



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

September 2007
Volume 9 Issue 9
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

Next Meeting 9/11...

The Mayor will attend!

The festivities begin at 6:30pm with a rededication and flag rising outside at the All Wars Memorial at 103 – 105 Pius Street. The Elm Street Committee is proud to unveil the work that was done to pay homage to those who have died for our freedoms. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl will preside over the ceremony which will include many dignitaries, see pages 3 & 4.

After the ceremony, please join us across the street for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00pm at the Veronica's Veil Player's Auditorium 44 Pius Street. The guest speaker is Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. We moved the meeting down to Pius Street to accommodate those that want to attend both events. Unfortunately, there is no elevator at this facility and there is a set of stairs to the auditorium. There is AC if needed. We also will have Pittsburgh Urban Forest representatives as guest speakers. Please see page 7.

Thank you to the Outreach committee for organizing this event! If you would have a question, please contact Misi at Misi.Bielich@SouthSideSlopes.org or 412-537-6733.

Meeting Schedule 2007!

September 11th @ Veronica's Veil

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th – Dining Room

501 (c)(3) News!

In case you did not notice the Non-Profit Permit on the outside of the Newsletter, SSSNA is now a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization. In August SSSNA received a letter from the IRS dated August 9, 2007 informing us that the application was approved. The effective date of this exemption dates back to December 13, 2004. All contributions to SSSNA are now tax deductible directly.

Since August 26, 1998, when SSSNA created the first set of bylaws and began meeting regularly as an organization, the South Side Local Development has been the Non-Profit conduit for SSSNA. Thank you, SSLDC for being our umbrella.

The application process has taken years and Joe Balaban, with the assistance of Bev Boggio, had seen this through to this successful end. Thank you Joe for your persistence! There were multiple requests back and forth from the IRS.

The three step process took years to complete. Remember that SSSNA has had no paid staff in the 9 years it has existed. This is an all volunteer organization with some very dedicated neighbors. Thanks to all who helped! The process was...

1) EIN number approved by the Department of Treasury on 5/1/2003.

2) Articles of Incorporation approved by the Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau on 12/13/2004.

3) 501(c)(3) designation 8/9/2007!

Urgent Zoning Hearing Action Required

There will be a Zoning Hearing on Thursday, October 11th at 9:00am regarding the business property known as Angel's at 2604 Josephine Street. The issue at hand is that Angel's was recently closed by the City. If it can be shown that Angel's was not open as a business for a period of one year, then the business must apply for a Zoning variance again, as previous zoning decisions would be void. The dates in question are between January 2006 and May 2007. The hearing will be held at 200 Ross Street (downtown), first floor, located between the Boulevard of the Allies and 3rd Avenue.

If anyone has information and can testify, or wants to attend without testifying, or has questions, or needs to have help with transportation to the hearing, you can contact concerned South Side neighbors at (412) 392-2164 or angelszoninghearing@gmail.com.

Neighbors who live in the vicinity of Angel's have brought this issue to the attention of SSSNA and have asked us to distribute the information to our membership.

Please, if you have any information regarding this issue or want to support the neighbors, attend the hearing. You can attend without testifying. Neighbors working together to make a more livable, beautiful and safe community is the focus of SSSNA and attending the hearing is one way to do that. There are significant concerns regarding this issue voiced by our neighbors on Josephine Street.

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

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

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.

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

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.

We will also be recruiting volunteers for StepTrek on October 14th. Misi Bielich is this year's StepTrek volunteer coordinator. We have dozens of positions for volunteers to cover. We would like to have help at any point of the day. Thanks!

Committee Reports:



elm street COMMUNITY

Elm Street Committee

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the August 1st meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!

Community Gardens – Status

Monastery/Brosville – Vento continues to work at the site. There is still some concern about the height of the wall and its potential for attracting graffiti tagging. Following discussion it was decided to allow Peter to determine the process and cost of creating signage in the form of a scrim similar to that proposed for South 18th Street site that would essentially wrap around the front of the wall. Misi and Dawn will work with Judy to plan a ribbon cutting event.

South 18th Street – Peter presented architectural renderings of the possible installation of the scrim, but reported that the fabricator was uncomfortable with the prospect of completing the actual engineering of the installation. Peter has asked a structural engineer to

meet him at the site to discuss both the condition of the steps and the engineering needed for the installation of the scrim. Following discussion, it was decided to authorize the fabrication of a mock up of the scrim.

Pius Street Monument – Judy reported that the lease agreement with the City has been completed. Following a meeting with Eichenlaub and Lux Ornamental fencing at the site (attended by Bev, Judy, and Kevin Hanley), final details of the project has been worked out and both Eichenlaub and Lux have been authorized to move forward. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled for September 11th immediately prior to the SSSNA regularly scheduled meeting. The Mayor is scheduled to appear at the general meeting and will be invited to attend the ribbon cutting. Misi and Dawn will work with Judy on details of the ribbon cutting event. Judy reported that the petitions and letter requesting transfer of the property to the Parks Department had been sent to Councilman Koch with copies to the Mayor, and Citiparks Director Duane Ashley. Bev shared her email correspondence with State Representative Harry Readshaw requesting his support, and his positive response. Judy reported that a follow-up letter from SSSNA had also been sent.

Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant – Judy reported that the three combined recycle/trash containers had been ordered and that a request for payment from the PA Downtown Center (PDC) would be submitted.

(continued next page)

Elm Street Committee Updates

Potential Recycling Project: Paul reported that he had spoken with Shawn Wigle of the City's Recycling Division about the possibility of using either the Mission Street or Brosville for a recycling project. Mr. Wigle informed Paul that both sites had, in fact, been considered. Judy will set-up a meeting to discuss our options.

URA Quarterly Elm Street Managers Meeting: Judy reported the following from the meeting held on July 27th: Only those ES districts that have expended 70% of their current funding will be eligible to apply for the next round of funds. Application deadline is October 15th. Alecia Sirk, URA ES Coordinator, announced that \$20,000 in funding for Image and Identity activities will be made available through the URA by early Fall. The URA has been asked to enter into contract with the City to access the funds that have been budgeted for step and railing repair. Alecia will work with us on this. PNC Bank is set to announce a new home equity product for Elm Street districts that will offer up to a half percent discount interest rate.

Community Attitude Survey: Judy reported that the PDC has announced that all ES districts must once again conduct a community attitude survey between September and October. Details will follow. *Judy Dyda*

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 9/7) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates.

Photos taken 9/7: Monastery Garden



View from Brosville



View from Monastery

All Wars Memorial



The dedication will be held here 9/11



StepTrek Committee



We are working hard preparing for the 2007 Trek! StepTrek is listed for online registration through Active.com. This is our first try at online registration and getting new Trekkers. Go to our website www.StepTrek.org today and register to guarantee your 2 for \$15 donation special.

[Register Online](http://www.StepTrek.org) go!



Artist Cynthia Cooley has graciously agreed to be our Honorary Chairperson for 2007. She is a local artist who has many works which feature Slopes stairways. You can check out her many works at www.CynthiaCooley.com.

The sponsorship requests are out and we are waiting to hear back. Rudberg Law Offices will be our Publication Sponsor. Watch the Slopes News and our website for details.

We have the routes chosen and are working on the book of maps. Each year, we think that the routes and views cannot get better, but every year we seem to explore new vistas!

We are asking for your help as volunteers. If you have any suggestions or ideas, contact us. Thank You!

How can I volunteer for the StepTrek?

There are a variety of easy volunteer opportunities for the StepTrek. For your efforts you will receive a free registration with tee shirt and book of maps. As mentioned in the next article, there are several opportunities prior to October 14th to clean up the neighborhood. During the Trek, we will need to have greeters, folks to put up tents, set up the staging area, cut fruit, hand out water, register Trekkers, hand out tee shirts, and much more. If you want to be along the Trek route, we have placed to stand to help guide Trekkers along the course & hand out water. The hours that you can volunteer range from 7:00am to 4:30pm.

Misi Bielich is coordinating the volunteers. We will meet initially at the October 9th SSSNA meeting, then meet again on Thursday, October 11th at 126 Pius Street to finalize plans. You can pick up your volunteer shirts that night.

Once again, Artist Johno Prascak has graciously donated a print to raffle to the Trekkers of "The Chief" which was painted as a tribute to Mr. Art Rooney Sr. after his passing in 1989. The print hangs in the Football Hall of Fame. The original enamel and sand on stretched canvas can be found at www.Johnosart.com.



Cleanup News...

Paul Lorincy has planned two cleanups preceding the StepTrek. On Saturday, October 6th and Saturday, October 13th, we will meet for a neighborhood cleanup from 9:00-11:30am. There will be more details to follow. Please join us to have the neighborhood sparkle!

If you have any questions, contact Paul at Paul.Lorincy@SouthSideSlopes.org.

More Trek News...



The event will begin at Noon on Sunday, October 14th. The registration area at the UPMC South Side parking lot at 21st & Josephine Streets will be open from 11am to 4pm. This event is a self guided walking tour of the Slopes on stairs, sidewalks, and streets. Included this year are new areas on each route. A portion of the Trek walks down through South Side Park. Johno Prascak will again host a water stop with a "Port-o-Johno" at his studio on 18th & Arlington Avenue. Once again, Realtors will hold "Open Houses" during the Trek for viewing our housing stock.

Kudos, to the Trek Committee which is currently working and new and different ways to improve StepTrek. This will be the seventh Trek through the Slopes. A focus of StepTrek is to call attention to our public stairways and keep them well maintained through our partnership with the City of Pittsburgh. Online registration, exciting new routes, new sponsors, and other new ideas are ambitious for a group of volunteers.

We hope to see you there to explore new vistas!

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 _____

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!

www.StepTrek.org

Log on & check us out!

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.

****September 11th, 7:00pm @ Veronica's Veil Player's Auditorium after the Pius Street dedication at 6:30pm.**

October 9th, 7:00pm

November 13th, 7:00pm

Dec. 11th, 7:00pm – Christmas Party**

** denotes meeting in the Dining Room

More September 11th



There is a new subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, named Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest. As you may recall, the Shade Tree Commission got the 54 shade trees for SSSNA have planted along Josephine Street. Danielle Crumrine and Arborist Matthew Erb will be coming to the September 11th meeting to tell us about their organization. They spent an evening with Dennis Berry and Bev Boggio in August to look at our trees along Josephine and Pius Streets. There were many good suggestions to improve the health of our Slopes street trees.

There is a tree tender workshop on October 12th from 8:30-3:30pm. The fee ranges from \$75-125. Group attendance decreases the cost. They will describe the course at the September 11th meeting. For a workshop brochure, contact Mark Remcheck at mar15@psu.edu or call (724)228-6940. Mark has held 2 tree tender classes for Slopes tree tenders who care for the trees along Josephine Street. It is amazing how many street trees there are in the Slopes. Many need attention and some TLC.

SSSNA Tee shirts!



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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.

We appreciate your support & hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and website.

Thank You Sponsors!

STORE XPRESS.

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

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit, as you can see in the preceding photos! 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 a special
evening on
Tuesday, September 11th at
6:30pm at the “*All Wars
Memorial*” 103-105 Pius
Street with a 7:00pm
meeting at the *Veronica’s
Veil Player’s Auditorium*
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

