



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

November 2007
Volume 9 Issue 11
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Misi Bielich

Treasurer: Joe Balaban
Secretary: Claudia Hart

Next Meeting 11/13...

The next meeting of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association will be on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. The speaker is to be announced. Many things have happened since the last meeting. StepTrek was a huge success. We will also be preparing for the Christmas Party next month. Included in this newsletter are several time sensitive announcements and updates. Please take a minute to read it and get caught up. Also listed below is our schedule for the 2008 meetings. You need not be a member to attend meetings. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments are served.

Meeting Schedule 2007!

November 13th

December 11th – *Dining Room*

Meeting Schedule 2008!

January 8th

*February 5th

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

What you missed 10/9!

Thirty neighbors met for our monthly SSSNA meeting in St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center Main Lounge. Board President Brad Palmisiano welcomed State Representative Harry Readshaw to the meeting. Brad then updated a number of items of interest:

- The Zoning Board hearing regarding Angel's Night Club on Josephine St. will be at 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 18th at 200 Ross Street. Neighbors are invited to express their concerns.
- Clean-up for Step Trek will continue at 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 13th. Volunteers will meet at 21st and Josephine Street.
- DeAnn Berry is spearheading the Monongahela Playground reconstruction efforts, with the full backing of SSSNA.
- Projects the SSSNA has been involved in during 2007 include a completion of safety lighting on the 10th St. footbridge, the designation of SSSNA as a 501 3c charitable organization, general cleanup efforts around the Slopes neighborhood, and Step Trek – these along with Elm Street projects.
- Projects for the year 2008 include Grants for safety lighting on the Mission Street steps from Mission Street to South Side Park, a

Sidewalk Grant for repair work at 25th and Josephine Streets, general clean up of Slopes neighborhood, and Elm Street projects.

The meeting next moved to Election of five Board members for 2 year terms. Kate Fink has finished her term and is not running. We thank Kate for her years of service on the Board. The five Board members elected unanimously were: Joe Ciccola, Matt Schaefer, Janice Serra, Fr. Donald Ware, and Peter Kreuthmeier (a new Board member).

Fr. Don Ware, Chairperson of Elm Street Committee, gave a brief update on Elm Street work. This includes renovation of the Pius Street All Wars Memorial, construction of the gateway garden at Brosville and Monastery Streets, a Grant for three garbage & recyclable cans at strategic spots in the Slopes, the Community Attitude Survey, a potential recycling area along Brosville Street, an engineering study of the South Side Park ice arena, and continued work on the 18th and Josephine St. garden, including an engineering study of the steps at the gateway garden on S 18th St., determining the cost of repairing the steps.

Janice Serra told the audience about the Forum meeting she had just come from. One major topic of discussion was the proposal by Matcon Diamond to build an Office Bldg on Carson near 29th Street. This development will no longer seek to close 29th St. However, other concerns are still to be addressed: the integrity of the design which should fit into the neighborhood, and parking. SSLDC is following up on these issues.

Bev Boggio gave an update on the Step Trek to take place on October 14th. She noted some of the sponsors, the brochure which will be given out, the

musical program at the sign-in on at the UPMC South Side parking lot on 21st & Josephine Streets, and Cynthia Cooley's art that is an integral part of the Step Trek, featured on the tee shirts.

Johno Prascak has offered a print of "The Chief" to be raffled and his studio is on the Gold Route. The Meeting was adjourned by 7:50 PM. *By Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

Below: Hon. Harry Readshaw and Mike Janesko at the October meeting.



December 11th Christmas Party Plans

IT'S PARTY TIME! We're excited to have our Annual Holiday Party at St. Paul's Retreat on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00pm. This is a fun time to relax and chat with neighbors, sing Christmas music and enjoy a great buffet of food. We have an open door policy so you need not be a member and we encourage you to bring family and friends. SSSNA will provide a selection of food and beverages, but if you would like to contribute, feel free to bring whatever you want...drinks, desserts, appetizers. If you'd like to help set up or if you have any questions please feel free to contact Janice Serra at jserra@southsideslopes.org or (412)381-5855. We look forward to celebrating with you!! Johno is donating a print.

Kreuthmeier Elected as Newest SSSNA Board Member



In an election held at the October general meeting, Slopes resident and architect Peter Kreuthmeier was elected as the newest board member of the SSSNA.

"As an architect and a citizen of the neighborhood, my interest in the South Side Slopes is both personal and public," said Peter. "Personal because I live here, and public because I am happy to share my passion for the built environment."

A successful architect and principal at Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, an award-winning Pittsburgh-based firm with a focus on design and technical quality, Peter brings a collaborative view of how to create meaningful improvements in the Slopes neighborhood. He currently serves on the Elm Street Committee, offering his extensive background in design and construction to help guide the building of the recently dedicated Brosville garden at the intersection with Monastery St.

Asked for his vision of the neighborhood, Peter half jests, "To out-cool Mt. Washington." He added, "What's interesting to me about the Slopes is how 19th and 20th century settlement patterns have been superimposed on this amazing

topography, leading to a unique neighborhood with steps instead of streets, houses sprinkled on the wooded hillsides, and picturesque views to, from, and within the community.

Emphasizing the attributes of the Slopes neighborhood, Peter sees the benefits of making what is good, or not so good, about it better, while maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood.

In his new role as board member, Peter will be able to continue his efforts to bring positive change to the neighborhood. Known to roll up his sleeves and get involved, he is a welcome addition to the Slopes board. And based on his philosophy of collaboration, he'll inform as well as raise questions in the process of addressing the issues facing the Slopes neighborhood. *Joe Balaban*

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
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

Committee Reports:

StepTrek Committee



We are very grateful to the Sponsors for StepTrek 2007! Thank You!

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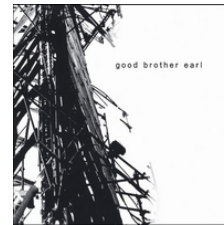
Cynthia Cooley



www.CynthiaCooley.com

Musical Guest

Good Brother Earl



<http://goodbrotherearl.com>

It was a beautiful day for the StepTrek. Blue sky and sunshine helped to welcome Trekkers to the Slopes. There were more than 500 visitors to our neighborhood. We are still collecting data for the numbers. We had approximately 300 register online through Active.com. This was our first year with online registration and that is a good number. We learned a great deal in the process. Once again, the tee shirt art was wonderful and captured the beauty of our neighborhood! We are so lucky to have such talented artists to memorialize the Slopes. We were lucky to have Author Bob Regan, who partnered with us for the very first StepTrek in 2000, join us to sign his book "The Steps of Pittsburgh, Portrait of a City". Thank you to all of our many hard-working volunteers! Bev will have a report at the SSSNA meeting.

Beautification Committee

Saturday, November 10th at 9am, we will pull out the two WPC gardens along Josephine Street at Barry & Greeley Sts.

Elm Street Committee



Monastery/Brosville

Gateway Garden – Ribbon cutting has been scheduled for Saturday, October 6th, at 11:30 following a neighborhood clean-up and one week prior to the Step Trek. Ceremony will be kept simple. Refreshments will be served. Vento is aware of the event and according to Klavon is working to make sure all aspects of his work are complete.

South 18th Street Steps – Judy reported that in conversation with the URA and with DPW, it was suggested that ES funds be used to hire an engineering firm to determine the exact condition of the steps and to obtain a realistic estimate for the cost of repairs. Following discussion, it was decided to pursue hiring an engineering firm to do a formal evaluation of the South 18th Street steps.

Pius Street Monument – Ornamental fencing has been installed, but needs to be painted. Judy reported that Duquesne Light Company has a program that may provide the funding to light the flagpole. Following discussion, it was decided to hire a painter to paint both the ornamental fence and the flagpole, and to apply to Duquesne Light Company for assistance in lighting the flagpole.

Proposed change in meeting day and time: Due to changes in some committee members' schedules, it was decided to move the November ES Committee meeting to coincide with the date of the SSSNA Board meeting on November 20th.

Budget Revision – Judy reported that she and South Side LDC Executive

Director Rick Belloli had met with the URA about the proposed revision. The URA will be amending all ES contracts to reflect cost categories used by the State. These are very broadly defined and will allow us to move forward with projects without having to continually amend the contract. Contract revision will also include an additional \$20,000 of funds that can be used for marketing activities. A meeting with the Image and Identity/Outreach committee will be scheduled to discuss marketing strategies.

Demonstration Grants – Judy reported reimbursement checks had been received from PDC for the trash cans, the Real Estate Academy, and the Urban Tree Tending seminar. Funds for the Gateway Signage project revert to the State in June of 2008. Committee agreed to be more aggressive in moving signage project forward.

Additional Grant Opportunities: Judy reported that applications for a Community Connections Grant (for historic photographic signage) and a PPND Mini-Grant (for organizational capacity) have been submitted. Notification should occur at the end of October.

Community Attitude Survey: Committee agreed to continue efforts to generate 10% response rate to PDC survey. Bev reported that 200 copies were mailed with the October SSSNA newsletter. Father Don reported that he intends to pass them out following services. Surveys will also be provided at Brosville Ribbon cutting, SSSNA general meeting, and at Step Trek.

Potential Recycling Project: Judy reported that she will be meeting with Ben Carlise at the Brosville lot to discuss the potential for development of the site as a recycling drop off location. She will also be taking a list of other DPW related tasks/requests including the location of the new combination trash/recyclable cans and the possibility of streetscape improvements at the South 18th Street Pius/Mission Streets intersection which John reminded Committee members had been part of last month's discussions. Committee recommends that existing trash cans be relocated to other areas in the Slopes and be completely removed from the neighborhood.

New Playground: Brad brought the discussion of a new playground for the neighborhood to the attention of the Committee. Since the proposed location is not in the Elm Street district, ES funds cannot be used for its construction. However, Committee discussed supporting the proposal and working with DPW to use ES funds for a DPW project in the ES district in order to free potential funds for use towards the playground. Judy will add this to her list for discussion with Ben Carlise.



Crowd for the October 6th Ribbon Cutting



Elm Street Committee members (L-R) Joe Ciccola, Fr. Don Ware, Dawn Lorincy, Bev Boggio and Brad Palmisiano about to cut the ribbon at the Monastery garden/

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 11/7) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates.

SSSNA Works on 2008 Budget

Each autumn, the separate committees of the SSSNA put together their budget projections for the coming fiscal year. Whether it's Beautification, Outreach or any of the other standing committees, the budget takes into consideration expected programs and initiatives that may be executed over the coming 12 months. In addition, the prior year's expenses generally serve as a guide to help plan for the coming year. The chairpersons submit these initiatives and an estimate of their costs as part of their overall plan for the committee.

The SSSNA executive committee reviews all budgets. Questions may be asked to help in understanding the plans and needs of the individual committee. In the process, there may be tweaks to the submitted budgets before an overall budget is put before the board for a final vote. The process is meant to capture the

goals of the committees, while keeping costs under control.

SSSNA is diligent with expenses and operates within the revenue projections of each year. The main source of income is the annual StepTrek. Some of the larger fixed expenses include the newsletter and board insurance. The cost of mailing had always been another large expense, but since SSSNA became a 501 (C) 3 organization, the cost of mailing dropped by approximately 60% due to the discount afforded non-profit organizations.

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.

SSSNA Membership 2007

Please mail \$5 to:

SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203

Or bring it to the next meeting

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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!

Recycle Electronics 11/14!

Are you looking to **dispose of one or more personal electronic devices**, but don't know how? The Garden Club of Allegheny County is holding an Outdated Electronics Collection and Disposal on Wednesday, November 14th and Friday Nov 16th from 2 pm to 6:30 pm in E.V. Bishoff's Technology Center at 322 Forth Avenue, downtown. All electronic devices will be accepted including: **calculators, radios, computers, laptops, printers, cell phones, fax machines, telephones, CD and DVD players, VCR's, batteries, & ink cartridges.** Tee shirts will be given to those who bring in electronic devices.

If you cannot go yourself, please bring the items to the SSSNA meeting this Tuesday, November 13th. Bev Boggio will take them for recycling (of course) on the 14th. Or, if you can't make the meeting, contact Bev, as listed above before November 13th.

More recycling...

Did you know that the Downtown YMCA recycles tennis shoes? They do, take yours. <http://ymcaofpittsburgh.org>

Thank You Sponsors!





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

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**Please join us for the
SSSNA Meeting
Tuesday, November 13th at
7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Monastery
Retreat Center, 148
Monastery.
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

