



Friendship Community Group
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024

The following Board members were in attendance: Nancy Cohen, Abby Slovonick, Ellen DiBiase, Nikki Coffee, Julie Grove, Lee Ann Antol, Rachel Murchison, Sierra Weir, Brian Gruendl, and Steve Morrow.

Regrets from Aafke Butter, Danielle Novick, and Elizabeth Schwall.

Ellen DiBiase called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. as a quorum was present.

- I. Ellen DiBiase requested a motion to approve the consent agenda items, listed below. **Julie Grove (Lee Ann Antol) moved to approve the consent agenda.** The motion was approved unanimously.
 - a. February 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. February 2024 BG Committee Meeting Minutes
 - c. February 2024 Treasurer's Report
 - d. March 2024 ZDC Meeting Minutes
 - e. F4 Updates

- II. Ellen DiBiase requested a motion to nominate Nikki Coffee as Friendship Community Group Secretary. **Rachel Murchison (Steve Morrow) moved to approve the motion.** The motion was approved unanimously.

- III. Abby Slovonick provided an update on the proposal of a \$10,000 investment in a 7-month CD at 4.5%. We now have two CDs. The Finance Committee is recommending that FCG have three CDs which would establish rollover dates of May (current), July (current), and October (proposed) of this year. Ellen DiBiase requested a motion to authorize the treasurer to invest in an additional third CD in the amount of \$10,000 with an interest rate of at least 4%. **Abby Slovonick (Steve Morrow) moved to approve the motion.** The motion was approved unanimously.

- IV. Baum Grove Committee Updates – Julie Grove and Sierra Weir
 - a. The Baum Grove Committee is still waiting on estimates for both the one-time tree pruning and the annual maintenance of Baum Grove. Multiple bids have been requested for both.
 - b. Plans for 2024 neighborhood litter pick-up: General monthly litter pick-up will start April 6 through Nov. 2. The adopt-a-block Street Steward initiative will run alongside the general monthly pick-up. Additionally, there is a proposal for a Penn Ave. collaboration with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (May/June), and continued participation in the Pittsburgh Garbage Olympics in September. We will focus on allies (“Alley Rally”) during the Garbage Olympics. A date for the Penn Ave. collaboration will be decided later. The monthly clean-up events have been registered with Keep PA Beautiful, and we hope to get free supplies like gloves, garbage bags, and buckets. Sierra Weir will contact Rite-Aid and Aldi to let them know we will be

picking up garbage and ask if we can use their trash dumpsters. Volunteers will be needed for all the monthly pick-ups as well as the Garbage Olympics and Penn Ave. collaboration.

V. Treasures Report Update - Abby Slovonick

- a. Abby Slovonick will incorporate any changes to the 2024 proposed budget after getting further updates regarding the status of the Pittsburgh Glass Center follow-up sound study and the Baum Grove and Outreach committees' funding requests. We will vote on the final budget at the April board of directors meeting.
- b. Proposed addition to 2024 budget: FCG will sign up for a Google Meet account, at a rate of \$6 per user per month, versus the \$160 annual cost of a Zoom account. Acquiring the most basic plan one level up from the free plans offered by either of those services would allow us to host meetings longer than 40 min (Zoom)/1 hour (Google Meet). The Google Meet account could be used for Quarterly Community Meetings and Committee Meetings, at the request of any member.
- c. FCG Procurement Policy: Purchases under \$500 require receipts. Purchases between \$500 and \$4,000 require two quotes. Purchases over \$4,000 require three quotes.
- d. Lee Ann and Nikki will go to PNC to be added to the FCG signature cards.
- e. The Audit Committee will be meeting in April and will present at the May board meeting. (Steve)

VI. F4 Update – Lee Ann Antol

- a. Several artists and art-related entities have committed to donate art to the auction and/or sell their art. Two Frays Brewing will do the VIP sponsorship level (\$300). The Board decided that the brewery can sell beer at the event, but it will only be to-go. No alcohol is to be consumed at the event.
- b. F4 is seeking a volunteer coordinator and artists to participate in the event. The book sale will return and be limited to children's, young adult, and gardening books. The committee is soliciting potential sponsors for the event and art donations for the raffle.

VII. Presidents' Updates – Ellen DiBiase

- a. Ellen DiBiase shared that the remaining 2024 Quarterly Community Meetings will be held on May 22 and October 7
 - i. At least one representative from each FCG committee is to attend the quarterly meetings to provide updates from their committee.
 - ii. Proposed speakers/guests for the 5/22 meeting are Councilman Mosely and Councilwoman Gross.
- b. There have been six responses to the volunteer survey to date. More methods of advertising will be implemented in the coming weeks.
- c. FCG has submitted a URA Sponsorship grant application for \$750 to assist with F4 event expenses.
- d. FCG will also be submitting a grant application for the 2024 City Festival Grant. This grant only funds events held from 6/1 to 10/31 and does not cover food or paper supplies. The Outreach committee will investigate using the funds for National Night Out in August at Baum Grove. The funds can be used for musicians, AV equipment, Port-a-Potties, or children's activities.
- e. Ellen asked that committee chairs track committee meeting attendance and submit attendees' contact info to Larry Laude to ensure relevant email lists and the membership directory are updated. Chairs are also asked to check their FCG website page on a regular basis and provide updates.

VIII. Friendship's Day of Giving: April 12th ("412 Day")

- a. FCG's new spring Day of Giving will be a web-based campaign via email and social media. We will also still put a soft ask out via the Give Big Pittsburgh Day of Giving in the Fall.
 - b. Our slogan will be "Give FIVE for Friendship!" We will be asking for any size donation starting/ending in '5'.
 - c. Ellen is asking each board member to submit a short personal blurb about Friendship and why they donate to FCG to use in the social media campaign. More information to come soon.
 - d. FCG maintains a goal of 100% board member participation, in any amount, for its annual giving program.
- IX. The Pittsburgh Marathon Inspiration Station will be on Sunday, May 5, 2024. Rachel Murchison is coordinating.
- X. Ellen DiBiase asked that Friendship be represented at the following meetings as much as possible:
Monthly District 7 meeting with Councilwoman Gross: Monday, March 18, at 12 pm on Zoom
Monthly Baum-Centre Initiative meeting: Tuesday, March 19, at 6 pm at UPMC Shadyside
Monthly Zone 5 Safety Council meeting: Tuesday, April 9, at 6 pm at Kingsley Association
Second of four community meetings for Penn Ave. Phase II Streetscape Project: Thursday, June 6, at 11 am at BGC Activity Center
- XI. Ellen DiBiase (Steve Morrow) requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Coffee (Secretary)
March 13, 2024