



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

July 2008
Volume 10 Issue 7
Monthly



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

Annual Summer Picnic **Tuesday, July 8th!**

Please come and join the Slopes Association on Tuesday, July 8th, at 7:00 p.m., for our annual summer picnic at the St. Paul Monastery. Once again, Fr. Don Ware will be leading a tour of the Monastery grounds and gardens. The SSSNA will provide the main dishes and we are hoping that our members and guests will bring a side dish or dessert to share. But, bringing something to share is purely optional. Everyone is welcome!!!

For more information, you can contact Misi.Bielich@SouthSideSlopes.org or call 412-488-0486. This picnic is our opportunity to celebrate with neighbors, members and volunteers. We enjoy the chance to eat, drink and explore the grounds.

See pages 3, 5 & 6 for an update on the Brosville and Monastery Street Garden. There has been great care taken to weed and cut the garden in preparation for the lighting and scrim. Be sure to take a look on your way. We may even take a walk down to the Elm Street funded garden to see the progress.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Monastery on July 8th at 7:00 p.m.!!

www.SouthSideSlopes.org
www.StepTrek.org

Dates to remember...

SS Community Night @ PNC Park July 8

Meeting Schedule 2008!

July 8th – Picnic in Dining Room

August – no meeting

September 9th

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

***November 18th (not the 2nd Tuesday)**

December 16th – Christmas Party in Dining Room

What you missed 6/10!

Our president Brad Palmisiano called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced our elected officials and their representatives present: City Councilman Bruce Kraus, Ken Wolfe, Bruce's chief of staff, and Neil Parham from the Mayor's office.

Brad then called for any updates from SSSNA committees.

Bev Boggio reported from the Beatification Committee that volunteers spent 59 hours on May 24th preparing and planting the Greeley Street Garden.

Fr. Don Ware, chair of the Elm Street Committee updated our recently awarded contracts on the following projects: repairing Yard Way Steps and a South Side Park Ecology Study. Other projects being finished include: touch up of Pius St. War Memorial; South 18th Street Streetscape Design, Scrim for Brosville/Monastery St. Gateway Garden. The City gave us the ok to check out the usability of the Neville Ice Rink. Now the Elm St.

Committee can prioritize these projects for future funding from the state.

Judy Dyda, Elm Street Manager, mentioned that our Welcome Neighbor Baskets were ready to go. If you know a new person who has recently moved into the Slopes, invite them to our monthly SSSNA meeting, alert Misi, Brad or Bev and they will receive a Welcome Basket.

Brad, chair of our Zoning Committee alerted us to a current zoning issue... development on the 1400 block of Nile Street...density, hillside slippage and mine subsidence are the issues involved with this development.

Janice Serra mentioned an upcoming meeting to prioritize projects for funding on the Mission Street side of the Slopes. We already have \$30,000 in funding for needed projects outside the Elm Street District of the Slopes.

Bruce Kraus alerted us that we have a new Precinct 3 Commander, Catherine McNeilly. There are 71 street police in our Precinct, along with desk sergeants and detectives. We hope to meet the new commander in one of our Fall monthly meetings.

Brad then introduced our guest presenter for the meeting, Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny Council President. Our newly appointed Council representative, Ms Amanda Green, accompanied Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Fitzgerald dealt with two topics: taxation and Allegheny County merger with the City of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that the county had 15 Council members and four elected Row Offices. When dealing with taxes the County encountered a funding shortfall and had to raise monies. There was no political will to raise property

taxes. The Council voted to begin the drink tax to raise the needed funding.

Regarding merger of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, Mr. Fitzgerald referred to the recently completed Nordenberg Report which urges such a merger. However, the “devil is in the details.” What will be the new governing structure? Other issues include: combining Economic Development Offices, debt service to the City’s Pension Fund (can the State help here?), taxes - which will probably remain as they are now - schools, and local municipalities governing structures. The latter two would remain as they are now. Savings could be realized in the merger of Information Technologies, Economic Development Offices, tax collection, public works and police. More study needs to be done and a plan worked out, then the State Legislature will need to propose a method of residents voting to adopt or reject. Bruce Kraus added insight. Stay tuned for more info on this in the future.

Ms Green addressed several other issues around merger including the benefit that the population of Pittsburgh would increase from 321,000 to 2.5 million and become one of the big cities in the country, making it more attractive to new business.

Lively discussion followed Mr. Fitzgerald’s presentation. The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



Rich Fitzgerald & Amanda Green

Brosville & Monastery Artwork and Lighting Installation Project – Update



Above – before the scrim work (6/21)



Above – the wall is painted (6/25)



Brackets in place – next is lighting!

There will be much more work in the days and weeks ahead. Keep an eye out! The lighting is being shipped and will be installed soon. After that, the scrim will be placed.

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.

Elections to the Board of Directors will take place at the October 7th Annual meeting. Those Board members whose terms are finished and are up for election this October are Joe Balaban, Misi Bielich, Bev Boggio, Paul Lorincy, Brad Palmisiano, and Peggy Sullivan. Peggy is serving the completion of Claudia's term. Bev has served the SSSNA Board for 10 years, is the final active "founding" Board Member, and will not seek another term.

If you are interested in a Board position, please contact Brad or any Board member for details. SSSNA is celebrating 10 years of serving the Slopes Neighborhood and community of Pittsburgh this October!

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:

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...

Paul & Dawn Lorincy

Robin Walsh

Drew Ziccardi

****this list is as of June 23rd, 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 walked the new routes in May. We are about to place the event on Active.com for registration. We sent out mailings in June and there will be more mailings to send, if that is how you would like to volunteer.

Bob Kripp, our Trek graphic designer, is hard at work on the brochure. We will be seeking raffle giveaways and there is much more to do.

If you are interested in being on the committee or volunteering in any way, 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

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

Or email us at info@SouthSideSlopes.org

Thanks!

Elm Street Committee...



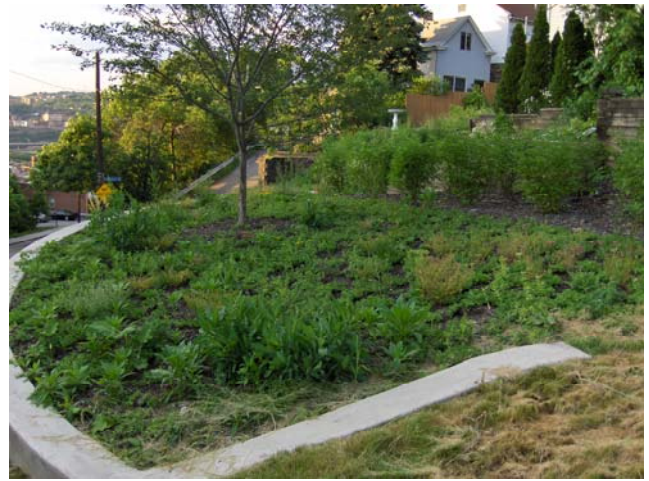
elm street COMMUNITY

We do not have minutes from the June meeting, so expect them next month. The Beautification report covers the Brosville & Monastery Garden update...

Beautification Committee

On a very hot Sunday (Father's Day) Joe C and Ken Wolfe began work on the Brosville & Monastery Garden. The "low mow" grass – which reportedly only needs to be cut ~ four times a year – had been treated for weeds a week earlier. They took the first stab at cutting the deep grass. A few days later, Peter Kreuthmeier, Bev Boggio, John & Matt Schaefer spent a little over 2 hours weeding the bushes, the ground cover around the tree and cut the grass to even it out.

This was all in preparation for the wall to be painted and have the installation of the scrim. What is great about this is that subsequently, neighbors like Judy who lives up the street, have continued the weeding and care of the garden. It was quite overwhelming as the photos show. The rains have encouraged weed growth and it is often an uphill battle – no pun.



Above weedy before, then below after!



We welcome anyone to stop down and weed any of our gardens at any time. Keep in mind that the gardens need TLC all 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 through October. Please contact Joe at Joe.Ciccola@SouthSideSlopes.org.



Bushes along the East side of the garden.



Full garden view from Brosville.

Thank you to the folks who have stopped and weeded anonymously. The Greeley Garden and the 18th Street bend garden have had some weeding done. You are welcome to let us know your time spent, so that we can formally account for it by calling 412-488-0486 or emailing info@SouthSideSlopes.org. The hours translate into dollars when SSSNA approaches funders. You may give your name or remain anonymous.



Photos of the Barry Street Garden



Each year there are more lilies



The lilies are in full bloom



The annuals are starting to take hold



Below an informal garden along Holt Street – thanks Mike!



If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 7/3) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates. Or if you know someone who would be interested, have them contact SSSNA. The internet is a great way to get the word out.

SSSNA History...

Did you know that the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association is 10 years old this October? That is right! On October 12, 1998, the first set of bylaws was passed & the first Board of Directors was elected: Bev Bagosi, DeAnn Berry, Dennis Berry, Joan Burke, Karen Haley, Ed Jacob, Jr., Mike Janesko, Steve Kasunich, Lane Kintigh, Bob Prelich, & Alberta Stoughton. The founding Board members were very invested in the state of the neighborhood and wanted the Slopes to have a voice in the City. Many ambitious projects were undertaken and accomplished. The reason that the Association made that leap to a nonprofit was the Holt Street fire on Memorial Day weekend 1998. One house caught fire and three burned to the ground. That is why SSSNA advocated for City-wide change by advocating a pumper truck with smaller turning radius and less length to traverse hillside topography. By December of 1999, the City took delivery of the first of many "smaller" pumper trucks. Watch the Newsletter in the months leading up to our anniversary for more amazing facts that our all-volunteer force made happen to improve the Slopes!

Thank You Sponsors!





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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT NO 603

**Please join us for the
SSSNA (free) Picnic
Tuesday, July 8th at 7:00pm
at the St. Paul of the Cross
Monastery Retreat Center,
148 Monastery. See inside
for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

