



Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021

The Friendship Community Group (FCG) held a regularly scheduled 2021 board meeting on November 10. It was held at the home of President Sara DeLucia.

Call to Order

Sara DeLucia called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the following Board of Directors (“BOD”) members (“Members”) in attendance: Sara DeLucia (President), Jayne Bower (Vice President), Tom Youngs (Treasurer), Tom Hritz (Secretary), Logan Burdwood, Dinora Putman, Carla Lukehart, Joe Mattis, Danielle Novick, RJ Huebert and Rod Cunningham. Vince Manetti and Evan Stein were not present. A quorum was noted to be present.

Also in attendance were Emily George and Nancy Cohen (Members-elect).

The Members and Members-elect introduced themselves to one another.

Consent Agenda Items for Information

1. October 2021 FCG BOD Meeting minutes
2. October Community Meeting Minutes
3. Finance Committee Report / Treasurer
4. Zoning and Development Committee Report
5. Outreach Committee Report

Tom Y. motioned –

RESOLVED: add to the October 2021 BOD Meeting minutes that he proposed an ad hoc committee of the BOD take on the safety concerns.

All were in favor. There were no objections or abstentions.

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

Items for Discussion and, as Appropriate, Approval

1. Motion to remove Evan Stein from FCG Board of Directors due to inactivity. He has missed the last 12 BOD meetings. Sarah has contacted Evan by email asking if he is still interested in being part of the BOD, but she has not received a response from him. She then emailed him to advise



him that if he does not respond, it will be assumed he is not interested in continuing and he will be removed from the BOD. He did not respond to that email either.

- a. Danielle (Tom Y.) motioned –

RESOLVED: remove Evan Stein from the BOD for being inactive on the board in excess of 3 months.

All were in favor. There were no objections or abstentions.

2. PWSA Stormwater Initiative Community meeting December 2, 2021 at 7pm. Location TBD (help?)
 - a. Sarah suggested the meeting to take place on Thursday, December 2nd at the 4th Presbyterian Church on Friendship Ave. and Roup St. PWSA said they can do the meeting via Zoom if we cannot secure a location.
 - b. Sarah also suggested mandating masks if in person. It was decided to offer it both in person and via Zoom and suggest the in person meeting to those who do not have access to Zoom. We will have someone monitor questions on Zoom, keeping the Chat option closed and a moderator sharing the questions with the audience.
3. ZDC Resolutions
 - a. Tom Y. shared the two motions the ZDC voted on.
 - i. Oppose a variance request submitted to the Pittsburgh Zoning Board from the landlord of 200 Stratford to add two apartments. Jennifer Haven will attend the 11/18/21 variance hearing to convey the motion.
 - ii. Bloomfield and Polish Hill Inclusionary Zoning – ZDC voted to support and advocate for the City of Pittsburgh’s Planning Commission approval of the plan. Jennifer will convey the motion to the Pittsburgh Planning Commission at their 11/23, 2 pm meeting.
 - b. Bus stop on the corner of Liberty Ave. and S. Pacific is being moved. It is hoped that the city will move forward to install bollards at the painted bump out to make it easier for drivers to see when turning onto Liberty Ave. from S. Pacific.
 - c. The house next to the 15224 post office is being demolished. There is a permit for it, but we are unsure why it is being demolished.
 - d. Emily and Jennifer ran the Development Activities Meeting (DAM) for the Pittsburgh Glass Center on 11/9 and did a great job of organizing it. Tom Y. thanked Emily for her work.
4. Children’s Home update (ZDC Committee)
 - a. Jennifer Haven and Mark Dolan attended the hearing for the Children’s Home noise issue on 11/10 to voice FCGs concerns. There was no decision made at the hearing. Tom Y. contacted Sarah Kinter from the City Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections (PLI) to find out what the next steps are and is awaiting a reply. Tom Y. will continue to update the BOD on any decision and on the Children’s Home progress in purchasing St. Lawrence O’Toole Church on Penn Ave.



5. 327 N Negley Revitalization (Tom Y)
 - a. The group developing the former synagogue that is on N. Negley Ave. reached out to community groups for input on what they would like to see included with the project. It is being made into affordable housing (apartments) and a community center. The development group will be meeting with Tom Y. and Jennifer soon.

Updates

1. Wreath Sale (Dinora) – 45 items totaling \$1,038 have been sold so far. Jayne, Nancy and Rod will assist with handing out wreaths on pick-up day. Jayne suggested sending out email reminders as we approach the deadline for ordering since in the past we have tended to get a lot of last minute orders.
2. Day of Giving (Tom Y.) – Tom Y. set up Day of Giving link on FCG website. Sarah asked that we also post why FCG needs financial support and what we will use the money for. She also suggested an email blast reminder. Sarah and Danielle shared the importance of all Members donating whatever they can, even if it's \$1, because attestation of BOD Member financial support through an annual donation is often required when applying for grants or other assistance.
3. HOLIDAY PARTY!!!! (Carla) – Friday, 12/3 with a rain date of Friday, 12/10. Carla suggested starting at 6:30 pm to allow time for those who have young children to attend. Encourage people to bring cookies or treats. We'll also provide hot beverages (e.g., hot chocolate, mulled cider, etc.). Carla asked for people to bring heat lamps, tables, extension cords and chairs. We will encourage all who are attending to bring their own chairs as well. We need someone to oversee the set up and decorating. Carla will share her list of items needed and tasks that need to be done. Danielle suggested getting a Millie's Hot Chocolate Cart. We will look into the cost. Danielle reminded everyone that Baum Grove is glass-free, so we will ask everyone to bring boxed wine or beverages in cans. We are allowed to have fire pits, but they must be kept 15 feet away from any structure, covered with a screen and a fire extinguisher needs to be nearby.
4. Baum Grove (Danielle) – we are looking for someone to sponsor a leaf and Ginkgo berry pick-up. They will fall after the first hard frost. Three pick-ups will be needed. Danielle can sponsor one pick-up but is looking for someone to organize the other two. There is potential to have over 100 bags total. Logan and RJ volunteered to sponsor one day each.

New Items

1. 2022 Open Positions – Sara asked all to think about volunteering for the following positions:
 - a. Officers
 - b. Committee Chairs
2. 2022 Board of Directors planning retreat (2nd or 3rd Saturday of January) – Sara will communicate more about this via email.
3. Public Safety – there have been requests for more awareness of public safety and public safety officers in the area. We will continue to do what we can to address this and continue the discussions. Sara reminded everyone to keep their car doors locked.



Standing Open Items – there was no discussion on any of these items at the November meeting as time ran out.

1. Friendship Montessori School – Likely will become a topic with PPS budget deficit
2. Bloomfield Community Plan – no work yet; FCG will draft a MoU with BDC
3. Baum Grove volunteers
4. FCG website
5. Pittsburgh Foundation Playpark funds

Adjournment and Future Meetings

Jayne (Danielle) moved to adjourn the meeting. Sara adjourned the meeting at 8:13 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 March 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.