



Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021

The Friendship Community Group (FCG) held a regularly scheduled 2021 board meeting on October 13. It was held at the home of President Sara DeLucia.

Call to Order

Sara DeLucia called the meeting to order at 7:11 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, Danielle Novick and Rod Cunningham. Regrets from Vince Manetti, Evan Stein, Jayne Bower, and RJ Hubert. A quorum was noted to be present.

Consent Agenda Items for Information

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

There were no objections to the consent agenda and all items were approved.

Items for Discussion and, as Appropriate, Approval

1. Community Meeting – 28 October 7 pm
 - a. Will be via Zoom/phone conference line
 - b. Rescheduled from 10/14 to allow time to post 2022-23 BOD candidate profiles
2. New Board Member Nominations
 - a. Nominees for the 2022-23 BOD are Emily, Brad, Colleen, Nancy and Diana
 - b. Bios have been received by most. Once all are received, they will be posted to the FCG website. The election will take place according to bylaws at our 10/28 community meeting.
 - c. Thank you to Joe Mattis and Logan Burdwood for reaching out to these candidates and encouraging them to join our board. Thank you to Tom Youngs for speaking with many of them to explain their role on the board and its importance for keeping Friendship strong.



3. PWSA Community Meeting – PWSA reps have a conflict on the date of our community meeting. A special community meeting will be schedule soon so that community members can learn more about the PWSA’s upcoming stormwater project that will affect Friendship.

Updates

1. Baum Grove Asphalt Art Grant Maintenance (Sara)
 - a) The asphalt art should be okay through the fall and winter. We may need to sweep up any dirt that accumulates on it. In spring we may need to touch up the paint.
 - b) We will also need to do a follow-up impact data collection to demonstrate any effects the project had on motor and pedestrian traffic.
2. Baum Grove (Danielle)
 - a) We had a successful Garbage Olympics again this year. Friendship neighbors and volunteers collected 20 bags of garbage and 4 tires. (Sara)
 - b) Danielle discussed ongoing issues with drug sales happening at a yellow brick house on S. Fairmount St. across from Baum Grove. Baum Grove maintenance volunteers are finding signs of drug use in the park (needles) and recently people have been sleeping in the park overnight.
 - c) Nearby neighbors have asked for electricity to be removed from the park. They report people using the outlets to charge their phones.
 - d) It was suggested that responsibility for safety become a BOD responsibility and to leave maintenance of the park as a Baum Grove Committee responsibility. Tom Y. proposed that an ad hoc committee of the BOD take on the safety concerns. Safety issues would include lighting, electricity and addressing neighbor complaints. If this plan is agreed upon, the Board should budget for safety gloves to be used when maintaining the park to prevent possible needles sticks. The Baum Grove Committee would continue recruiting volunteers to maintain the park and approve of its use by the public.
 - e) It was also suggested to schedule a meeting with near neighbors to hear their concerns. If this were to occur, a facilitator should be used to help keep the conversation moving and keep it civil.

New Items

1. Outreach Committee Update (Carla)
 - a. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 10/14 in Baum Grove
 - b. Halloween Event – will be handled by Wesley Waldrup again this year. She submitted a budget to the Board. The plan is to have it on Halloween night in Baum Grove after Trick-or-Treating, but other possible dates were also discussed.
 - c. Wreath Sale – this is a good, annual fundraiser for the FCG. Dinora volunteered to lead the event but asked for assistance. She will need to work with a supplier from the garden center and coordinate advertising the sale, setting up ordering on FCG’s website and be there with volunteers the day of distribution to help coordinate it.



- d. Holiday Party – the plan is for a simple, outdoor event in Baum Grove. Ideas included hot chocolate and cookies. Carla is looking for someone to take lead. It will be discussed at this week’s Outreach Committee meeting.
- e. Newsletter – submissions are due by 10/23. Ideas discussed included posting BOD nominee bios, info on the upcoming PWSA meeting and details on the above events.
2. Day of Giving – this was not discussed
3. Transition Plan for Outgoing Board Members (Sara)
 - a. All outgoing board members should update their position descriptions and committee chair descriptions to help oncoming board members transition into their new roles.
 - b. Any binders with information on how to run BOD positions, committees or events should also be updated by the end of the year.

Standing Open Items

1. Friendship Montessori School
 - a. Likely will become a topic with the PPS budget deficit.
 - b. FCG needs to communicate better that the playpark is not our responsibility anymore and that it now belongs to the PPS Board of Education. There have recently been comments made by parents of the school kids regarding playpark maintenance issues.
2. Bloomfield Community Plan
 - a. No recent progress
 - b. Sara will continue with completing a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the BDC.
3. Baum Grove Volunteers – recruitment ongoing
4. FCG Website – It was agreed that our current website is lacking. There was discussion on reimagining the website, but we don’t have much of a budget for it and we need to hire someone who will do it for us with minimal funding or find a volunteer to do it.
5. Pittsburgh Foundation Playpark Funds - There is money from the original grant that was awarded to FCG when it was responsible for the park. That money sits with the Pittsburgh Foundation. There was no decision made on what to do with it.

Adjournment and Future Meetings

Logan (Tom Y.) moved to adjourn the meeting. Sara adjourned the meeting at 8:23 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 6:30 pm in Baum Grove or elsewhere (TBD) if necessary.
- Baum Grove Committee is ad hoc at the moment.



Tom Hritz, Secretary

Friendship Community Group

These minutes were approved at the November 10th Board of Directors meeting.