proceed.

Adjournment and Future Meetings

All other agenda items were tabled until next month's meeting as it started to rain. Sara (Jayne) moved to adjourn the meeting. Sara adjourned the meeting at 7:53 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, location TBD for the time being.
- Zoning and Development Committee on the first Tuesday of each month in Baum Grove or a committee member's home.
- Outreach Committee on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- 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 September 8th, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.