



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

August 2007
Volume 9 Issue 8

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

Next Meeting 9/11

Remember that there is **no SSSNA meeting in August**. We give everyone a break for vacations and hot weather. We will resume meeting monthly in September and the meetings will be held on the second Tuesday for the rest of the year.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00pm. The speaker scheduled for September is Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. We are planning a change for that meeting. At 6:30pm we will assemble for a dedication of the All Wars Memorial at 103-105 Pius Street. Elm Street funds are being spent restoring the site for neighbors to pay homage to those who have defended our freedoms. The Mayor is scheduled to start the evening there with us. We are moving the meeting to the Veronica's Veil Players Auditorium on Pius Street. There will be more details to follow about the evenings events in September's Newsletter.

Below is a "before" picture. Watch for the progress to follow!



Photo taken August 6, 2007

Meeting Schedule 2007!

NO August meeting!

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th – Dining Room

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.

July 10th Picnic!

Every year we celebrate our membership & neighbors with a free and open picnic. We feature fried chicken, kielbasa & sauerkraut, salads, desserts, and refreshments. Thank you, friends, for the covered dishes and desserts that you brought. Misi Bielich organized the picnic this year. Thanks Misi!

Fr. Don toured us through the beautiful Monastery gardens. Enjoy the photos.



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

Committee Reports: **Elm Street Committee**

The following photos are from the first Elm Street project underway. It is on the Duquesne Light property that SSSNA leases at the corner of Monastery and Brosville. The trees were cut, the ground cleared and a wall built, thus far. It will take about a month to finish the landscaping. There will be a tree planted with ground cover and low mow grass. There will be signage to follow and when it is finished; there will be a celebration of the completed project. The wall has been curing. There will be more grading of the land before planting. Enjoy the photos...



July 9, 2007 – sick trees come down.
(view from Hackstown)



July 9, 2007 – bushes were saved.
(view from Monastery)



July 12, 2007 – vegetation removed.
(view from Hackstown)



July 12, 2007 – substructure poured.
(view from Monastery)



July 19, 2007 – freshly poured wall.
(views from Monastery)



The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the July 11th meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!



elm street
COMMUNITY

July Elm Street Meeting Minutes

Community Gardens – Status

Monastery/Brosville – Vento has begun work at the site. Committee decided to have Vento do all the planting. This will assure that planting is done correctly. A sign is being ordered to place at this, and future, project sites. The Outreach (Image and Identity) sub-committee will plan a dedication ceremony.

South 18th Street – A structural mapping report has been received from QuantaPoint. Peter reported that he and a metal fabricator are already working on the engineering. Peter will work with Landesberg to create the pixilated photo. Bids need to be sought from local firms for actual fabrication.

Pius Street Monument –The City has agreed to lease the property to South Side LDC on a month to month basis. A signed lease agreement was hand delivered to the City. The signed contract has been returned to Eichenlaub with required down payment. Judy pointed out that the contract includes the replacement of the sidewalk. We are working to get a price on the ornamental fence because we cannot find a company that is willing to work on the fence the City offered to provide. Once the lease agreement is fully executed by City, per Committee decision, Eichenlaub will be authorized to move forward as soon as possible. SSSNA's Board will vote on a resolution to petition the City to transfer the property from 3TB to the Department of Parks and Recreation for permanent designation as a parklet and for SSSNA to accept all future responsibility for its maintenance. The committee decided

that enough signatures have been collected on the petitions to move to the next step of having the property transferred from 3TB to Parks and Recreation. SSSNA will send a letter to Councilman Koch, with copies to other appropriate City officials, along with the resolution and petitions, requesting the transfer.

Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant – Judy reported that South Side LDC has worked with the City to develop a combined trash/recycle can and has received the City's approval to purchase 8 cans to be placed along East Carson Street. The Committee discussed the benefits of purchasing additional cans to be placed in the Elm Street district. Following discussion, the committee decided to use the PDC Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant to purchase three additional cans for the Slopes.

Updates:

Potential Recycling Project: Due to a variety of issues, the Abitibi recycling bin has been permanently removed from Veronica's Veil site. Community has a strong desire to continue to make additional recycling opportunities available. Following discussion, it was decided that Paul Lorincy would contact Shawn Wigle, the City's Acting Recycling Coordinator, to discuss the possibility of creating a program similar to the one at Construction Junction.

URA Second Quarter Report: Committee reviewed the second quarter report that has been submitted to the URA and ways to provide further information.

Review of current budget: Judy reported that she, Rick Belloli, and

Kevin Hanley reviewed the five year plan, and the two-year Action Plan to determine which activities could be funded using the Residential Reinvestment Grant (RRG) funds.

It was determined that most of the activities outlined, though in keeping with the Elm Street five point approach, were not eligible to use RRG funds. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the priorities for the use of the funds currently not earmarked for projects in progress were:

1. Step Repair
2. 15th Street Pedestrian Lights
3. Brosville Lot Improvements
4. Residential Facade Program
5. South Side Park - trail development and signage.

Judy Dyda

StepTrek Committee



We are working hard preparing for the 2007 Trek! We are listing our event on www.Active.com this week for online registration and to reach new Trekkers. The sponsorship requests are out and we are hearing back. Watch the Slopes News and our website for details. We have the routes chosen and are working on the book of maps. Misi Bielich is coordinating the volunteers. Thank You!

SSSNA is 501(c)(3)!

The week of August 20th the SSSNA Board of Directors was informed by our pro bono attorneys that the Federal Government has approved the application for SSSNA to be a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization. For the past 8 years SSLDC has been the umbrella for SSSNA to be Non Profit. Thank You, SSLDC! Now all donations are directly tax deductible. More details next month.

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 was last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

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 _____

Cleanup News

In an effort to get new Duquesne students acclimated and invested in their neighboring South Side community, new Freshman students will take part in a cleanup event of the South Side Flats on Saturday, August 25th. In years past Duquesne Freshman were led during the cleanup by team leaders who were elder Duquesne students. This year, as a way to further strengthen the relationship between Duquesne students and South Side residents, we are asking if there are any community members interested in being team leaders during the cleanup. As a team leader your duty is to escort your group of students over to the South Side to their clean up zone, help keep them motivated during the cleanup, and ensure that they get back to Duquesne's Campus on time.

Details of the event are as follows:

Duquesne freshman students will meet at the University at 9am. They will head over to the South Side at 9:30am and will cleanup until about 11:00 - 11:15am. After which they will head back to Duquesne's campus.

Team leaders will be required to be at Duquesne at 8:30am.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a community team leader - please contact me and I can give you more details (*my information is listed below*)!

Sarah Alessio, Pennsylvania Resources Council
412.431.4449 ext. 236 or saraha@ccicenter.org

If we don't have your email address, (*you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 8/22*) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates.

October 9th Meeting

October is our Annual Meeting when elections are held. This year the current Board members running for election are Joe Ciccola, Kate Fink, Matt Schaefer, Janice Serra and Fr. Don Ware. If you are interested in a Board position, please contact a current Board member as soon as possible. We welcome anyone interested.



Slopes Artist Work Hangs in Presidential Library

Johno Prascak, South Side Slopes Artist and friend of the SSSNA, was recently commissioned to paint a portrait for former president George HW Bush, Sr.'s Presidential Library at Texas A&M in College Station Texas.

After a friend showed him Johno's work, the nation's 41st president, George Bush expressed interest in having Johno paint a portrait for his library. An anonymous donor commissioned Johno to create the piece which took a little over a month to paint. Johno used his signature enamel and South Side Sand from the Monongahela River on canvas. The painting is 2'x3'.

After shipping the painting to Texas, Johno received official paperwork recognizing it as being archived in the library's collection. He also received a personal note from former President George HW Bush, Sr. thanking him for the work.

The painting is now hanging at the library. Johno hopes to meet the former president someday.

Congratulations to Johno on this fantastic accomplishment!

By Brad Palmisiano

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!

Mark Your Calendar!

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

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

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!

STORE XPRESS.

& Rudberg Law Offices

NO August meeting!
**Enjoy the rest of your
summer.**

**We will resume our
meetings on September
11th, see inside!**
**The September meeting
location is changed.**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

