



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

June 2008
Volume 10 Issue 6
Monthly



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

Next Meeting June 10th!

Allegheny County Council President Rich Fitzgerald to Address June Meeting

Allegheny County Council President Rich Fitzgerald will address the general meeting of SSSNA on June 10. Rich, who represents District 11 on the County Council, will address the proposed merger of the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, county development plans, the 10 percent drink tax and property taxes. Each of these topics has been a subject of discussion lately due to the county's finances and plans to reclaim brown fields and further development in the region.

Rich represents communities from Point Breeze west through Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, Greenfield, parts of South Side, as well as Homestead and Mount Oliver. Following his presentation, he will take questions from the audience.

In addition, Rich has asked Amanda Green, who represents District 13, to join him at the meeting. This will be our first introduction to Ms. Green. She represents the 17th Ward and was appointed to Council on March 18, 2008. She will serve until the next municipal election in 2009 and replaces Brenda Frazier, who resigned her seat to run for state legislator.

Please join SSSNA for the next meeting on Tuesday, June 10th at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. Join us!

Dates to remember...

South Side Home Tour June 7th 10a-4pm
SS Community Night @ PNC Park July 8

Meeting Schedule 2008!

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**

What you missed 5/13!

Misi Bielich, SSSNA Vice-President, chaired the meeting. She introduced the officials present: Aaron Gordon from Representative Wheatley's office and Ken Wolf from City Councilman Bruce Kraus' office.

Misi called for any reports or information from our various committees.

Beautification Committee: Misi reminded us that Saturday, May 24th, volunteers are invited to help with the Greeley and Berry Streets gardens.

Elm St. Committee:

- Fr. Don Ware, chairperson, updated several projects the Elm Street Committee is involved in. A report from Klavon Design Associates on our S 18th Street. Gateway Project would be forthcoming at this meeting. (See page 2)
- The Public Staircase Inspection is completed and we will begin

spending Elm Street money to repair some of the Steps.

- We will be undertaking repair work on the Pius Street Memorial.
- The Brosville/Monastery Garden will soon receive creative signage along the new wall depicting our Slopes' neighborhood.
- A Good Neighbor Booklet will be published soon and sent to the mailing addresses of Slopes' residents.

Outreach Committee: Misi Bielich reported that "welcome baskets" will soon be available to new residents of the Slopes. If anyone has a new neighbor please contact one of the Slopes Board and we will get them their "welcome basket".

StepTrek Committee: Bev Boggio, chairperson, reported that the date for the Fall Step Trek is Sunday afternoon, October 5th. Committee work is proceeding. Bev also thanked Maria Prascak for repairing the Mural near the top of S. 18th Street.

Finally, Maria Riley from Klavon Design Associates presented the results of their study of our S 18th Street Gateway from the RR Trestle to the Mural near the top of S. 18th Street. After input from members of SSSNA Klavon determined the points of interest along S. 18th Street which included the Mission Street/Pius Street/Gregory Street interchanges, the Park Entrance to SS Park, Triangle and Bend Gardens at Josephine Street/18th Street and the Mural near the top of S. 18th Street Maria presented creative ideas for enhancing these areas, including:

- Making the interchange between Josephine and S 18th Street safer
- Landscaping
- Lighting

➤ Fences

➤ Walls

After Maria's presentation we had a short question and answer period. SSSNA Board members mentioned that the suggestions that Maria made will be pursued over the next few years and gave us a roadmap of how to enhance our neighborhood using Elm Street funds, in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

SSSNA Files Federal Tax Return

SSSNA filed its first Federal tax return since receiving its 501(C)3 designation in August 2007 from the Internal Revenue Service. In granting the tax-exempt designation, the IRS determined that we are exempt from Federal income tax and contributions to the organization are deductible under the IRS code. The decision letter also advised that the IRS determined that we are a public charity under section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Though SSSNA's gross receipts are not normally more than \$25,000, we filed the return as requested. The penalty for not filing for three consecutive years would be the loss of the tax-exempt status. For the record, SSSNA's gross receipts are less than \$100,000 and our total assets are less than \$250,000. There is a different reporting requirement for organizations with higher gross receipts and total assets. In addition, a return was filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The tax return is available for public inspection. Copies of the return would be made available to any individual, upon written or in person request, without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage. *Joe Balaban*

Monastery Street Park Artwork and Lighting Installation Project

Monastery Street Park was built in 2007 to reclaim a formerly overgrown and unattractive green space in Pittsburgh's South Side Slopes neighborhood. Klavon Design Associates, in concert with the South Side Slopes Elm Street Committee and SSLDC devised new landscape, grading, hardscape, and an uplift specimen tree to transform the neglected area into a Zen-like garden. Since its inception, the curved retaining wall was planned as a location for subsequent signage or artwork. This project will complete the wall with both.

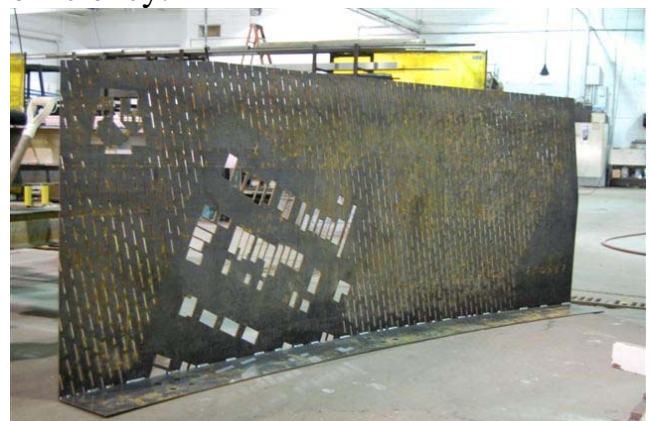


A fabricated canvas of cor-ten steel plate will float off the concrete wall and

follow its curve. Digitally fabricated openings will be made in the plate, representing neighborhood features such as buildings, parks, and steps, together with minimal text and images. Overlaid on this perforated steel background will be a dimensional network of cor-ten steel bars, representing the neighborhood's streets and public staircases. By day, the inscribed and superimposed surfaces will be rendered in daylight to create a site-specific pattern of shade and shadow. By night, concealed LED lighting will register the daytime pattern in reverse, illuminating the constellation of buildings, parks, and steps.



Steel materials hearken to the historic industrial lifeblood of the neighborhood, and will oxidize naturally over time without intervention. The lighting equipment will also be maintenance-free, and at the leading edge of energy efficiency.



Article and photos by Peter Kreuthmeier, enjoy the photos (Elm Street Logo left).

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

Budget Update -
Judy reminded the
Committee that it

was necessary to have close to \$150,000 under contract for projects by the beginning of June and therefore projects were selected that had the greatest chance of meeting that deadline. She also reported that our funders felt that implementation of the 18th Street Streetscape would provide a compelling request for future

funding. Therefore, although the Committee would be hearing preliminary design ideas from Klavon at this meeting, there would be no funding available to implement this year.

South 18th Streetscape Design - Maria Riley and Dina Klavon presented preliminary design concepts. Maria will present preliminary design concepts at the next general meeting of SSSNA to solicit input from the community. Klavon showed the committee visuals of existing conditions along South 18th and examples of types of strategies that might be applied to the corridor. The committee will provide feedback via email to Klavon.

Public Staircase Inspection - Baker Corp. completed their field work in early April a draft of their results was presented. Following discussion, it was decided to amend Baker's contract to include construction management activities and to also enter into contract with Baker to complete \$50,000 work of step repairs. Baker's final numbers will be forwarded to the Committee for input and priorities on the use of the \$50,000.

Neville Ice Arena - Signed copies of the License Agreement have been returned to the City, but the agreement has not been released by the City. Until the Agreement is in place, this project is once again on hold.

Good Neighbor Booklet - Judy reported that changes recommended by the Elm Street 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. Jen should be able to work on the booklet following the South Side Home Tour in early June.

Welcome to Neighborhood Basket - Misi, Dawn, and Bev met with Judy on March 26th to begin design of the Welcome product. A list of suggested inclusions and ideas for distribution were distributed to the Committee for review.

Monastery/Brosville Gateway Garden Signage - Technique Architectural products was selected to complete fabrication and installation of the signage/sculpture. They are proceeding and installation is to be completed by June 30. A \$20,000 PDC Demonstration Grant has been secured to offset costs. Peter showed committee a sample cutout section of the signage. (more photos)



Cor-ten fabrication in progress.



Monastery/Brosville Garden - A volunteer is needed to weed the bed around the tree and make sure all of the ground cover is securely planted. Eichenlaub has been hired to apply a broadleaf weed control and a pre-emergent control in the long rear bed (should happen soon, please don't mow prior to application). On the maintenance side, volunteers should be informed that the grass is a 'no-mow', which means mow infrequently (3 to 4 times per year) letting it grow relatively high and cutting as high as possible. Replacing the Curb & sidewalk would be very expensive and require professional engineering. The curb line will be a problem (along w/ the awkward entry to the side street); a cheap fix would be laying pavers or Belgian block - but not professional install w/ proper base, just volunteers digging up the dirt and setting the stones. The Clean, Safe and Green

committee will identify volunteers for the maintenance of the property, and will explore the idea of installing pavers.

Pius Memorial - Eichenlaub has been hired to remove the turf and install new sod on the left side – this will need to be watered regularly when completed. Giza Contracting has been hired to prime & paint the fence and flag pole as well as re-point the Memorial. Prime/paint will be done in an eco-friendly manner and note that flag pole work will require the use of a scaffold-system. Re-pointing will probably happen first and the contractor will need access to electric and water. Bev also reported that at least one of the slate pavers is loose and needs to be reset. The spring flowers will be planted prior to Memorial day.

South Side Park Duquesne University Project - Evan Stoddard's students and numerous volunteers spent two weekends in April in the park. They picked up trash and debris, blazed a trail and planted wildflowers. As a follow-up to this project a Request for Proposals was sent to four consultants seeking professional services related to an assessment of natural resources within the Park's passive green space. Items of particular note include identifying and creating a management plan for Park hydrology and invasive species, GIS/GPS mapping of significant features and current trails, and noting wetlands and natural assets. Proposals are due Friday, May 16 and selected firms will be interviewed Wednesday, May 21 between four and eight PM. Any interested member of the Elm

Street Committee is welcome to attend. Informal budget discussions have been in the \$30,000 range. Kevin Hanley has been managing the RFP process and would like the Committee to consider the creation of a Trail Advisory Group of technical professionals to assist in launching this effort and guiding long-term implementation. Some names put forth for consideration include: Dr. Nancy Trun of Duquesne University, Peter Greninger of REI/Pgh., Mary Beth Steisslinger of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Terry Moss from the Student Conservation Associates, and Maria Riley (from Klavon). Janice Serra has also been participating in this process.

South 18th Scrim - There was discussion about the possibility of using some of the \$20,000 in URA marketing funds to purchase the scrim originally proposed for the South 18th Gateway Garden site and to use the scrim to advertise special events in the neighborhood or as part of the South 18th Street streetscape. Following discussion it was moved to explore the costs of purchasing a scrim.

Judy Dyda

July Meeting is a Picnic

Please join us for the July SSSNA meeting which will be a picnic with food provided to celebrate our volunteers, on July 8th at 7:00pm in the Dining Room. You are welcome to bring a covered dish, but it is not required. There will be plenty of food and good company. More details on the website and in the July Newsletter. Thanks!

**This is the same night as the South Side Community Night at PNC Park (pg8)*

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...

Misi Bielich

Jessica Fondy

Dolores Nowakowski

Janice & Chris Serra

**this list is as of June 3rd, 2008*

***Someone gave Bev cash for membership dues at the January meeting without a slip, please call Bev.*



Step Trek Committee...

Join us for StepTrek 2008 on Sunday, October 5th from noon to 4:00pm. Honorary Chairperson is Councilman Bruce Kraus! Artwork will be provided by local Artist Johno Prascak. His "Sunrise on the Slopes" will be featured on the Trek tees. 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 walked the new routes in May. We are about to place the event on Active.com for registration. 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.



Trek Committee May meeting

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!

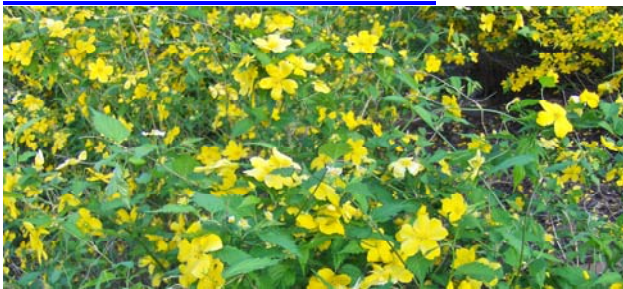
South Side Community Night at PNC Park

Presented by the Pittsburgh Pirates and the South Side Chamber of Commerce, the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Houston Astros on Tuesday, July 8th at 7:05pm. This is not a fundraiser, just an opportunity for neighbors to go to the ballgame together.

The game is a Pirates 'T-shirt Tuesday'. The seats are in L/R Field Box seats reserved in section 125. As a part of the "Hats Off" Program, everyone who purchases a ticket for \$17.00 will also receive a Pirates Ball Cap.

To order complete the order form (found in the South Pittsburgh Reporter or in an SSSNA email) with payment to: Pittsburgh Pirates Gold Club, South Side Community Night, 115 Federal Street, Pgh, PA 15212 or fax 412-325-4410 Attn. Gold Club. There is a \$3 processing fee.

Orders must be received by June 24th. For more information, please contact: Guy Buzzelli at 412-854-1449 or the Pirates Gold Club at 412-325-4653 or the South Side Chamber of Commerce at southsidechamber@aol.com.



Beautification Committee

Joe Ciccola organized the planting of the Greeley & Barry Street WPC Gardens along Josephine Street on Saturday May 24th. Thanks to Joe C, Peggy and Bev for setting down the watering tape at the Greeley Garden on Thursday May 22nd. Those 4 volunteer hours saved a great deal of time for the planting.



Joe C & Peggy (above) Bev below 5/22



Thanks also to the ~58 'volunteer hours' given that day by that following very hard working volunteers: Betty & Bob Kripp, Joe Ciccola, Matt Schaefer, Bev Boggio, DeAnn & Dennis Berry, Mike Janesko, and Joan Burke.



Mike & DeAnn working on the perennials

Keep in mind that the gardens need TLC all spring & summer long, so we welcome volunteers. Here and 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.



Greeley is planted. We worked from 8:30am until 3pm. Greeley, then Barry.



Joe & Betty planting Greeley



Matt shoveling mulch at Greeley.



Dennis & Bob working on the mulch pile.

The 17th Annual Historic South Side Home Tour is this 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. SSSNA/StepTrek will have a water stop on the Home Tour at 126 Pius Street.

Thank You Sponsors!





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, June 10th at
7:00pm* at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery
Retreat Center, 148
Monastery. See inside for
details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

