



Friendship Community Group
April 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
Pittsburgh Glass Center
April 3, 2024

The Friendship Community Group held its April meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The following Board members were present: Ellen DiBiase, Danielle Novick, Elizabeth Reitz Schwall, Julie Grove, Nikki Coffee, Nancy Cohen, and Aafke Butter. Guests Annabel Javier and Jason Wilburn also attended.

Regrets from: Lee Ann Antol, Rachel Murchison, Abby Slovonick, Steve Morrow, Brian Gruendl

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm, as a quorum was present.

- I. **Ellen made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as listed. Danielle Novick (Elizabeth Reitz Schwall) moved to approve the consent agenda.**
 - a. March 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. March 2024 Outreach Meeting Minutes
 - c. March 2024 Baum Grove Meeting Minutes
 - d. March 2024 F4 Committee Updates
 - e. March 2024 Treasurer's Report

- II. **Ellen resolved that the Board ratifies the email vote on March 26, 2024, by the FCG Executive Committee, that authorized the Baum Grove Chairs to accept the tree pruning bid from Elevated Tree Care at \$600, after collecting three bids in total.**
 - a. An emergency vote by the Executive Committee was called because the tree pruning season ends the week of April 1, so FCG needed to schedule immediately. Per the FCG Procurement Policy, updated in June 2020: "All procurements in excess of \$500 shall be approved by the FCG Board of Directors. However, procurements of not more than \$1,000 may be approved by the Executive Committee if time is of the essence."
 - b. The other two bids came from Bartlett, which quoted the work at \$2,000, and Lester Tree Service & Landscaping, which quoted the work at \$475. Only Bartlett and Elevated Tree Care are ISA Certified Arborists; Lester is not.

- III. **Ellen called for a motion to approve the 2024 budget as proposed according to the file that Abby sent out. Julie Grove (Nancy Cohen) moved the motion to approve the budget as proposed.** Proposed changes from 2023 included the following:
 - a. Events
 1. Add \$500 for new playground/coffee meet-ups
 2. Add \$300 for Marathon Station
 - b. Outreach
 1. Add \$2,000 for website revamp
 2. Add \$500 in general marketing costs for increasing engagement

- c. Baum Grove
 - 1. The CDBG grant is not available this year, so this line item was taken out of the budget.
 - 2. \$600 added for recently approved tree work.
- d. The 2024 proposed budget would result in a net \$11,000 deficit. The Board understands the deficit would come from FCG savings.
- e. The sound study follow-up estimate from Babich came in at \$2,500. One other bid is being solicited. Pittsburgh Glass Center paid for the first sound study, which was \$7,000. The Glass Center spent \$20,000 in total to accommodate requests from near neighbors.

IV. Councilman Khari Mosley, District 9, advertises neighborhood events in his new monthly newsletter. This is another avenue for FCG advertising.

VI. F4 Update (Elizabeth Reitz Schwall and Danielle Novick)

- The F4 committee is still seeking volunteers for F4. Elizabeth will send out a volunteer sign-up link via email, as well as a bake sale sign-up. 20-25 bakers are needed.

VII. Zoning & Development Committee: Ellen gave a brief ZDC update since the ZDC had not met again since the last Board meeting. Ellen has a phone call with Heather to address two complaints from neighbors regarding lighting at the Glass Center. Some changes in lighting since the new additions are disturbing some neighbors.

VIII. City Festival Grant Application: National Night Out / Family Movie Night: The Outreach Committee continues to brainstorm ideas for its application to the Pittsburgh City Festival grant to cover a summer event. The application is due April 15th.

IX. Marathon Inspiration Station

- a. Volunteers are still needed for the Marathon Inspiration Station. A sign-up document has been created.
- b. Nancy will reach out to Rite-Aid to make sure it is okay to use their parking lot to set up the cheering station.
- c. Large water containers/dispensers are needed.

X. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, at 7 pm at Friendship Avenue Church
- b. Next Quarterly Community Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, at 6:30 pm at Friendship Avenue Church
- c. FCG Committee Meetings
 - 1. Outreach Committee: Wednesday, May 8, at 6 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
 - 2. F4 Committee: Tuesday, April 16, at 7 pm at Friendship Avenue Church
- d. Other Meetings/Events of Note
 - 1. Monthly Zone 5 Public Safety Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, at 6 pm at the Kingsley Association
 - 2. Monthly District 7 Mtg with Deb Gross: Monday, April 15, at 12 pm- Zoom
 - 3. Monthly Baum-Centre Initiative Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, at 6 pm- UPMC Shadyside
 - d. Penn Ave. Phase II Streetscape Community Meeting: Thursday, June 6, at 11 am at BGC Activity Center (Meeting #2 of 4)

XI. Ellen (Danielle Novick) called a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Coffee (Secretary)

April 8, 2024