



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

March 2008
Volume 10 Issue 3
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Misi Bielich

Treasurer: Joe Balaban
Secretary: Paul Lorincy

Next Meeting March 11th

Please join SSSNA for the next meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. We will have a working meeting and need to have YOUR input. It is critical to have as many people there as possible. Klavon Design Associates, Inc. will be at the meeting to gather ideas from Slopes neighbors about the 18th Street corridor. You can read more about the Elm Street initiative in the committee report. The idea is to brainstorm ideas of how we want the 'look' of the streetscape throughout the Slopes. This will be a template for all of the Slopes improvements so that there will be a thoughtful plan that is consistent. The follow up for the results of this meeting will be at our April 1st meeting.

We will also have a group of Duquesne University students at the meeting to inform us of their doing a Service Learning Project in South Side Park. As you know, South Side Park is a 64 acre park bordered by 18th Street in the South Side Slopes. The class project scope will include clean up as well as signage for the currently unmarked trail heads and along the trails. They intend to walk throughout the park on April 19th and are seeking volunteers. It is exciting to know that our issues are recognized at the University level and will be addressed.

You need not be a member to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

Board Changes...

Due to a career change, Dr. Claudia Hart will be moving out west. She has been a very hard working SSSNA member for 8 years! She probably single-handedly ensured that the section of Josephine Street where she stewards trees remained litter free, with the brick sidewalk weed free. She was elected to the SSSNA Board in 2002, later serving on the Executive Board as Treasurer and most recently Secretary. Claudia and her brother Cornelius have consistently helped to make StepTrek a huge success! She lives in the Slopes and has a store "Hart's" at 1905 E. Carson Street. She will be missed. Thank You, Claudia for all that you've done to make this neighborhood clean and green!

The Board is pleased to announce that Peggy Sullivan has accepted the vacant Board position. Peggy has lived in Pittsburgh her whole life. She went to Duquesne University for business. She works as the controller for a real estate property management company. After renting on the flats for 4.5 years previously, she bought her house in August of '98. She joined SSSNA shortly thereafter. She most recently had joined the StepTrek Committee last Fall. Welcome to the Board, Peggy!

Also, congratulations to Paul Lorincy for becoming Board Secretary at the February Board meeting. Welcome to the Executive Committee.

Duquesne University
partners with Graffiti Watch
to Identify Graffiti

DETAILS: On Saturday, March 8th, Duquesne University in collaboration with the South Side Graffiti Watch group will take to the streets of the South Side identifying graffitied properties. The students volunteering are a part of Keep It Clean South Side, an adopt-a-block created by Duquesne University and the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC). "The goal of this Saturday's event is to locate as many graffitied properties in the South Side as we can," said Sarah Alessio, Program Specialist at PRC and member of the Graffiti Watch group. "We will use this information to help us target locations for graffiti removal during the Spring Cleanup which will take place on April 19th." The students will not only be identifying graffitied locations, but will also be distributing educational information to the owners of these graffitied properties. The information will include Graffiti Busters removal forms and a "how to" guide for residents to help them report and remove graffiti on their property.

The Graffiti Watch group aims at working with community members to achieve the goal of removing and preventing graffiti on the South Side. Members of the graffiti watch committee include: City Councilman Bruce Kraus, representatives from the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, the South Side Community Council, the Pennsylvania Resources Council, board members from the South Side Local Development Company and the Brashear Association and community members from both the South Side Flats and

Slopes. To date the group has organized one paint out event, distributed hundred's of educational flyers, and are working with the City of Pittsburgh's graffiti busters on a coordinated effort to get graffiti removed from masonry walls and structures.

For more information on the March 8th event or how you can get involved in graffiti prevention efforts, please contact Sarah Alessio at 412.431.4449 ext. 236 or at saraha@ccicenter.com.

Meeting Schedule 2008!

March 11th

***April 1st**

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th – Picnic in Dining Room

August – no meeting

September 9th

***October 7th**

November 11th

December 16th – Christmas Party in Dining Room

* denotes not a second Tuesday

South Side
Neighborhood Plan...

The member organizations of the South Side Planning Forum will be meeting on March 11th to make a final approval of the South Side Neighborhood Plan. Please take some time to review it before it is finalized. Your feedback is appreciated. 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 or call 412-381-5855. Thank you for your involvement in making South Side a great place to live!!

What you missed 2/12!

Our SSSNA Board President, Brad Palmisiano, introduced the elected officials present which were Bruce Kraus, City Councilman District 3, and Eugene Ricciardi, District Justice for our area. Also present was Neil Parham, representative of the Mayor's Office.

Brad introduced Ms. Tiffani Emig from the *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area* out of Homestead. Ms. Tiffani explained the purpose of *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area* – to gather and preserve the heritage of our great city...its stories, its sights, its struggles and its successes over the years. This includes stories of our immigrants and ethnic organizations. This is accomplished by Pittsburgh's people telling their stories on tape and on film, and sending in pictures of their neighborhoods, past and present. The *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area* will then sponsor exhibits, a catalogue, pod casts and curriculums for our schools, along with Archive... so that our heritage is not lost in the fog of the past.

Brad Palmisiano then asked for Committee Reports of Board members present. Joe Ciccola reported that Beautification Committee is getting ready for our Spring plantings. Fr. Don Ware reported that Elm Street is proceeding with several projects, including an engineering study of our Steps, further work on our gateway Brosville & Monastery Avenue garden, and ongoing work on the South 18th Street gateway corridor. Brad reported on the progress of the development planned for 13th Street & Sarah Street Janice Serra, our representative at the South Side Planning Forum, alerted us to the ongoing update of the South Side Neighborhood Plan. To

see the plan go to the SSLDC website... www.southsidepgh.com.

Brad then announced that Claudia Hart, SSSNA Board member, is moving out of the city soon. We want to thank Claudia for her time and effort as part of our neighborhood Board. The Board will replace her according to our by-laws.

Our Councilman Bruce Kraus then held an informal and informative discussion regarding topics of interest to our neighborhood. These topics included:

- The Development taking place on 13th and Sarah Streets and the issues surrounding it.
- The SS Planning Forum process for developers planning construction in the South Side.
- Bruce's office will be notified of any development plans for the South Side and will alert the appropriate South Side entities.
- Concerns over Allentown and its challenges with which he is helping them – especially public safety issues.
- Bruce's ongoing concern with vandalism, graffiti and litter in our community.
- Landlord responsibility legislation.
- Ongoing concern with parking on the South Side, and possible solutions.

For a more detailed presentation of this informative session read the South Pittsburgh Reporter. *Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

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.

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
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Peggy Sullivan	2008
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org 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 18th Streetscape Design RFP
- Judy reported that proposals had been received from Pashek, Perkins Eastman, and Klavon. Interviews were conducted with Pashek and Klavon on February 7th. It was decided not to interview Perkins Eastman because their proposed budget was twice as high as the other two submissions. Peter, Bev, John served on the interview committee and were staffed by Judy. Josette Fitzgibbons was present for the Pashek interview. All proposals received were also

forwarded to entire committee for review. Following lengthy discussion of the two proposals, the contract was awarded to Klavon.

Public Staircase Inspection RFP -

Judy reported that proposals were received from Wilbur Smith and Michael Baker. Interviews were conducted on Monday, February 11. Peter, John and Kevin Hanley served on the interview committee and were staffed by Judy. Josette Fitzgibbons and Ryszard Janik (Department of City Planning) were also present for the interviews. The proposals were also forwarded to entire committee for review. Following discussion of the two proposals, the contract was awarded to Michael Baker.

Neville Ice Arena - Judy reported that South Side LDC will be forwarding a draft License Agreement and a draft RFP to the City for their review and approval. The License Agreement will give South Side LDC the right of access to the property to conduct an existing conditions analysis of the facility. The RFP will be sent to firms capable of conducting such an analysis. The goal was to have both sent to the City by the end of the week of February 18.

Good Neighbor Booklet - Judy reported that changes recommended by the ES committee are being incorporated into the text. South Side LDC intern Zack has been charged with translating City lighting standards into understandable language, which is proving to be more difficult than anticipated. SSLDC Marketing Manager Jen will be responsible for layout and graphics to prepare the booklet for publication.

Monastery/Brosville Gateway Garden Signage - Peter reported on progress of design and potential lighting options. Following discussion it was decided to put fabrication out to bid.

Additional neighborhood signage - Peter presented an idea that would incorporate elements of the Brosville sculpture design, using hillside housing images, to create pillar like sculptures to be placed at various key locations. Following discussion, Peter was asked to further flesh out the concept.

Welcome to Neighborhood Basket - Judy reminded committee that this project is a funding deliverable. Image and Identity committee members Misi and Dawn will set up a meeting to discuss project in the near future.

South Side Park Duquesne University Project - Judy reported that South Side resident and former South Side LDC Board member Evan Stoddard, had contacted her regarding a potential project for his graduate seminar class at Duquesne University. Evan was given a disk containing the South Side Park Master Plan which he shared with his students. Since then, several ES Committee members, and others have been receiving calls from a variety of students regarding their ideas for a class project. Following discussion, it was decided that one point person from the neighborhood should work with the students to make sure project conformed to park master plan and upcoming Elm Street projects. Janice volunteered for this task.

Judy Dyda

Safety & Cleanups...

Paul Lorincy wants everyone to get ready to clean up! Our first effort for 2008 will be on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00am to noon. We will meet at the Veronica's Veil Parking Lot at 66 Pius Street. All hands needed to get the Slopes picked up after this cold, damp winter!

More cleanup news...April 19th will be a South Side wide clean up in preparation for Earth Day! There will be more details to follow in next month's newsletter.

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

Beautification Committee

Joe Ciccola is working with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to set the date for the spring planting of our 2 WPC gardens. He is the Steward for the Barry & Josephine Street garden and Bev Boggio is the Steward for the Greeley & Josephine Street garden. Tools, watering systems and annuals are provided by WPC and we need to supply the volunteers. We will begin at 9:00am on a Saturday most likely in May. We will have more details when they are finalized. Keep in mind that the gardens need TLC all spring & summer long, so we welcome volunteers. *(photo below from 2002!)*



We will also be caring for our other gardens at the 18th Street bend, 18th and Josephine Street, Brosville & Monastery Avenue, and the Pius Street 'All Wars Memorial'. We could use your help May through October. Please contact Joe at Joe.Ciccola@SouthSideSlopes.org. Help to keep the Slopes green and beautiful!

Membership News...

Please Pay 2008 Dues Now

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.

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

Thank You!

2008 Member List...

- Irene Bagosi*
- Fred & Judy Berner*
- Bev & Terry Boggio*
- Ken Bombara*
- John Bond*
- Joan & Rege Burke*
- David Cahill, Jr.*
- Joe Ciccola*

- William Delveccio*
- Mary Dembski*
- Barb Denillo*
- Ed Fahrner*
- Toni Gorencz & David Oster*
- Claudia Hart*
- Cornelius Hart*
- Jerry Hays*
- Joseph & Emma Keenan*
- George Krauss*
- Brian Krivanek*
- Kathleen Kucerovy*
- Anthony & Dr. Nancy Lardo*
- Gert Loerlin*
- Clyde & Betty Lotz*
- Ronald Lotz*
- Beth Marcello*
- Rose Mazurek*
- Rev. James Mazurek*
- Nancy & Paula McClusky*
- Billie Michener*
- Mike Milberger*
- Tracy Myers*
- James Orkwis*
- Anne Pacak*
- Steve Pacak*
- Mark Power*
- Johno & Maria Prascak*
- Harry Readshaw*
- Pam Romeo*
- Christopher Seymour*
- Guy & Marguerette Sokol*
- Marian Speicher*
- Harry & Roberta Stackawitz*
- Alberta & Ralph Stoughton*
- Peggy Sullivan*
- Gertrude Szerszen*
- Patty & Ted Todd*
- Robert & Nancy Wadsworth*

**this list is as of January 31, 2008*

***Someone gave Bev cash for membership dues at the January meeting without a slip, if it was you and you are not on this list, please call Bev.*



Volunteer News...

SSSNA is celebrating its 10th year this fall. There have been hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours spent in the Slopes to make our neighborhood clean, safe and green! Thank you to the hundreds of people who have helped over the years. What is exciting and most of you may not know is that those volunteer hours translate in to dollars. For every volunteer hour spent in the community, it is estimated at a value of more that \$17 per hour. Not in “real” money, but when non-profit groups seek grant funding, these hours translate in to a virtual dollar amount. Did you know that SSSNA volunteers worked approximately 11,987 hours in 2007? We believe that we did not account for every hour. For 2008 we have a better tracking system. We need to hear from you. If you spend time picking up trash, cleaning graffiti, weeding the community gardens, please let us know. Those hours count. The structured events and meetings are documented (that is why we have you sign in), but individual efforts for Slopes improvements are not captured. We need every minute to count. What we need to know is the activity, when, how long, and how many people. For example: John Smith and his 2 daughters spent 1.5 hours picking up trash along Josephine Street. That translates in to 4.5 volunteer hours of litter pick up. Please email Bev Boggio of your hours, beginning January 1, 2008. Let’s beat last year’s numbers! *Thanks!*

Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org or 488-0486

*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!*

Thank You Sponsors!



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, LLC

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit! 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. They were also the Publication Sponsor for StepTrek 2007!

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 3/5) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates.

***Congratulations everyone
for 10 years of SSSNA!***



South Side Slopes
Neighborhood Association
PO Box 4248
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
www.StepTrek.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT NO 603

**Please join us for the
SSSNA Meeting
*Tuesday, March 11th at
7:00pm* at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery
Retreat Center, 148
Monastery. See inside for
details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

