



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

November 2008
Volume 10 Issue 11
Monthly



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

Commander McNeilly to Speak at November 18th Meeting

Join us on Tuesday November 18th for our November general meeting. Our guest speaker will be Police Commander Catherine McNeilly. This is a great opportunity to meet our new Zone 3 Commander, share any public safety concerns, and learn how we as a community can do our part to keep the Slopes a safe place to live. The meeting Starts at 7:00pm in the main lounge of St Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 148 Monastery Avenue.

Christmas Party December 16th

Please join us for the December SSSNA Meeting & Christmas Party. This is our opportunity to celebrate 2008 and all of the progress and volunteerism in our neighborhood. SSSNA through StepTrek and Elm Street has had an extremely productive year. The South Side Slopes neighborhood has received great press and accolades! We have much to celebrate. There have been thousands of volunteer hours spent on the safety and beautification of our Slopes. Celebrate that with us. We will have a free catered dinner, but always accept a side dish or dessert. Please contact Misi Bielich with questions.

Dates to remember...

Meeting Schedule 2008!

***November 18th (not the 2nd Tuesday)**
**December 16th – Christmas Party in
Dining Room**



StepTrek 2008!

What a beautiful day it was! Every year we have been fortunate to have incredibly great weather! This year was likely the best. Many people do not realize the thousands of hours volunteers spend year round. The planning and work really never stops. It hibernates from December to February, but never stops. We have been at this for 8 Treks and have plans in progress for the ninth. Enjoy the photos included on pages 6-9 that only scratch the surface of the great success that the Slopes Neighborhood enjoyed on October 5th. **THANK YOU** to the hundreds of Trekkers, volunteers, committee members, sponsors, and local businesses who make this event such a success each year!

What you missed Oct. 7th

At our monthly Slopes Meeting 29 neighbors attended. Two new members attended. Our President, Brad Palmisiano, began the meeting by recognizing Misi Bielich from Bruce Kraus' Office. Brad then made announcements regarding clean-up and gardening projects in the near future.

He then gave brief summaries of the 10th Anniversary celebration of SSSNA, and the official lighting of our new Monastery Avenue & Brosville Street gateway garden with core ten steel sculpture, which was spearheaded by Board member Peter Kreuthmeier.

Beverly Boggio provided an update on the StepTrek event of October 5th, 2008:

- T Shirts and StepTrek Book were both excellent
- Media attention included a front page picture and more than one PG article of our StepTrek, Comcast Newsmakers, and KDKA morning show coverage
- Our Sponsors were outstanding and supportive with many new sponsors
- 291 Trekkers were preregistered, and more than 300 registered the day of the event, with another ~250 volunteers and children (free)
- Many dedicated volunteers helped with the event
- The weather was perfect
- The City via Bruce Kraus issued two Proclamations, heralding SSSNA's 10th Anniversary and the October 5th Step Trek and Bev Boggio's central role in this event
- StepTrek was part of Pittsburgh's 250th Birthday Celebration
- StepTrek was covered on a number of web-sites and new participants came from this coverage

Judy Dyda, Elm Street manager, gave a brief update on Elm Street projects:

- A mailing to all of the residences in the Elm St. district has gone out... this mailing included the excellent Welcome Good Neighbor booklet, the annual survey of Elm Street residents to be filled out soon, and a volunteer sheet for those willing to get involved with SSSNA.
- The repair of the steps and painting of the railings from Shamokin St. to Pius Street and from Pius to South 18th Street is completed.
- A further grant of \$40,000 has been given to continue work on the S. 18th Street steps, following some of the suggestions of the Klavon Study of our South 18th Street gateway...more on this in the future
- Completion of the Monastery Ave. & Brosville St. Gateway Garden
- Work underway on the South Side Park project... (See below)

Joe Romano from Skelly and Loy Environment Planning and Development Firm presented some of the findings of their environmental study of South Side's best-kept secret – South Side Park. Here are some of the highlights of the study so far:

- South Side Park is a beautiful 64 acre Green Space in the midst of our populated city neighborhood.
- There is little of value archeologically. There are some remnants of a Brickwork Factory from the past – this would hold some historical significance.
- The natural environment boasts 21 wetlands and some low quality streams which could be cleaned up

a bit. Wetlands are good for soil stabilization.

- There is no sewerage or city water line runoff.
- There are the usual animals and birds in the park, including a red-tailed hawk.
- There are some problems & challenges in the Park: invasive plant species need to be dealt with lest they kill the trees, trails need to be better developed and marked, and some work could be done on the small streams.

The Skelly and Loy study will be finished within a few months. It will identify some potential funding resources and some steps to deal with the problems mentioned above, along with estimated costs.

Brad next asked for the election of Board Members for the next two years. Those present unanimously elected this slate: Joe Balaban, Misi Bielich, Paul Lorincy, Brad Palmisiano, Peggy Sullivan, and Denise Fillip (a new Board member). Congratulations to these Board members elected.

Brad then asked for some ideas about what issues the Board should consider... Gardens, clean-up, safety issues, city advocacy, and good neighborliness are present concerns of the Board. New issues raised included: fixing up Winter's Field, strengthening advocacy around the issues of trash and run down houses, and perhaps looking into a gateway garden in John's corner lot at S. 18th Street and Arlington Ave.

Finally Brad recognized Bev Boggio for her 10 years of loyal and dedicated service on our Executive Board. Bev has chosen to not run for election to the Board again. She expressed her deep gratitude for the many people that she has been

privileged to work with over the past 10 years in helping to improve and bring beauty and neighborliness to South Side Slopes residents. Bev will remain active in the Slopes and our StepTrek Event.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

www.SouthSideSlopes.org
www.StepTrek.org

Volunteers work to maintain War Memorial

SSSNA would like to thank Pius Street neighbors, Joe and Fran Tarkett who have volunteered to take care of the All Wars Memorial on Pius Street. Along with neighbor Carl Walsack who has been cutting the grass for years, Joe and Fran have cleaned up the weeds and planted bulbs so that next spring, the memorial will have a rainbow of colors to honor those who have served in all of our country's wars.

Thanks to Fran, Joe, and Carl.



SSSNA has gardens throughout the neighborhood at Barry and Josephine Street, Greeley and Josephine Street, 18th and Josephine Street triangle, Monastery and Brosville Streets, the 18th Street

Bend, and the Pius Street Memorial. We can always use help weeding, planting, trimming and mulching. It's a great way to get involved whenever you have a few free minutes.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help maintain one of these gardens, please contact info@southsideslopes.org.

18th Street Bend Garden gets much needed attention!

On November 1st, several SSSNA members worked with 40 community service volunteers provided by District Judge Gene Ricciardi. This garden, which was initially planted in 2000, has had limited tender loving care this summer. Through Elm Street it has had plans to be renovated for the past two years. A new planting plan was determined, but due to multiple roadblocks in the process related to the public stairway, those plans are on hold. We are ever grateful to the sleeves-up hard labor to tear out very strong weeds and apply a rich layer of mulch. The garden now shines! We are certain that you've noticed. Enjoy the photos taken by Janice Serra...



Thank you, volunteers!!!!
The Slopes truly shine and are ready to
look great all winter!



As you see it took many hands and
buckets!



Such a peaceful Autumn scene.



The rich brown mulch looks great with
the fall foliage.

As mentioned by Brad, there are many gardening opportunities such as planting, weeding, pruning, and winterizing. You can even simply take a bag to pick up garden litter. SSSNA has six formal gardens and several informal gardens.



Board of Directors!

The 2008 Board Members are...

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Denise Fillip	2008 (new!)
Peter Kreuthmeier	2007-present
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Peggy Sullivan	2008-present
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address 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...

South Side Park Green space – As discussed at the October ES Committee meeting, Skelly and Loy were invited to attend the October SSSNA General Meeting. Joe Romano attended and updated the community on the project. Skelly and Loy have now completed field work and are working on draft final report. Next steps: set up meeting with interested ES Committee members and Skelly and Loy to discuss next phase of the project. Judy has also put them in touch with a one time resident of the area who may be able to provide more historical information.

Public Staircase Repairs – As reported last month, Judy will coordinate a meeting with Michael Baker, Corp. and interested ES Committee members to review the GIS data on the staircase inspection project.

Neighborhood Mailing – Judy repeated her request that any returned envelopes be given to South Side LDC to maintain an accurate mailing list.

Neighborhood Survey – Survey responses have been tabulated and will be emailed to ES Committee members for their review.

Craft Fair: South Side Community Council is sponsoring a Craft Fair at the South Side Market House on Saturday,

December 6th from 11 AM to 4 PM. Following discussion it was decided for the Elm Street Committee to participate. Brad requested that those willing to volunteer get in touch with Outreach Committee members Misi and Dawn.

Welcome to the Neighborhood Product

– Judy reported that design of the tote bags is still incomplete, but that tote bags should be ordered in time for use at two events in December – Craft Fair and SSSNA Holiday Party. Judy will work with Image and Identity Committee on the design and vote for final approval with all ES Committee members will take place via email.

PDC Community Safety Initiative Grant

– Judy reported that she met with Design Committee members Brad and Peter to discuss this project. Dean Contracting and Michael Baker Corp. have been contacted. Dean has been asked to provide an estimate for the repair of the South 18th Street staircase columns. Should the estimate fall within the range provided in the Michael Baker study, Dean's contract will be amended to include this project. Volunteers did considerable amounts of work at the South 18th garden site. It was decided that no new planting will be done until staircase part of the project is complete.

Five Year Plan Update –PPND is requiring all ES districts to evaluate and modify their five year business plans by the end of the year. Each of the five ES sub-committees will work to update the business plan. Josette Fitzgibbons, URA ES Manager, has agreed to assist in this task. It was decided to use the December 3rd ES Committee meeting to focus on Sustainable Organization's five year plan.

Neville Ice Arena – We continue to receive inquiries from private developers

for possible reuse of the arena facility. Following discussion it was decided that the Elm Street Committee would like to tour the facility to get a better sense of its condition and possible ideas for its future.

Judy Dyda



Step Trek Committee...

Please enjoy the photos taken on October 5th!



Setting up in the morning





UPMC South Side volunteers – Thanks!
We are grateful to have such a perfect site
for our event each year.



MeetIn.org came to Trek it out!



Honorary Chairperson Councilman Bruce Kraus speaks about the two City Council proclamations awarded to SSSNA on 10/2. One to celebrate SSSNA's 10 years as a community organization and another to celebrate StepTrek and Bev Boggio's volunteer efforts.

The proclamations concluded;
“Now, therefore be it further resolved,
that October 2, 2008 be named as ***South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association Day*** in the City of Pittsburgh” and the other “that Sunday, October 5th, 2008 shall be known as ***Beverly Boggio Day*** in the City of Pittsburgh.” We will post the full proclamations with the two SSSNA had received in prior years on the website as a part of our rich archival history. These are incredible accomplishments and honors! Bev says that October 5th should have been StepTrek Day instead.



Jerry Dettore, representing Michael Baker Corporation – our Presenting Sponsor, said a few words to send the Trekkers on there way. This year's StepTrek Band (in the background) was Movin' On. See their Bio on our website. They were fantastic! Thanks for the use of the audio equipment. Ciccola family below.





Dennis Berry, Margurette Sokol & DeAnn Berry

The fruit was all donated and free to the Trekkers. The watermelon is from Tom Ayooob and they have supported us in this way for the past 8 years. The bananas and oranges are from Jordan Banana.



Bev with Mr. Jordan when the fruit was picked up.



Matt Schaefer, John Radcliffe, Bruce Kraus & Brad Palmisiano – all smiles!



A crowd of Steelers fans listening to the band. Steelers played that night!



Elvio Viana in charge of the fruit table.



Bev & her childhood friend Bob Timney who was SSSNA's former "web guy". Bob and his wife Patty came in from State College to enjoy the full Trek day. They are hooked on being annual Trekkers. We will see them every year.



Matt with one of the Crossing Guards



Trekkers on Sterling



A crowd takes in the view of town.



Johno's Studio had >300 visitors



A family at the Monastery water stop



Janice meeting Trekkers and selling tees



The fruit table is always popular

www.StepTrek.org

Many Trek photos...



DeAnn & Mary Burres take 5



The massage station on the Black Route



Back to Trekking on a gorgeous day



Lots of dogs were Trekking this year



Dogs of all sizes! (Jack on the left)



Once again, the St. Paul of the Cross Monastery was open for quiet reflection. Fr. Don shared the history with Trekkers.

These are only a few of the great photos to capture that day. We will continue them in December's *Slopes News* along with a descriptive article about the success of the day as well as a recap of the tremendous support of our sponsors. There is so much to show and tell. Thank you, all!

StepTrek Prep 10/4!



Brad giving the vines above the mural a much needed trim.



Clean up was key on the day before. Fr. Don, DeAnn, Elvio, Bob & Betty, Matt – Joe B, Joe C, and Bev not pictured.



Although it does not look like it, Peggy Sullivan and Bev Boggio are attempting to lock the Port-O-John, the night before. See – you have no idea how much detail goes into making the Trek happen!

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!

Membership News...

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 2009

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

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 11/15) please email SSSNAPgh@gmail.com so that you can receive our updates. Enjoy!



South Side Slopes
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***Meeting Tuesday, November
18th***

The Guest Speaker is Police
Commander Catherine
McNeilly. This is a great
opportunity to meet our new
Zone 3 Commander. Join us
at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery, 148
Monastery Street.



Thank you to our Sponsors...

