



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

May 2008
Volume 10 Issue 5
Monthly



President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Misi Bielich
Treasurer: Joe Balaban
Secretary: Paul Lorincy

Next Meeting May 13th!

Please join SSSNA for the next meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. Klavon Design Associates, Inc. will be at the May meeting to share the 18th Street Corridor Study which is an Elm Street project. Klavon Design Associates was at the March SSSNA meeting, four Elm Street Committee meetings and a South 18th Streetscape Steering Committee meeting as a part of their data collection. They will return to the SSSNA collective to report all of the input gleaned from the community with multiple ideas as to the direction that Slopes residents have suggested to unify the area along South 18th Street. The key points along the way are the railroad underpass, the 18th Street steps & bend garden, the triangle garden at 18th and Josephine Streets, the intersection of 18th – Pius – Mission Streets, the South Side Park entrance at Crossman, the Mural at Quarry Street, and St. Michael's Cemetery. Join us!

Meeting Schedule 2008!

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th – Picnic in Dining Room

August – no meeting

September 9th

***October 7th (not the 2nd Tuesday)**

November 11th

December 16th – Christmas Party in Dining Room

Dates to remember...

May 13th SSSNA Meeting @ 7:00pm

May 24th Garden Planting @ 9:00am

South Side Home Tour June 7th 10a-4pm

What you missed 4/1!

Brad Palmisiano introduced John Radcliff, Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, who attended our meeting.

Committee Reports followed:

- Beautification Committee chair Joe Ciccola reminded us that Garden work will begin on May 24th.
- Cleanups and Safety chair Paul Lorincy sent word that on Saturday, April 5th, we will again have community service students helping us with Slopes cleanup.
- Step Trek Committee chair Bev Boggio reported that she and Laura Gailey recently attended a UPMC South Side Hospital Diabetes Awareness Health Fair promoting our Step Trek. She has held the first Step Trek Committee planning meeting. Sponsors are being lined up. Rudberg Law Offices, LLC has already agreed to sponsor our Step Trek Book of Maps.
- Fr. Don, chair of Elm Street Committee, gave a summary of current projects in process...see the Newsletter for further details.
- Zoning Committee chair Brad Palmisiano reported on the development project at 13th and Sarah Streets. While the SSSNA

Board voted favorably for the scaled down plan, the Planning Forum was unable to reach consensus on this project.

- Outreach Committee chair Misi Bielich reported that the New Neighbor Welcome Baskets will begin again. We need to have help identifying the “new neighbors” moving into our Slopes so that we can present them with this basket. If anyone knows of a new neighbor please alert a Board member.

Brad Palmisiano and Bev Boggio presented Claudia Hart, former Board member, with a present from Claudia’s Slopes’ friends as she prepares to depart for her new home in Arizona. We all wish Claudia a fond farewell and best wishes.



Brad with Claudia and the gift of Johno Prascak’s “Tomatoes” print.

Brad Palmisiano then introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Wendy Urbanic, who coordinates the City’s 311 Service. Ms. Urbanic heads up an office of three fulltime and four part time staff who handle the calls to 311. She explained that if you need the police you call 911. If there is a problem with such items as graffiti, property maintenance, illegal dumping, potholes, absentee landlords, or

home deterioration...call 311 and file a complaint. Her office refers the complaint to the appropriate city department, whether this is Public Works, Bureau of Buildings Inspection, or Department of Environmental Services. Due to the Housing Court process some of the follow up might be lengthy. Ask for the tracking number of your complaint. You can then follow up on this. You can also call Bruce Kraus’ Office with the tracking number and he will follow up on it. His office number is 412-255-2130. You can also use email to give in your complaint. You will get an automatic follow up if you give your email address. Email the City of Pittsburgh at www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us and go to the 311 link.

If you cannot reach 311 on your phone call Ms. Urbanic at 412-255-2621 and she will help you work thru this obstacle. Ms. Urbanic reflected on her job and how she enjoys working with the residents of Pittsburgh, along with the dedicated Pittsburgh employees who work hard at solving problems. Her presentation was interesting and enlightening. *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 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

There is not a committee report from April, as the meeting was cancelled. There was a committee meeting on May 7, 2008 at which Klavon Design Associates made a presentation. Those minutes will be in the June Newsletter. Join us for the May 13th SSSNA meeting to hear the results and recommendations from that study given by Klavon Design Associates, Inc.

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

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

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

Thank You!

2008 Member List...

Peter Kreuthmeier & Mark Zalenchak

George Long & Tracey Daugherty

Brigitte Mazur

John & Heather Piwovar

Mr. & Mrs. Rich Ripley

Gertrude Szersen

Kathy Watson

**this list is as of April 26th, 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!!!

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!



Step Trek Committee...

The 2008 Committee met in April. Shortly thereafter, the Steeler schedule came out and the date was chosen! Join us for StepTrek 2008 on Sunday, October 5th from noon to 4:00pm. Rudberg Law will once again be the sponsor for the book of maps. Multiple sponsorship letters have gone out, we will keep you posted. Everyone is excited and has already begun to work. We will be walking and choosing the routes in May and June. We will also be sending out mailings, if that is how you would like to volunteer.

If you are interested in being on the committee or volunteering in any way, please contact Bev Boggio.

Safety & Cleanups Committee...

Paul Lorincy has motivated everyone to get ready to clean up! Our first effort for 2008 was on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00am to noon. We did the same on April 5th cleaning up along Brosville Street with Community Service students. And again on April 12th, the areas along Josephine Street including under the train trestles were done with the help of several community service students and volunteers.

April 19th was a South Side wide clean up & paint out in preparation for Earth Day! Students from Duquesne University had volunteer help in South Side Park, Janice Serra's photos to follow.



Students register & greet volunteers



DeAnn Berry cleaning up the park



Ron Lotz recycles the many discarded items!

Over the years SSSNA has made recycling a focus of our clean ups. A majority of the waste can be recycled. Our volunteers take the time to sort the trash by what can be recycled. Public works then picks up and disposes of it properly.



More volunteers



Joe Ciccola piling up trash for collection



Everyone pitching in



A large amount of trash and recyclables were collected and removed



This is just a part of what was collected



If you have questions, contact Paul at 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 Saturday, May 24th. 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 18th Street bend, 18th 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. Help to keep the Slopes green and beautiful!



311's Wendy Urbanic at the April meeting



President Brad Palmisiano at the April 1st SSSNA meeting



Joe Balaban, Joan Burke and Claudia Hart at the April meeting. They are each of SSSNA's Treasurers from 1998-2008.

Thanks, Claudia

Again, we would like to thank a very good neighbor and friend, Dr. Claudia Hart, for her thousands of volunteer hours in the Slopes. Claudia will be sorely missed! There are so very many cleanups and beautification events that she helped at (nearly all of them). She was an important part of StepTrek. She served as Treasurer and Secretary at various times during her 6 years on the SSSNA Board. She lived in the Slopes for 10 years, first as a renter, then as a homeowner and business owner. She opened her home on the SSLDC Home Tour, and drove her multicolored VW Golf all over the South Side. Good Luck! We miss you already!!!

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 and phone calls are already coming in with hours. Beginning in June, we will post monthly hours in the Newsletter to show our progress! Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org or please call 488-0486. ***Thanks!***



Dennis Berry & Fr. Don Ware (above) trimmed back the grasses and oats on 4/22 at the triangle garden – with Bev Boggio ***which was 3 volunteer hours!***

The 17th Annual Historic South Side Home Tour is Saturday, June 7th from 10am-4pm. Advance tickets \$12, Day of Tour tickets \$15. For more information, www.SouthSidePgh.com or please call 412-481-0651. Presented by SSLDC.

Thank You Sponsors!



PNC Bank is invested in the health of communities around Western Pennsylvania. Through 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 East Carson & 18th Streets.



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.



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, May 13th at
7:00pm* at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery
Retreat Center, 148
Monastery. See inside for
details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

