



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

March 2007
Volume 9 Issue 3

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

Next Meeting March 20th

Kim Graziani, newly appointed City of Pittsburgh Director of Neighborhood Initiatives, will be our guest speaker for the March meeting, as February meeting was cancelled. She will be representing Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and gathering information from Slopes residents to take back to the Mayor's office. The new administration, as mentioned in the December newsletter, is very interested in meeting with neighborhood groups to better serve us. You are welcome to contact any Board member with questions in advance, that you would like to have addressed. More details on page 5.

February Meeting

The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. We were able to get it on the TV stations for the evening news! We would like to thank the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center for having us each month. The Board just began to hold the Board meetings there as a new monthly location.

Meeting Schedule 2007!

- *March 20th (3rd Tuesday)
- *April 11th (2nd Wednesday)
- May 8th
- *June 19th (3rd Tuesday)
- July 10th – Dining Room
- September 11th
- October 9th
- November 13th
- December 11th – Dining Room

April 11th Meeting is on a Wednesday!

We are planning a Candidate's Night for the April meeting as there are several important decisions to be made in May. Brad Palmisiano is the point person if you have questions.

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 2006!

The following are the 2006 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

Beautification	Joe Ciccola
Cleanups & Safety	Paul Lorincy
Elm Street	Fr. Don Ware
Finance & Development	Bev Boggio
Housing & Zoning	Brad Palmisiano
Outreach	Betty Kripp
StepTrek	Bev Boggio

We continue to update the website for you at www.SouthSideSlopes.org.

Let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas. New pages are being uploaded.

We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer as a greeter who will help folks find their way to the meeting. You should arrive at ~6:45pm. Call or email Bev.

Committee Reports:

Elm Street Committee

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the February 7th meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!

Community Gardens – Maria Riley again reviewed the construction documents with the committee. Following discussion it was approved that:

Monastery Garden: Final documents will upright wall, upright tree, and include GFCI access.

South 18th Garden: Repairs to the steps should be completed before any installation takes place. Scrim should then be installed, followed by planting.

Gateway Signage/Branding – Peter reviewed his conversations with Rick Landesberg of Landesberg Design. Landesberg has agreed to do design work pro-bono. Scrim will be the “big wow” and all other branding signage will be “cousins” to the scrim. Peter showed samples of possible metals to be used to construct the scrim. Following discussion, the committee decided to go with Cor-Ten. Judy reported that PA Downtown Center enthusiastically approved using funds from the Demonstration Grant to offset the cost of the scrim and other signage.

Footbridge Lighting – Repairs to the 15th Street footbridge fencing have been completed. Joe Balaban is working with Ben Carlise to have inspection completed and have 10th Street lights energized.

Litter Awareness Program – Judy reported that the Focus Area Survey is essentially complete. Most of the research was completed by SSLDC Coro Intern David Simon. David will work with PA Resources Council to ensure it meets their standards. Committee presented their selection of questions for the Community Attitude Survey. Survey will be mailed mid-to-late March. John gave a brief overview of Committee members’ meeting with new Graffiti Officers.

Additional Demonstration Grant Opportunities – Judy reported that PDC encourages application for Sidewalk Accessories even though Committee has not yet finished Litter Index Project. Father Don will present resolution at next SSSNA Board meeting. Judy distributed copies of additional Demonstration Grant applications for Committee to review. Committee can then decide which, if any, should be applied for.

Year 1 Budget Revision – Judy reported that a budget revision putting all \$47,600 of year one funding into the Gateway Gardens has been requested of the URA.

Year 2 Budget Revision – Judy reported that she would be meeting with the URA on February 9th to review the \$180,000 year two budget and make any necessary changes.

Year 3 funding application status – Judy reported that the initial application submitted by the URA for

year 3 funding has been rejected. DCED has decided Pittsburgh Elm Street districts must now compete for funding. She will keep Committee informed as things move forward. Judy distributed copies of each focus area's five year action plan to the appropriate Committee member and asked that they work with their particular committee to review, prioritize and/or update their action plans. Elm Street focus committees will be working with CTAC on strategic planning and this task.

PDC/URA Assessment – Judy reported that the PDC and URA would like to conduct South Side Slopes Elm Street assessment. Ultimately, this meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Volunteer Recruitment Training with URA – Bev Boggio and Judy Dyda attended the work session on February 13th.

Garden Planting!

Mark your calendar's now! SSSNA's two Western Pennsylvania Conservancy gardens will be planted in May. We need all of the volunteers that we can get.

Josephine and Barry Street Garden

Saturday, May 12th

then

Josephine and Greeley Street Garden

Saturday, May 26th

Please join us! We need your help to beautify the Slopes.

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 will be your last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

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

2007 Memberships – Thank You!

Misi Bielich

Ken Bombara

William DelVecchio

Genevieve Hartz

Jay Keenan

Betty & Bob Kripp

Nancy McClusky

Ray Mendrola

Wanda Pokora

John K. Schaefer

Roberta Stackawitz

Joseph & Penny Stafura

Ralph & Alberta Stoughton

Patricia & Ted Todd

Robert & Nancy Wadsworth

Rebecca White & Jeff Frazier

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 _____

StepTrek Committee

The StepTrek Committee had a very productive meeting on March 6th. The crew is ready to organize StepTrek 2007. Everyone at the meeting signed on for another year. Tasks were divided. The committee waits each year for the Steeler schedule to come out to choose a date, which won't compete with a game. Sponsors, theme, Honorary Chairperson, and date are yet to be chosen. We are sticking with a Sunday from noon to 4pm in late September or early October. We talked about the successes of 2006, and what we can improve.

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 3/17) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates. SSSNA does not share the eblast list, nor do we email jokes!

Mark Your Calendar!

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

Typically, the meetings are held on the second Tuesday. In 2007 there are three meetings that do not follow this pattern due to a scheduling conflict at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center.

!!March 20th, 7:00pm – 3rd Tuesday

!!April 11th, 7:00pm – 2nd Wednesday

May 8th, 7:00pm

!!June 19th, 7:00pm – 3rd Tuesday

July 10th, 7:00pm**

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

!! denotes not on the second Tuesday

STOREXPRESS.

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! Rudberg Law Office is located at 1105 E. Carson Street. Attorneys Don and Signe Rudberg are Slopes residents and SSSNA members. Volunteers will be given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. Thank you, Rudberg Law, very much!

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.

501(c)3 Application

The application to the IRS for nonprofit status was made in 2006. We received notification of the need for more detailed information, recently. Working with SSSNA's pro-bono attorneys, the required information was sent to the IRS. This process can take from 90 days to a year to complete. We have met each hurdle as it has come. We continue to be considered a non-profit through our umbrella agreement with South Side Local Development Company.

March 20th Meeting

The SSSNA Board has recently discussed a plan for the next meeting. In order to give the most audience members the opportunity to ask questions, the following plan is in place. If you do not take the opportunity to email or call with questions for Kim Graziani in advance, we ask that you sign up when you arrive at the meeting and put your name on the "Question List". The people on the list will be asked to speak in order. As it is each time representatives of the City attend, many folks have questions and concerns. We will plan one minute for each question to be asked, allowing 5 minutes for follow up. We do this to give time for everyone who has a question to have a chance to present it. We will have forms available to be filled out during the meeting if you have a specific concern, for example broken steps, clogged catch basin, potholes, etc. This way, Kim can take the forms back with her and have them addressed and it will allow for more global concerns to be discussed.

We hope that this format will be helpful and allow for the best use of everyone's evening. We hope to have an open and productive exchange. Thanks!

Mural Application 2007

It's mural time again! The Sprout Fund will soon release details about applying for its annual public art program. The SSSNA has applied for this program in the past, but so far has not succeeded in winning a mural for the neighborhood. Our biggest challenge has been finding a suitable wall for the mural. The wall must be in a highly visible area, and have a surface that's suitable for painting. The owner of the wall must give his or her permission. If you have any ideas for walls we could use, please e-mail Kate.Fink@southsideslopes.org.

You can see examples of murals the Sprout Fund has already done at sproutfund.org/publicart. And expect to hear more details at SSSNA meetings between now and March! *Kate Fink*

The Mural Application is due March 23rd, so let us know ASAP if you have an idea at the March 20th meeting.

For detailed coverage of SSSNA meetings, please read Margie Smykla's article in the South Pittsburgh Reporter! The Reporter is a free weekly paper available throughout South Side and South Pittsburgh.

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

SSSNA has been working on upgrades to our website. We hope to unveil a new look with more real-time updates. It is very exciting and full of photos!

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!

Please join us for our next meeting on the **3rd Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 148 Monastery**
[enter from St. Paul St.]
See inside for details!

Thank you to our Sponsors...

