



Friendship Community Group
July 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
Friendship Avenue Church | July 10, 2024

The Friendship Community Group held its July Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

The following Board members were present: Ellen DiBiase (ED), Danielle Novick (DN), Julie Grove (JG), Nikki Coffee (NC), Nancy Cohen (NaC), Steve Morrow (SM), Rachel Murchison (RM), Abby Slovonc (AS), Sheila Grab (SG).

Regrets from: Aafke Butter, Lee Ann Antol, Sierra Weir, Elizabeth Reitz Schwall

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, as a quorum was present.

I. Intro Topics/General

A. SG will be new secretary; NC will resume role as Outreach co-chair

B. ED gave overview of successes from the past 6 months

1. Events

1. Tree pruning at Baum Grove
2. F4: doubled net revenue, first silent auction featuring local artists, Mayor in attendance
3. Hosted Pittsburgh Marathon cheer station, with grant support
4. Reestablished monthly litter pickups
5. Submitted a Love Your Block application (up to \$2,500)- would go towards Baum Grove improvements including hillside/front plantings and new fence along hillside; grant review in process by City
6. Monthly playground meetup for families created
7. New lead for yard sale established, yard sale is now owned by FCG, and signups are in process (35 households to date)
8. Targeted outreach for yard sale and picnic on Stratford, Fairmount, and periphery of Friendship
9. Reestablished the outdoor movie night, with grant support

2. Communications

1. Monthly e-newsletter and monthly presence in Bloomfield-Garfield Bulletin
2. More active social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram
3. Created volunteer e-survey
4. Reestablished monthly committee meetings for Baum Grove and Outreach

3. Partnerships

1. Joint litter pickup of Penn Ave. with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
2. Sound study scheduled with Pittsburgh Glass Center for July 18th

3. FCG serving as advocate for various ongoing projects: Penn Ave. Phase II Streetscape project, preservation of Montessori School, PWSA low water pressure issue, Penn Ave. Arts District revitalization
4. As an Organization: Lost 4 board members, but added 5 new board members (net positive); FCG currently stands at 14 Board members (max is 15)

II. Review of Consent Agenda DN moved to accept these items. Motion seconded (SM).

- A. June 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. June 2024 ZDC Meeting Minutes
- C. June 2024 Outreach Meeting Minutes
- D. June 2024 Baum Grove Meeting Minutes
- E. Jan- June 2024 Treasurer's Report
- F. July 2024 CDs Report (held with PNC)
- G. Board Nomination: Vince Manetti- Bio/Statement of Interest

III. Items for Discussion / Approval as Needed

- A. AS gave update on budget- there is money available that can be spent for larger projects. There is a maturing CD (\$10K). ~\$18K in cash is available at this time; additional funds held in multiple CDs.
- B. Baum Grove committee's stage repair proposal will be ready within ~1 month.
 1. Engraved brick idea can still be used for community engagement/additional funding.
 2. No capital campaign is needed to move forward with stage repair.
 3. Reviewing other Baum Grove improvement projects to use available funds.
- C. Baum Grove maintenance to start in 2025; will require significant expenditure.
- D. Eagle Scout Project (Tate W.): repair tables, benches, and sign- can potentially support with some of the available funds once a proposal is finalized.

ED moved to elect Vince Manetti, past Board member and current ZDC member, to the FCG Board, to take on the role of ZDC Chair. JG seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Updates

A. Outreach Committee (RM)

1. Summer Picnic- Fri 7/19, 6-9PM. Potluck style.
 1. Borrowing needs: coolers, yard games
 2. Reviewed Board Member community engagement/ 'hosting role'
2. Yard Sale- Sat 8/10- prep in process (signs, flyers, map generation, etc.)
3. Friendship Family Night Out Fri 8/23: prep in process (organization of food, movie supplies)
4. NaC gave general request for article ideas for B-G Bulletin

B. Zoning & Development Committee (ED)

1. Pittsburgh Glass Center Sound Study scheduled for 7/18
2. PWSA Community Meeting- early August (date TBD). The request for this meeting came about via low water pressure issues consistently mentioned at each Phase II Penn Ave Streetscape meeting.
3. Mary's is opening in September based on plan presented by owner. Owner is willing to work with community. Tour with FCG/BGC to be scheduled before opening date. Meeting with FCG/BGC to be scheduled 1-3 months after opening to address any neighbor issues that have arisen.

4. 2025 Capital Budget requests submitted. Project must be over \$50K and requesting org must provide estimate.
 1. Speed humps along Friendship Ave and N/S on almost every street. Traffic surveys are required before these humps can be implemented.
 - Identify contact in case there are issues with placement (DN discussed potential issues)
 2. Stop signs at Winebiddle/Friendship Ave. intersection
 3. Revamping of wide intersection at Graham St./Baum Blvd.
 4. Remediation for S. Pacific/Liberty Ave intersection
5. Formation of Bloomfield Alliance- formation in process. Applying for RCO.
 1. Major projects (proposed): paving Friendship Park paths, Senior Center, revitalize the recreation center
 2. Will need to define geographic perimeter which has potential for overlap with FCG

C. Baum Grove Committee (JG)

1. Requested bids for stage repair
2. Love Your Block grant application submitted for Baum Grove improvements
3. Tate will give proposal for rehabbing several structures in Baum Grove
4. Discussion: litter, day drinking, and issues with unhoused at Baum Grove
 1. Asking neighbors to call 911 or Zone 5 and ask for Community Resource Officer, Jeff Crawford, in cases of day drinking and/or people sleeping in the park. In these cases, Zone 5 has been sending out two officers alongside a social worker.
 2. JG to write summary of the process to engage Community Resource Officer when rules are being broken. Intent is that members will support this statement/document.
 3. May need to rewrite rules to specify when alcohol is allowed (only during FCG-sanctioned events)
 4. Additional rules signs/banners in development

V. New Items of Business (ED)

- A. Montessori Playpark capstone repair requested 7/1/24
- B. Holiday Party to be held at Tomayko Foundation: \$250 rental fee
 1. FCG will need to supply chairs and tables
 2. No space for children. Will try to hire local teen sitters and identify nearby house to host children.
 3. Suggested age requirement for party attendance: 14 and older

VI. Upcoming Meetings

- A. **Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, August 1st, at 7 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
- B. **Next Quarterly Community Meeting + ELECTIONS:** Wednesday, October 2nd, at 6:30 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
 1. 8 Board Members- 1st year, 1st team
 2. 1 Board Member due to start second term if they choose (AS)
 3. 5 Board Members added mid-year. Partial term does not count towards term limits.
 4. 1 current vacancy- not searching to fill at this time.
- C. FCG Committee Meetings
 1. **Baum Grove Committee:** Wednesday, July 17th, at 7 pm- Baum Grove

2. **Zoning & Development Committee:** Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
 3. **Outreach Committee:** Thursday, August 1st, at 6 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
- D. Other Meetings/Events of Note
1. **Monthly Zone 5 Public Safety Meeting:** Every 2nd Tuesday at 6 pm- Kingsley Association
 2. **Monthly District 7 Mtg w/ Deb Gross:** Every 3rd Monday at 12 pm- Zoom
 3. **Monthly Baum-Centre Initiative Meeting:** Every 3rd Tuesday at 6 pm- UPMC Shadyside or on Zoom
 4. **PPS District 1 Town Hall:** Thursday, July 11th, at 6 pm- Pittsburgh Obama School
 5. **Penn Ave. Phase II Streetscape Community Meeting:** Thursday, September 5th, at 11 am- BGC Activity Center (Meeting #2 of 4)
 6. **Meet the Artists: Penn Ave Phase II Streetscape Project:** Friday, September 6th, during Unblurred- Irma Freeman Center

VII. ED called to adjourn the meeting at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Grab, Secretary