



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Slopes News

January 2008  
Volume 10 Issue 1  
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano  
Vice President: Misi Bielich

Treasurer: Joe Balaban  
Secretary: Claudia Hart

## Next Meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>

Patrick Ford will be the guest speaker at our January general meeting. Mr. Ford is the Executive Director of the City of Pittsburgh URA (Urban Redevelopment Authority) and has worked in the City of Pittsburgh as Planning Director, Zoning Administrator, and as the Director of Community and Economic Development.

He will be talking about what the URA does to help revitalize our community, any programs that are available to our residents, and how we as a community group can and should be involved in the redevelopment of our neighborhood.

Everyone is encouraged to submit questions or items they would like to hear Mr. Ford talk about ahead of time by emailing SSSNA President, Brad, at [brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org](mailto:brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org).

You need not be a member to attend. Light refreshments are available. Please join us at 7:00pm, Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Party 12/11...

Thanks to Janice Serra for organizing! Enjoy the photos on every page...



## Meeting Schedule 2008!

January 8<sup>th</sup>

\*February 5<sup>th</sup>

March 11<sup>th</sup>

\*April 1<sup>st</sup>

May 13<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup>

July 8<sup>th</sup> – *Picnic in Dining Room*

August – no meeting

September 9<sup>th</sup>

\*October 7<sup>th</sup>

November 11<sup>th</sup>

December 16<sup>th</sup> – *Christmas Party in Dining Room*

\* denotes not a second Tuesday

## What you missed 11/13!

The following is an article by Fr. Don Ware about the November meeting details. Due to space issues for December, it was saved for the January newsletter.

Board president Brad Palmisiano began the monthly meeting by recognizing the elected official present, City Councilman Elect Bruce Kraus. About 30 neighbors attended this monthly meeting.

SSSNA Board member Joe Ciccola, chairperson of the Beautification Committee, updated those present on our community gardens at Greeley, Barry, Brosville, and South 18th Streets which are now set for the winter.

Bev Boggio then gave a brief summary of our Step Trek endeavors last month. We had at least 500 people register and a number of last minute participants. The

on-line registration made this event more accessible, but had a couple glitches which needed attention. The book of maps by Bob Kripp was excellent. Perfect weather for the event made it even more enjoyable. Misi Bielich coordinated a great corps of volunteers, including a number of new folks. These volunteers exhibited wonderful spirit of neighborliness and hospitality. The Mayor and his wife stopped by to show their support. All in all the Step Trek was successful. A big thank you goes to Bev for all of her efforts in planning and coordinating this annual event.

Bruce Kraus then addressed those attending, highlighting the South Side Chamber of Commerce's South Side Light Up Night on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Then he alerted us about the Public Hearing on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at City Council Chamber regarding the "permanent encroachment" issue on Carson Street...sidewalk cafés and permanent barriers.

Judy Dyda, Elm Street manager, outlined what Elm Street funding is being used on now and next year:

- Finish details at the newly renovated Pius Street War Monument.
- Hire a firm to analyze the South Side Park ice arena to determine if it can be rehabilitated. (The proposals for other uses of this arena and building were rejected by the City.)
- Have an engineering firm study the "Steps" on the Slopes to determine what needs to be repaired and the cost.
- Work on the South 18<sup>th</sup> St corridor to the Slopes, from Josephine St. to Mission St. including across the Mission Street Bridge. We will hire

a firm to work on a design for this corridor, within reasonable budget constraints.

- Three new recycling/trash cans have been purchased for S 18<sup>th</sup> St, at the Steps, Pius and Mission Streets.

Brad then organized the attendees into four "interest groups" to surface issues and ideas for the Board to focus on in the New Year. These four working groups corresponded to four Committees. The chair of each Committee facilitated the participants interested in that area of discussion. Misi Bielich led Outreach, Joe Ciccola facilitated Beautification, Paul Lorincy guided Cleanups and Safety, and Brad Palmisiano led Zoning, Housing and City Services. A number of issues and ideas surfaced which the Board will now work on for next year's planning and implementation agenda.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)

Check out the most recent updates to our website! Exciting information and frequent updates are there to see. Our site had many hits leading up to the StepTrek. We are getting new members each day.

## More Party Photos!



Great food and conversation!



Tony, Dennis, Susan, & Joan.



Judy, Al, Fr. Don, Patty, Misi, Brad, Ken, Bruce & Josie.



Kathryn, Lillian & Jane having fun!



Joe, Neil, Jean, Kay, Peggy & Laura.

*The only bit of 'business' was that several volunteer awards given to just a few of the hardworking volunteers:*



*Judy Dyda* with presenters Misi & Brad for her Elm Street & Trek volunteer work.



*Bruce Kraus* volunteering year after year for cleanups, gardens, & StepTrek.



*Ronald Lotz* (with Bev) for always helping prepare for meetings, cleanups & StepTrek volunteering.



*Jean Palmisiano* for above and beyond with feeding StepTrek volunteers.



And our Pro-bono Attorneys *Albert Peterlin and Louis Long* (not pictured) for accomplishing our 501(c)(3) work.

## **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
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](mailto:firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org) or through the website.

## **Committees 2008!**

The following are the 2008 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

<b>Beautification</b>	Joe Ciccola
<b>Cleanups &amp; Safety</b>	Paul Lorincy
<b>Elm Street</b>	Fr. Don Ware
<b>Finance &amp; Development</b>	Joe Balaban
<b>Housing &amp; Zoning</b>	Brad Palmisiano
<b>Outreach</b>	Misi Bielich
<b>StepTrek</b>	Bev Boggio



You gotta love kids & cake! (Cole)

## **Committee Reports:**

### ***Elm Street Committee***



**South 18th Streetscape Design RFP** - Judy distributed copies of the RFP for review. Selected design firm will conduct two community input sessions then use information to prepare and present draft design plan at a third community meeting. Project schedule is not to exceed three months. RFP also states that selected firm will only incorporate designs that can reasonably be expected to be completed with available Elm Street funds. Design firm must also identify potential additional funding sources. Peter recalled that Pfaffmann may have already undertaken a similar design project for the Slopes. Judy will try to verify this. Following discussion, it was decided to send out the RFP.

**Public Staircase Inspection RFP** - Judy distributed copies of the RFP for review. Selected engineering firm will conduct existing conditions inspections on 18 public staircases, including the South 18th Street staircase, in the Elm Street district. Inspection will include columns, treads, and railings. Selected firm will provide a final report that includes maintenance recommendations and estimated maintenance costs that is prioritized based on assessed risk. Following discussion, it was decided to send out the RFP.

**Neville Ice Arena** - The City has rejected all responses to their RFP for re-use of the Neville Ice Arena. Judy and Rick Belloli met with Citiparks Director Duane Ashley to discuss next steps. It was decided that an existing conditions analysis of the rink was needed before a decision could be made about the future of the structure.

Following discussion it was decided to use Elm Street funds to hire a firm to conduct an existing conditions analysis of the Neville Ice Arena.

**2008 Meeting Schedule** - The committee discussed remaining with the current practice of Elm Street Committee meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM at the South Side LDC offices.

**Additional Grant Opportunities:** Judy reported that SSSNA application for a PPND Mini-Grant (for organizational capacity) was not selected.

**Pius Street Monument** – There are concerns about the fence installation which is being worked out with Lux Ornamental Iron, who fabricated and installed it. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the painting of the fence and the flagpole and a suggestion to purchase a new flagpole. Judy will work out the details.

**Good Neighbor Booklet** - Draft language was provided to Image and Identity committee in November for comment and feedback. Final product will be completed, but not published, before the end of 2007.

**Facade Loan/Grant Program** - Materials outlining a proposed program were distributed to committee for review. Program approval will be on the January Elm Street Committee meeting agenda. Peter agreed to serve on the design guidelines development committee.

**Budget Revision** - Judy reported that the URA hopes to have the amended contracts ready for the Elm Streets Managers' quarterly meeting on December 14th.

**Monastery/Brosville Gateway Garden** - Lights were installed by a neighbor but are not working. Father Don will speak

with the neighbor and Judy will determine the location of an electrical source. Peter presented an idea for a wrapped signage that is not pixilated but cut out. Committee was very pleased with the concept and asked Peter to proceed with design that would take into consideration the neighborhood's identification with public staircases. *Judy Dyda 12/07*

*More Christmas Party photos...*



Mark, with Peter & Tracy



Betty, Kay, Frank, Kathleen, DeAnn & Joan above. Tom, Karen & Elvio below.



SSSNA guests brought food for the Brashear Food Pantry and donated \$125.00 in cash, thank you!



Fred, Judy, Bobbie, Barbara & her granddaughter.



Patty won the Johnno 'Terry Bradshaw' print. Ken, Gene Ricciardi & Judy.



Holiday Cheer!

## Recycle News!

Bev Boggio spoke with Shawn Wigle of the City's Recycling Division recently. As you all know, we had a trial of expanded curbside recycling. Thanks to all who participated! Everyone in the City whose trash day is Thursday had the opportunity to put additional recycle items at the curb for 6 weeks until this week. The good news is that the recycle tonnage increased. Beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Central and Eastern neighborhoods will continue the practice. Over 2008 all of the City neighborhoods will be added. Mr. Wigle did not have the exact time frame for when the Slopes will be able to recycle the additional items. We will keep checking and let you know. In the mean time, the recycling drop off sites at Construction Junction and on Railroad Street in the Strip have dumpsters for magazines, catalogues, junk mail, office paper, cardboard & paperboard. In the future all recycle waste can be placed together in blue bags at the curb.

## Recycle your Tree!

For those of you who had a live tree for Christmas, you can place it on the curb in January to be recycled into mulch. On already designated recycle days in January, place your tree on the curb for pick up. Do not put it in a plastic bag. If you cannot wait until recycle day, trees on the curb will go to the landfill. Instead you can also take your tree to the designated drop off sites if you cannot make it until recycle day.

## Membership News...

### Please Pay 2008 Dues Now

Everyone's membership is due January 1<sup>st</sup>! With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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*

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](http://www.StepTrek.org)  
[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Or email us at [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Thanks!

## Last Chance for input to the South Side Neighborhood Plan

The South Side Neighborhood Plan is the official planning document for the entire community and must continue to be referred to in development and zoning decisions. The Plan was originally adopted by the South Side Planning Forum in June of 1990. At that time, the Forum acknowledged the need to regularly update the Plan in order to strengthen its credibility.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> revision. Residents, business owners, community leaders, community organizations and students have all been given an opportunity to be a part of the update process over this past year. Two town meetings, a workshop with the fourth and fifth grade students at Phillips Elementary School and a community-wide survey was sent to every resident and business owner in order to provide feedback.

This is the last opportunity to make comments before the DRAFT is finalized. A DRAFT form of the Plan is available on the SSLDC's home page located at <http://www.southsidepgh.com>

If you would like to make any further suggestions, please email Janice Serra at [Janice.Serra@southsideslopes.org](mailto:Janice.Serra@southsideslopes.org) or call 412-381-5855. Thank you for your involvement in making South Side a great place to live!!  
*Janice Serra*



Bev with old friend Mike Milberger.



Lots of smiles!



Janice, party organizer, with new friends.



Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Lotz.

*Thank you all for helping to make 2007 a successful year for SSSNA. We are glad to have such caring and vested neighbors, friends, and family. We look forward to an even more successful 2008! SSSNA will celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year this new year!*



South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
[www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**Please join us for the  
SSSNA Meeting  
Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00pm at the St. Paul of  
the Cross Monastery  
Retreat Center, 148  
Monastery.  
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

