



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

April 2007
Volume 9 Issue 4

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

April 11th Meeting is on a Wednesday!

Candidates Night!

SSSNA will hold a Candidates night for the upcoming May 15th Primary Election. The following candidates for the listed offices are up for election. Only contested offices were invited, marked **.

Allegheny County:

Chief Executive (D)

Dan Onorato (I)
Richard P. Swartz

Controller (D)

Mark Patrick Flaherty (I)

District Attorney (D)

Steven A. Zappala, Jr. (I)

Treasurer (D)

John K. Weinstein (I)

Sheriff (D)

Damon J Brown
Anthony Costa
Bill Mullen

Sheriff (R)

Edward Kress

County Council At-Large (D)

John P. DeFazio (I)

County Council At-Large (R)

Kevin Acklin
Joe Federowicz
Chuck McCulloch

District 11 (D)

Rich Fitzgerald (I)

District 13 (D)

Matthew Arena
Brenda Frazier (I)

City of Pittsburgh:

Mayor (D)

Luke Ravenstahl (I)

Controller (D)

Michael M. Dawida

Michael Lamb

DaMon Macklin

Tony Pokora

Douglas Shields

District 3 (D)

Jeffrey S. Koch (I)

Bruce A. Kraus

** Candidates invited to participate. **

There are certainly other offices that are included in the May 15th Primary, but these are the ones on the ballot for the Slopes. Many have confirmed attendance. This is your opportunity to hear the candidates prior to Election Day. Please join us. You need not be a member to attend. Free refreshments will be available. Please remember that this is a **Wednesday night** meeting, beginning at 7pm. It will be in the Main Lounge of the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center.

Meeting Schedule 2007!

*March 20th (3rd Tuesday)

*April 11th (2nd Wednesday)

May 8th

*June 19th (3rd Tuesday)

July 10th – Dining Room

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th – Dining Room

March 20th Meeting

SSSNA Board President welcomed the 45 attendees at 7:05 PM in St. Paul Retreat Center's main lounge. Brad then welcomed Jeff Koch, City Council District 3 representative, who attended the evening discussion. Brad invited SSSNA Committee Chairs to give a report on the activities of their committees.

- Zoning...Brad Palmisiano reported on a recent zoning hearing which he attended.
- Elm Street...Judy Dyda, Elm Street Manager, reported that Harrisburg is impressed with our Elm Street activities including image & identity, gardens, signage and litter.
- Step Trek...Bev Boggio reported that planning has begun for our 2007 Step Trek event.
- Cleanups and Safety... Paul Lorincy announced that we now have the Slopes divided into 13 zones, with "zone captains". We will try to get "zone captains" for each zone. These captains report to Paul any needs or problems in their section of the neighborhood which his committee needs to address, including graffiti and street repairs. Paul then announced that as part of Elm Street work his committee would be starting litter and recycling awareness initiatives.
- Gardens...Joe Ciccola mentioned that we will begin planting the two Western Pennsylvania Conservancy gardens along Josephine Street in May at Barry Street and Greeley Street.
- Janice Serra announced that she is compiling a list of repairs in our neighborhoods that need to be submitted to DPW, including

streetlights and steps. Contact her with any other needed repairs.

After the committee reports, Brad introduced Kim Graziani, who is the City of Pittsburgh Director of Neighborhood Initiatives. Kim fielded questions from the attendees regarding items of concern. The following topics were discussed and noted:

- **South Side Park...**What are current proposals for future use, and what input would SSSNA have in such proposals? What is the process for decision making? The SSSNA Board will continue dialogue about this issue with Kim.
- **Tax Liens...**The City has bought back the tax liens on delinquent properties and is willing to negotiate with prospective buyers as long as the neighborhood derives benefit from the sale. Pittsburgh Community Redevelopment Group (PCRG) has input into this process, and other redevelopment projects in the City.
- A discussion ensued about the process for dealing with derelict properties and landlords. The process involves City and County entities, violation citations, collecting fines and the County Housing Court. Materials are finally being tracked electronically, this should help. Question: Can we simplify this process, and have accountability? Kim will get back to us on this; it might be worth discussing at a future SSSNA monthly meeting.
- **Parking on Slopes streets...**Not enough space. Parking is at a premium on many of our smaller streets. Sometimes there are illegal

March 20th Meeting *(cont)*

occupancy issues involved which are next to impossible to solve.

A general discussion ensued on the process for Request for Proposal (RFP) issues regarding property uses related to South Side. More discussion is needed on this topic. Kim will pursue this with us in the future. The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

Board of Directors!

The 2007 Board Members are...

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Beverly Boggio	1998-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Kate Fink	2005-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 2007!

The following are the 2007 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

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

SSSNA has been working on upgrades to our website. We hope to unveil a new look with more real-time updates. It is very exciting and full of photos!

Pedestrian Bridge Lighting Safety Solution Reached

City of Pittsburgh officials, the lighting contractor, SSLDC and SSSNA have reached an agreement that clears the way for energizing the installed safety lighting on the 10th Street pedestrian bridge. Concerns over the fusing necessary to shut off power to the electrical conduits and lights had stalled efforts to obtain a wiring inspection. In the agreement reached by all parties, the contractor will install a fused disconnect switch on the wiring that feeds the 10th Street railroad overpass.

The switch will be placed on the wiring as it comes off the Duquesne Light electrical lines. To protect the switch from tampering, it will be locked in a sealed cabinet. This fused switch resolves the concern of a vandal causing damage to the electrical wiring, which could energize the steel bridge and cause injury to pedestrians.

As a further safety precaution, the contractor will install a fused disconnect switch on the electrical wiring that feeds the 15th Street pedestrian bridge as well. Having both pedestrian bridges on the South Side Slopes equipped with the fused switches increases their safety for residents who use them.

Matuszak Brothers, the contractor for the lighting, said that the fused switches will be installed this month. Once the switches are installed, the city will complete its electrical inspection of the wiring, which clears the way for Duquesne Light to energize the lights. The SSLDC has agreed to cover the cost overages for the safety improvements through funds in the Elm Street budget.

Joe Balaban

Committee Reports:

Elm Street Committee

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the March 13th meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!

Community Gardens:

RFP – Request for Proposals has been sent out to four potential contractors. Deadline for submission was March 23rd. URA must approve contractor before contract can be entered into.

Duquesne Light – On March 5th, Maria Riley and Judy met with representatives of Duquesne Light at the Monastery garden site. Duquesne Light has approved the installation of the garden and the lighting. There will be a flat charge of approximately \$7 per month, plus additional charges for whatever electricity is used. Maria, Judy, and Peter met with Duquesne Light representatives and DPW at the South 18th garden site. Duquesne Light gave permission to tap into City standard pole. Electric charge at this site will be based on the formula used to charge the City.

DPW – DPW has approved installation of the garden at the site and the repair of the steps. DPW has requested that step repair be contracted out by Elm Street Committee. They will work with us on identifying contractors and preparing specs. They also gave approval to replace existing guard rail barrier with one more in keeping with the garden design. Maria will meet with DPW to see if any suitable rocks may be available.

Gateway Signage/Branding – At the March 5th meeting at the South 18th site,

Peter outlined the scrim project to DPW. They gave preliminary approval to its installation, and will work with us to move through City bureaucracy.

Footbridge Lighting – See page 3

Litter Awareness Program – Judy reported that the Litter Attitude Survey has been given to intern David Simon to format. A database of the Elm Street area addresses has been created. Cost estimates for the mailing are being sought.

Pius Street Monument – Judy reported that Mike Koytk, who works for Pashek Associates, has volunteered to work on designs for the veteran's memorial. Pashek has also agreed to donate six hours of pro bono design assistance.

Year 1 (2) Budget Revision – Judy reported that a budget revision putting all \$47,600 of year one funding into the Gateway Gardens has been approved by the URA.

Volunteer Tracking – Committee discussed a volunteer tracking form and agreed to use it to track time devoted to Elm Street activities.

Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant – Father Don reported that the SSSNA Board had approved the required resolution to apply for the Sidewalk Accessory grant.

PDC/URA Assessment – Judy reported that the PDC/URA South Side Slopes Elm Street assessment that was cancelled at the request of the PDC has not yet been rescheduled. Judy also reported that she had attended the Elm Street quarterly managers' meeting in Johnstown on March 6th and 7th, and that she would be attending the Elm Street Academy – Image and Identity on March 19th and 20th.

Judy Dyda

Garden Planting!

Mark your calendar's now! SSSNA's two Western Pennsylvania Conservancy gardens will be planted in May. We need all of the volunteers that we can get.

Josephine and Barry Street Garden

Saturday, May 12th

then

Josephine and Greeley Street Garden

Saturday, May 26th

Please join us! We need your help to beautify the Slopes.

We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer as a greeter who will help folks find their way to the meeting. You should arrive at ~6:45pm. Call or email Bev.

Membership News...

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. **April will be your last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

We appreciate your support & hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and website.

2007 Memberships – Thank You!

Tina Javorsky

Margaret Kaminski

Beth Marcello

Tony Navarro

Carolyn Potanko

Mark R. Power

More memberships were collected at the March meeting and will be posted in the May newsletter. They were not available in time for this newsletter.

SSSNA Membership 2007

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 _____

StepTrek Committee

The StepTrek Committee is meeting again on April 10th. The crew is ready to organize StepTrek 2007. The committee waits each year for the Steeler schedule to come out to choose a date, which won't compete with a game. It is not out yet. Sponsors, theme, Honorary Chairperson, and date are yet to be chosen. We are sticking with a Sunday from noon to 4pm in late September or early October.

The South Pittsburgh Reporter and Carlson McGinley have already agreed to Sponsor StepTrek 2007. Thank You!

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 4/6) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates. SSSNA does not share the eblast list, nor do we email jokes!

Mark Your Calendar!

All of the meetings are at 7:00pm located in the Main Lounge, upstairs, unless otherwise noted.

Typically, the meetings are held on the second Tuesday. There are two meetings that do not follow this pattern due to a scheduling conflict at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center noted below.

!!April 11th, 7:00pm – 2nd Wednesday

May 8th, 7:00pm

!!June 19th, 7:00pm – 3rd Tuesday

July 10th, 7:00pm**

August – No meeting

September 11th, 7:00pm

October 9th, 7:00pm

November 13th, 7:00pm

Dec. 11th, 7:00pm – *Christmas Party***

** denotes meeting in the Dining Room

!! denotes not on the second Tuesday

SSSNA Tee shirts!



SOUTH SIDE
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We are selling SSSNA logo shirts for \$8 each or 2 for \$15 donation. They are great! We will have them at the meetings and they are available all year round. They come in S-M-L-XL white cotton preshrunk tees (adult “man” sizes). You can call Bev at 412-488-0486 to make arrangements for pick up.

Thank You Sponsors!

STOREXPRESS.

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



To give you a little background information from Don & Signe Rudberg, residents of the Slopes, SSSNA members and sponsors...

“Rudberg Law Offices has moved to 2107 Sidney Street where we can serve our clients much better. It is a much appreciated convenience having our own parking lot. We now have 5 attorneys and 7 support staff working at the law firm. We very much enjoy living and working on the South Side. We have lived here for 11 years and are happy to be able to contribute to such a wonderful area!”

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit! Volunteers will be given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. Thank you, Rudberg Law Offices, very much!

For detailed coverage of SSSNA meetings, please read Margie Smykla's article in the South Pittsburgh Reporter a free weekly paper available throughout South Side and South Pittsburgh.

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!

South Side News *Courtesy of SSLDC...*

3rd Annual Spring Clean Up: **Call for Volunteers!**

The 3rd Annual South Side Spring Clean Up will be held on Saturday April 21st at 8:15am. Sponsored by Duquesne University's Spiritan Campus Ministry, on-campus partners, Pennsylvania Resource Council, South Side Chamber of Commerce and South Side Local Development Company. Spring Clean-Up helps to build community relationships while beautifying our community. Check in will be from 8:15am-8:45am at the corner of 18th Street and East Carson Street. The clean-up will conclude at noon with a free "taste of the neighborhood" lunch at the check-in site. To register, please contact Sarah at the Pennsylvania Resource Council at 412-488-7490, ext. 236 or at saraha@ccicenter.org. We are also in need of a volunteer with a pick up truck, to collect and haul trash bags from about 11am – 12:30pm that afternoon. If you have a truck and are willing and able, please contact Sarah ASAP!
Sponsors: State Farm Insurance Company Office of Darla Zeli, Elixir

Ultralounge, Gypsy Café, Giant Eagle, Councilman Jeffrey Koch, Zenith Tea Room, Tuscany Café & Starbucks
If your business is interested in sponsoring or donating food for this event, please contact Megan at 412.481.0651 megan@southsidepgh.com.

Historic South Side Home Tour

Spring's arrival means that summer is right around the corner, and with summer comes one of the South Side's favorite events: the Historic South Side Home Tour. We are pleased to be celebrating our 16th annual tour this year on Saturday, June 2, 2007. Each year we aim to expand the tour and bring even more people into the area to see all that the South Side has to offer. Historically, the tour attracts nearly 1,000 attendees who often plan to make a day of it and visit the area's many unique shops and restaurants. Here are some ways to get involved: **Advertise!** Our event program is a great opportunity for your business to attract tour participants through advertising. Hundreds of people reference the program throughout the day. Also, we encourage business owners to incorporate a coupon into their ads good for the month of June to prompt tour participants to visit their establishments. **Become a friend of the home tour!** For just \$25, your business or family name can be listed as a Friend of the Home Tour. This option is a great way to participate in the tour if you do not have access to artwork, or just don't want to be left out. [The deadline to place an advertisement is April 20, 2007 and the deadline for the artwork of the advertisements is April 27, 2007. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Strang, Marketing & Communications Manager with any questions at (412) 481-0651, ext. 17 or jennifer@southsidepgh.com.]

NOT TUESDAY!

Please join us for
“Candidate’s Night”...
**Wednesday, April 11th at
7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Retreat Center,
148 Monastery**
[enter from St. Paul St.]
See inside for details!

Thank you to our Sponsors...

