



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

February 2008
Volume 10 Issue 2
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Misi Bielich

Treasurer: Joe Balaban
Secretary: Claudia Hart

Next Meeting February 12th

As you may be aware, the South Side Slopes has a new City Councilman, Bruce Kraus. He will be our Guest Speaker at the next meeting. He will be sharing with us his vision for Council District 3. Mr. Kraus was sworn in on January 7, 2008. His contact information is:

Telephone: 412-255-2130
Fax: 412-255-8950

Address:
City-County Building
Suite 510/Floor 5
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219



You need not be a member to attend. Light refreshments are available. Please join us at 7:00pm, Tuesday February 12th.

PNC Grant Awarded

Brad Palmisiano accepted the PNC Grant for \$3000.00 to be used for outreach for SSSNA through Newsletter, website and mailings. Below, he is pictured with Laura Swift from PNC Bank at the January 8th SSSNA meeting.



Meeting Schedule 2008!

February 12th
March 11th
*April 1st
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th – Picnic in Dining Room
August – no meeting
September 9th
*October 7th
November 11th
December 16th – Christmas Party in Dining Room
* denotes not a second Tuesday

South Side Neighborhood Plan...

The member organizations of the South Side Planning Forum will be meeting again on February 12th and will be asked to make a final approval of the South Side Neighborhood Plan on March 11th. The complete Draft of the Plan is viewable on the South Side Local Development Company's (SSLDC) website www.SouthSidePgh.com. Please take some time to review it before it is finalized. Your feedback is appreciated. SSSNA is one of the South Side Planning Forum member organizations. Thousands of hours have gone in to the revision. Below is the article that SSLDC had written to describe the process. Please take the time to review the explanation on page two and view the "Plan" online. Thanks.

2007 South Side Neighborhood Plan Update

The South Side Neighborhood Plan was originally adopted by the South Side Planning Forum in June of 1990. At that time, the Forum acknowledged the need to regularly update the Plan to strengthen its credibility. For the 2007, and seventh, revision, mindful of the need to strengthen the community's connection to the plan itself, the Planning Forum deliberately established a process that was more inclusive in outreach than ever before and included:

- a comprehensive review of the current plan by a twelve member Update Committee which met eight times over a period of six months;
- a community attitude survey mailed to over 6000 households and 700 businesses that generated a better than 10% response rate;
- two Town meetings; and
- a mini-charette conducted with fourth and fifth grade students at Pittsburgh Phillips Elementary School.

This process has resulted in an updated format of the South Side Neighborhood Plan that more clearly defines issues of concern to the community along with suggested action steps to mitigate those issues. Each action step has been assigned to the appropriate member organization of the South Side Planning Forum for implementation.

The following community-wide planning policies are emphasized in the 2007 update of the South Side Neighborhood Plan

- The Neighborhood Plan must continue to be recognized by the City as an official planning document to be referred to in development and zoning decisions.
- Community involvement in the South Side Works development process must continue to be ensured
- There is a need to preserve the architectural, historic and social character of South Side in recognition of the community's ethnic and economic diversity.

- Due to increased interest in neighborhood, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain a balance of residential and commercial property uses.
- There is a need to preserve green space, including but not limited to Riverfront Park and South Side Park, which has been publicly considered as a candidate for redevelopment.
- The physical separation of the Slopes and the Flats requires an extra effort to coordinate activities and services being offered to both parts of the community.
- City fiscal distress will continue to cause disruption and realignment of municipal services.
- Funding for neighborhood revitalization efforts has been reduced

The draft updated South Side Neighborhood Plan was presented at the December meeting of the South Side Planning Forum for review and feedback by Forum member organizations. The Planning Forum has set a goal of final adoption of the updated Plan at its March meeting. The 2007 South Side Neighborhood Plan is available for review at southsidepgh.com.

This is the last opportunity to make comments before the DRAFT is finalized. A DRAFT form of the Plan is available on the SSLDC's home page located at <http://www.southsidepgh.com>. If you would like to make any further suggestions, please email Janice Serra at Janice.Serra@southsideslopes.org or call 412-381-5855. Thank you for your involvement in making South Side a great place to live!!

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

Check out the most recent updates to our website! Exciting information and frequent updates are there to see. Our site had many hits leading up to the StepTrek. We are getting new members each day.

What you missed 1/8!

Brad Palmisiano, our SSSNA Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He introduced the elected officials present: State Representative Harry Readshaw, Bruce Kraus, the newly elected City Councilman, and Neil Parham, representing the Mayor's Office. Bruce introduced two of his new staff members present: Ken Wolf, Chief of Staff, and Misi Bielich, Executive Assistant.

Brad asked Fr. Don Ware to give an update of the Elm Street Committee's work. Fr. Don briefly spoke about new efforts to make the South 18th Street – Mission/Pius gateway to the Flats more presentable. He then referred everyone to the latest SSSNA Newsletter for further items.

Judy Dyda then gave a brief update on work of the South Side Planning Forum, including dealing with the scourge of Graffiti, plans to again try to sell the South Side Vo-Tech Building, and the work to bring to fulfillment the revised South Side Neighborhood Plan. (See SSLDC website for the latter item.)

Ms. Laura Swift from PNC Bank presented SSSNA with a check for \$3000 for our Outreach efforts, including our website, and plans to contact all of the residences of the Slopes with info about our neighborhood association.

Brad then introduced our main guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Pat Ford, Executive Director of Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). Mr. Ford began as Director of City Planning under Mayor Bob O'Connor. Now he oversees the Dept. of City Planning, Zoning, the Bureau of Buildings and Inspection, and URA. Mr. Ford is attempting to accomplish three goals:

- Transparency
- Spreading the benefits of city services to all of its citizens
- Accountability for customer service

Mr. Ford is attempting to use our City's resources to help Pittsburgh's residents and businesses, and to keep young adults in the city after their schooling. He also addressed the need to keep the City's neighborhoods vital. He has initiated two Ombudsmen to address crisis situations in neighborhoods, and neighborhood planners to keep the neighborhoods appraised of development efforts and other items of interest for the neighborhoods. After Mr. Ford's presentation he took questions from the attendees. The topics covered included:

- Maintenance of Slopes' Steps
- Development issues on the Slopes, including density and town house cramming, parking and zoning, and mine shifting around development sites.

Mr. Ford described the role of the city-hired neighborhood planner to help the neighborhood be aware of development projects and to help the neighborhood with other important issues when appropriate. Mr. Ford promised to get info to Bruce Kraus on several other topics discussed. Bruce will then email that info to our Board.

The evening program was both lively and insightful. A special thanks to Mr. Ford for his presence and input.

Fr. Don Ware, CP

Thank you all for helping to make 2007 a successful year for SSSNA. We are glad to have such caring and vested neighbors, friends, and family. We look forward to an even more successful 2008! SSSNA will celebrate our 10th year this new year!

Board of Directors!

The 2008 Board Members are...

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Beverly Boggio	1998-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Peter Kreuthmeier	2007-present
Claudia Hart	2002-present
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org or through the website.

Committees 2008!

The following are the 2008 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

Beautification	Joe Ciccola
Cleanups & Safety	Paul Lorincy
Elm Street	Fr. Don Ware
Finance & Development	Joe Balaban
Housing & Zoning	Brad Palmisiano
Outreach	Misi Bielich
StepTrek	Bev Boggio

Committee Reports:

Elm Street Committee

South 18th Streetscape Design RFP

- Judy reported that the RFP has been sent to Pashek, Perkins Eastman, and Klavon. Deadline for responses is January 18. Interviews will be scheduled for late afternoon of February 7th. Peter, Bev, and John have volunteered to serve on the interview committee. All proposals received will be forwarded to entire committee for review.

Public Staircase Inspection RFP

Judy reported that the RFP was sent to

L. Robert Kimball, Wilbur Smith and Michael Baker. Deadline for responses is January 18. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of February 11. Peter, Paul and Bev have volunteered to serve on the interview committee. All proposals received will be forwarded to entire committee for review.

Neville Ice Arena Staircase - Meeting scheduled to discuss next steps was twice cancelled by Director Ashley. Judy will attempt to reschedule in the near future.

Good Neighbor Booklet - Committee reviewed and commented on content of booklet. Judy will incorporate suggestions and work with South Side LDC Communications Manager, Jennifer Strang, on layout and general appearance. Goal is to create a document that is user friendly, visually appealing, and clearly outlines neighborhood standards for behavior. It was agreed that printing costs will be shared by SSSNA (for areas outside ES district) and URA Marketing funds (for ES district).

Facade Loan/Grant Program - Committee reviewed draft program guidelines. Several questions were raised about Loan versus Grant, Income Limitations, amounts of funds available, developer versus owner occupant eligibility, whether sidewalks would qualify, and how other Pittsburgh ES districts are implementing such programs. Judy will do further research prior to ES Committee vote on implementing program. Peter agreed to serve on the design guidelines development committee.

Monastery/Brosville Gateway Garden Signage - Peter reported that design continues to proceed with design that takes into consideration the neighborhood's identification with public staircases. Expectation is to have cost estimates for fabrication by February ES Committee meeting.

2008 PPND Funding Deliverables - Judy reported that the following funding deliverables have been forwarded to PPND:

- Engineering Study of Public Staircases initiated (1)
- Welcome to Neighborhood Basket developed (2)
- Existing Conditions Analysis Neville Ice Arena Initiated (2)
- Streetscape Design for South 18th Street/Mission Street/Pius Street Completed (3)
- Residential Design Guidelines established for Elm Street District (4)

URA Announcements - New Elm Street/Main Street Manager - Josette Fitzgibbons, currently a Senior Planner with the City of Pittsburgh will be moving to the URA to become the new Main Streets/Elm Streets Manager.

2007 Fourth Quarter Report Due - ES Committee was asked to provide any information that may be helpful in completing the report.

Amended Contract(s) - Signed contract page for \$20,000 in marketing funds has been returned to URA. Amended contract for RRG funds has not been received. Judy will continue to work with URA to move this forward.
Judy Dyda

Membership News...

Please Pay 2008 Dues Now

Everyone's membership is due January 1st! With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1st to December 31st. Thank you, so very much, for your support! As always, we welcome any additional donations. Please mail in your membership dues or bring them to the meeting.

SSSNA Membership 2008

Please mail \$5 to:

SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203

Or bring it to the next meeting

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Slopes Interests _____

Amount enclosed _____

Save a stamp, please just email me the newsletter each month. Check here

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 2/7) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates.

More recycling...

Did you know that the Downtown YMCA recycles tennis shoes? They do, take yours. <http://ymcaofpittsburgh.org>

South Side Graffiti Community Watch

The South Side Graffiti Community Watch is a committee of dedicated South Side stakeholders whose mission is to “Report, Remove, Prevent, and Eliminate Graffiti in the South Side”. This group has members from businesses and residents of the South Side Flats and Slopes.

The group meets monthly and welcomes interested volunteers. Several Committees have formed including Data Base, Education & Enforcement, Adopt-A-Block, Paint Out, and Funding. As you may have seen in the media, a paint-out was done in the fall along Carey Way, which remains graffiti free.

Already several tools to help with reporting graffiti vandalism have been put in place. A major focus is to educate residents and business owners how to report graffiti vandalism. 911 must be called when you are vandalized. An officer will come out, take photos and make a report that goes to the Graffiti Task Force Division of the Pittsburgh Police. Tags are collected for prosecution.

Several SSSNA members volunteer for the group. Watch for more detailed updates in the Newsletter and on the website as we explore this newly formed group. If you are interested in becoming involved, you may contact Chairperson Steve Root at steveroo2@gmail.com.

For more details, call Bev at 412-488-0486.

Or contact us in writing:

PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 or

Visit us on the web: www.StepTrek.org

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

Or email us at info@SouthSideSlopes.org

Thanks!

Another Speaker for February 12th ...

Jamie White is a Duquesne University student who, with his classmates, is doing a Service Learning Project in South Side Park. As you know, South Side Park is a 64 acre park bordered by 18th Street in the South Side Slopes. The class project scope will include clean up as well as signage for the currently unmarked trail heads and along the trails.

As you may recall, this issue was identified when the South Side Park Master Plan was done by Klavon Associates a couple of years ago. The Master Plan came from a collaboration of SSSNA and SSLDC.

Jamie will describe to us the plan. Jamie and his classmates intend to walk throughout the park on April 19th and are seeking volunteers. It is exciting to know that our issues are recognized at the University level and will be addressed.



Above: Pat Ford speaking at the January 8th SSSNA meeting.

South Side Mid-Winter Soup Contest!

That's right; it's that time again – Soup time – that is! **When?** Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 12:00pm-3:00pm. **Where?** The South Side

Business District. "Treat your taste buds to delicious soups from more than 20 area restaurants, served up at your favorite South Side retailers"! For more details, go to SouthSidePgh.com. Below is what is posted on the SSLDC website.

4th Annual South Side Mid-Winter Soup Contest

Presented by Iron & Glass Bank

February 16, 2008

**12pm-3pm or until the soup runs
out!**

**Shoppers can begin at any of three
starting points, including:**

- **South Side Works (2629 East Carson St .)**
- **91.3fm WYEP (67 Bedford Square)**
- **Brashear Association (2005 Sarah St .)**

*All day of event proceeds benefit The
Brashear Association Food Pantry!*

On February 16, South Side chefs will face-off once again for bragging rights to South Side's "**Best Soup**" at the 4th Annual **South Side Mid-Winter Soup Contest**, presented by Iron and Glass Bank. From 12-3 p.m. participating shops will host delicious soups prepared by neighborhood restaurants and offer great deals in their stores. Soup hoppers donate \$5 and a canned good to receive an event map, wristband and ballot that will enable them to sample the soups all afternoon, either on foot or by trolley. Awards for "Best Soup" will be given in two categories: People's Choice and Judges' Choice.

The official judging begins at 3 p.m. at The Brashear Association, 2005 Sarah Street, where a panel of food critics and local soup aficionados will select the Judges' Choice winner and ballots for the Peoples' Choice award will be tallied and announced. Prize raffle winners also will be announced at the judging.

The South Side Mid-Winter Soup Contest is presented by Iron & Glass Bank, South Side Local Development Company, UPMC South Side, and WYEP.

Thank You Sponsors!



Thank you, StoreXpress!

SSSNA moved all its archives, Trek supplies, possessions, equipment & tools to 200 South 22nd Street at StoreXpress, who donated space to SSSNA at its building. The facility storage spaces are clean, large and accommodating. We recommend them!



Rudberg Law Offices, LLC

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit! Volunteers are given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. We have them available at our clean up, weeding, and planting events. They were also the Publication Sponsor for StepTrek 2007!



South Side Slopes
Neighborhood Association
PO Box 4248
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
www.StepTrek.org

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**Please join us for the
SSSNA Meeting
Tuesday, February 12th at
7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery
Retreat Center, 148
Monastery. Councilman
Bruce Kraus will be our
Guest Speaker.**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

