



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Slopes News

April 2008  
Volume 10 Issue 4  
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano  
Vice President: Misi Bielich

Treasurer: Joe Balaban  
Secretary: Paul Lorincy

## **Next Meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Please join SSSNA for the next meeting on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. Wendy Urbanic from the Mayor's 311 response line will be our speaker. She will be there to answer questions regarding the 311 response line.

As follow up to the March SSSNA meeting, Klavon Design Associates, Inc. will be processing and compiling the ideas from Slopes neighbors about the 18<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. We will have an update from them at a future SSSNA meeting, not April 1<sup>st</sup> as previously announced. You can read more about the Elm Street initiative in the committee report. This will be a template for all of the Slopes improvements so that there will be a thoughtful plan that is consistent.

You need not be a member to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

## **Meeting Schedule 2008!**

\*April 1<sup>st</sup>

May 13<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup>

July 8<sup>th</sup> – *Picnic in Dining Room*

August – *no meeting*

September 9<sup>th</sup>

\*October 7<sup>th</sup>

November 11<sup>th</sup>

December 16<sup>th</sup> – *Christmas Party in Dining Room*

\* denotes not a second Tuesday

## **Calling All Graffitied Properties!!**

The South Side Graffiti Watch group is planning a paint out during the South Side Spring Clean up which will be held on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 1pm. In order to have graffiti removed from your property, you will need to fill out a permission form allowing the Graffiti watch Group to do so.

If you would like a copy of the permission form or more information including if there will be volunteers in your area, please contact Sarah Alessio at the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) at 412.431.4449 ext. 236 or [sarah@ccicenter.org](mailto:sarah@ccicenter.org).

The Graffiti Watch group can only paint over graffiti and does not have the capabilities at this time to pressure wash graffiti from brick or masonry. Visit [tagtracker.maphub.com](http://tagtracker.maphub.com) for information about whom you can contact to remove graffiti from these surfaces.

## ***Dates to remember...***

March 29<sup>th</sup> Slopes Cleanup @ 9:00am

April 1<sup>st</sup> SSSNA Meeting @ 7:00pm

April 5<sup>th</sup> Slopes Cleanup @ 9:00am

April 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> South Side Park cleanup  
& trail marking 9am-3pm

April 19<sup>th</sup> South Side Spring Cleanup  
9:00am – 1:00pm

May 13<sup>th</sup> SSSNA Meeting @ 7:00pm

May 24<sup>th</sup> Garden Planting @ 9:00am

Details throughout Newsletter...

## What you missed 3/11!

40 attended...elected officials present: Bruce Kraus and members of his staff.

Brad Palmisiano began the meeting with brief updates on upcoming neighborhood cleanups and public garden plantings. See this Newsletter for dates in April and May.

Brad then introduced our new Board member, Ms. Peggy Sullivan who will fill the remainder of Claudia Hart's Board position. Claudia is moving from this area this Spring.

The committee reports were brief. Brad talked about the development to take place on Sarah and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. A new and more community friendly plan was presented at the Planning Forum. Fr. Don Ware referred to our SSSNA Slopes News for brief descriptions of projects in which the Elm Street Committee is involved.

Brad alerted the attendees that our SSSNA Board approved the Neighborhood Plan which can be found on the SSLDC website at [www.southsidepgh.com](http://www.southsidepgh.com).

As part of the Elm St. Project the Elm Street Committee chose Klavon Design Associates to put together a study of how we might improve the S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway to our neighborhood, beginning with the S. 18<sup>th</sup> St./Pius St./Mission St.



area, and moving up and down the hill from this point. Ms. Dina Klavon (left) from Klavon Associates then presented the process for this improvement plan which will include:

- Collection of data along the gateway, including assets and liabilities;
- Preliminary recommendations regarding some improvements to the streetscape, for example, better and creative lighting, benches, better marking for the South Side Part entrances, graffiti removal, art pieces, gardens, green space and flower plantings, and fixing some unsightly spots along S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street in so far as possible.
- Refining the recommendations;
- The final product. There will be a priority list of what needs to be done with the monies available now or in the future thru Grants.

Those attending were invited to give some input on possible improvement projects, and those wishing will be invited back for another evening of input and ideation. The final plan should be available by the end of April.

After Ms. Klavon finished, two students from Duquesne University, Jamie White (R) and Allison Pogue (L),



presented a special project which their

graduate honors class at Duquesne have undertaken in our Slopes Neighborhood... cleaning and improving South Side Park. Their graduate class' project is to partner with a Pittsburgh neighborhood to improve the community. They have formulated a proposal to improve the environment of South Side Park, which includes its five entrances and much of its sixty-four acres. This class hopes to enroll the help of over 60 Duquesne students to clean the Park and work on improving and marking the trails as part of their commitment to community service. The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

*Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

## **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
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Peggy Sullivan	2008
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address [firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org) or through the website.

## **Committees 2008!**

The following are the 2008 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

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

## **Committee Reports:**



**elm street**  
COMMUNITY

### ***Elm Street Committee***

Guest: Maria Riley,  
Klavon Design  
Associates.

**South 18th Streetscape Design** - Maria Riley outlined next steps in design process. Klavon will attend next general meeting of SSSNA (3/11) to outline process and solicit input from the community. Klavon will then integrate ideas and prepare preliminary designs. Maria showed committee visuals of existing conditions along South 18th and examples of types of strategies that might be applied to the corridor. The committee discussed priorities for the design: the project should be phased by different sections of S. 18th with the primary first focus being the intersection at Pius and Mission Streets (including the Mission Street Bridge). Klavon's design recommendations must be of types that are affordable and readily implemented. Design focus should not be limited to public space, but include private property as well. Design should also integrate the branding the ES Committee has agreed to (proposed 18th Street scrim and Brosville Garden "Signage")



**Public Staircase Inspection** - Judy reported that Kevin Hanley met with

Baker Corp. on Monday, March 3rd to review process and that everything is on track. Contract is currently being reviewed by URA and Baker's Law Departments, but should be executed soon. Baker has agreed to shorten their proposed timeline. They also provided an inspection checklist.

**Neville Ice Arena** - Judy reported that South Side LDC forwarded a draft License Agreement to the City for their review and approval. The License Agreement will give South Side LDC the right of access to the property to conduct an existing conditions analysis of the facility. It is currently being reviewed by City Law Department. We are still researching ice arenas and company's to determine what language should be included in the RFP. Brad reported that L. Robert Kimball has expressed a willingness to assist with this. If possible, Judy and Brad will set up a meeting the week of March 17th with Kimball.

**Good Neighbor Booklet** - Judy reported that changes recommended by the ES committee were incorporated into the text and it has been given to South Side LDC Marketing Manager Jen for layout and graphics to prepare the booklet for publication.



**Monastery/Brosville Gateway Garden Signage** - Peter reported that RFP for fabrication and installation has been sent to two firms. Deadline for response is March 17. Peter will review submissions along with Judy and any other interested Committee member and make a recommendation. Following discussion, it was agreed that ES Committee could take an electronic vote on the recommendation. Judy reported that she has sent all materials related to the sign to PDC for their approval also because \$20,000 of the total cost is to be covered by a PDC Demonstration Grant.

**Welcome to Neighborhood Basket** - Misi and Dawn, and any other interested SSSNA Committee Member, will meet with Judy on Wednesday, March 26th at 4:30 PM at the LDC offices to begin design of the Welcome product.

**South Side Park Duquesne University Project** - Janice reported that a group of Duquesne University students are doing a Service Learning Project in South Side Park. Janice had previously emailed the students' proposal to ES Committee and SSSNA Board for their review. The scope includes clean-ups as well as trail development and markings. Students will be at the March 11 general meeting of SSSNA to outline the project. Judy reported that REI was interested in assisting with trail development and has been put in contact with the students' instructor, Evan Stoddard. Janice will also connect with Evan on this aspect of the project. There was a discussion of the students' desire to create signage

for the entrances to the park. Although there is some concern that such signage would not be in keeping with the previously completed park study, and the S. 18th design results, it was decided to wait and see what the students' came up with and make a decision then.

**Funding Deliverables** - Judy reported that URA and PPND have been working together to develop new reporting methods and funding deliverable templates. She will be meeting with them on Friday, March 7th to discuss the changes. *Judy Dyda*

## ***Safety & Cleanups Committee...***

Paul Lorincy wants everyone to get ready to clean up! Our first effort for 2008 will be on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to noon. We will do the same on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Veronica's Veil Parking Lot at 66 Pius Street & decide which areas of the Slopes have the highest need. All hands needed to get the Slopes picked up after this cold, damp winter!

More cleanup news...April 19<sup>th</sup> will be a South Side wide clean up & paint out in the Flats in preparation for Earth Day! We need as many volunteers as possible, please help!

If you have questions, contact Paul at [Paul.Lorincy@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Paul.Lorincy@SouthSideSlopes.org).

## ***Beautification Committee***

Joe Ciccola, working with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, has set the date for the spring planting of our 2 WPC gardens. He is the Steward for the Barry & Josephine Street garden and Bev Boggio is the Steward for the Greeley & Josephine Street garden. Tools, watering systems and annuals are provided by

WPC and we need to supply the volunteers. We will begin at 9:00am on a Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind that the gardens need TLC all spring & summer long, so we welcome volunteers.

We will also be caring for our other gardens at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street bend, 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Street, Brosville & Monastery Avenue, and the Pius Street 'All Wars Memorial'. We could use your help May through October. Please contact Joe at [Joe.Ciccola@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Joe.Ciccola@SouthSideSlopes.org). Help to keep the Slopes green and beautiful!

## ***Membership News...***

### ***Please Pay 2008 Dues Now***

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

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

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• **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*

.....

# ***Thank You!***

## ***2008 Member List...***

***Joseph Balaban***  
***Lois Ann Baxendell***  
***Dennis & DeAnn Berry***  
***John Bond***  
***Mary Burres***  
***Bernard Clark***  
***Dr. Alfred Diorio***  
***Brad Clepper & Don Miller***  
***Robert Dudek***  
***Patty Elstner***  
***Denise & William Fillip***  
***Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gabriel***  
***Mike & Sue Janesko***  
***Michael Kostelnik***  
***Ronnie Laura***  
***Elizabeth Mlinac***  
***Wes Morar***  
***James & Elaine Morehead***  
***David Mullins***  
***Anthony Navarro***  
***Jim & Monica Price***  
***Karen & Petunia Prilla***  
***Bob Renk***  
***Frank Renk***  
***Patricia Roncevich***  
***Matt Schaefer***  
***Joseph & Penny Stafura***  
***Ray Thompson***  
***Josh Vehec***  
***Carl & Linda Walsack***  
***Fr. Don Ware***  
***Dave White***  
***Patricia Wolney***

***\*this list is as of March 19, 2008***

***\*\*Someone gave Bev cash for membership dues at the January meeting without a slip, if it was you and you are not on this list, please call Bev.***

## ***Thanks!!!***

[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)

Check out the most recent updates to our website! Exciting information and frequent updates are there to see.



## ***Step Trek Committee...***

The 2008 Committee met in March and had a very productive meeting. StepTrek 2007 was reviewed and some improvements were planned. The date is chosen based on the Steeler schedule each year. That should be out by May. Again it will be on a September or (early) October Sunday from noon to 4:00pm. This year's sponsors, Honorary Chairperson and theme are in the brainstorming stage. Everyone is excited and has already begun to work.

The first 'get the word out' event was March 25<sup>th</sup> at a Diabetes Education Fair at UPMC South Side Hospital (below Scott Sebal Trek 07 volunteer with Bev).



If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Bev Boggio.

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](http://www.StepTrek.org)  
[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Or email us at [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Thanks!

## Volunteer News...

Thank you to the hundreds of people who have helped over the years. For every volunteer hour spent in the community, it is estimated at a value of more than \$17 per hour. Not in "real" money, but when non-profit groups seek grant funding, these hours translate in to a virtual dollar amount. We need to hear from you. If you spend time picking up trash, cleaning graffiti, weeding the community gardens, please let us know. Those hours count. The structured events and meetings are documented (that is why we have you sign in), but individual efforts for Slopes improvements are not captured. We need every minute to count. What we need to know is the activity, when, how long, and how many people. Please email Bev Boggio of your hours, beginning January 1, 2008. Let's beat last year's numbers! The emails are already coming in with hours. Beginning in May, we will post monthly hours in the Newsletter to show our progress!  
Thanks! [Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org)  
or 488-0486



Joe C & Matt goofing after the meeting

## Thank You Sponsors!



PNC Bank is invested in the health of communities around Western Pennsylvania. Though a grant to defray newsletter and website costs, they support our mission of communicating with SSSNA members and the community. We thank PNC for sharing our interest in the neighborhood. Please visit their office on the South Side at the corner of E. Carson & 18th Streets.



## Thank you, StoreXpress!

SSSNA moved all its archives, Trek supplies, possessions, equipment & tools to 200 South 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 3/26) please email Bev at [SSSNAPgh@aol.com](mailto:SSSNAPgh@aol.com) so that you can receive our updates.



South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
[www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**Please join us for the  
SSSNA Meeting  
*Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm*  
at the St. Paul of the Cross  
Monastery Retreat Center,  
148 Monastery. Not the  
second Tuesday! See inside  
for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

