

SSSNA General Meeting Minutes

02/18/14

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery

7 PM

Present: see separate sign-in list

1. Brian Oswald, President. Introductions & thanks to political leaders present: State Rep. Erin Molchany, Bob from Rep. Harry Readshaw's office, Judge Gene Ricciardi, City Planner Ashley Holloway, Grant Gittlen from Mayor Peduto's office.

Grant: The Mayor wants to be engaged w/ community groups. Q: Still use 311? A: Yes. We are improving the back end of the service. Q: Guy Costa is Chief Operating Officer for the City? A: Y. Mike Gable coming on as head of DPW—still needs Council approval. Q: Is ServePGH continuing? A: Y. Love Your Block grant application period closing soon. Civic Leadership Academy continues. Snow Angels program continues—city promotes but program is run through United Way. Call 211 for more info. [Brian Oswald recognizes Bruce Kraus, Council President, has arrived and asks him to speak.]

Bruce Kraus: The Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) will be involved with Pittsburgh for a third year, to implement the first two years' recommendations. Night Time Economy Manager to be hired. Introduces Jim Peters and Alicia from RHI.

Jim Peters: Excited to be here—had a restaurant in Shady Side in 1970s. People want to socialize, and we're increasingly living and playing in proximity. Working to ameliorate potential conflicts, and to recognize the benefit of the businesses to a community. Money spent in neighborhood businesses regenerates itself in the neighborhood.

Q (for Bruce Kraus): Why do snow plows bury cars instead of pushing snow to the other side of the road? A: No one is perfect. I will suggest a change.

2. Ashley Holloway, City Planner. He has received requests for the Residential Parking Program (RPP) so we may see him at our door soon. Q: Do you handle all parking issues? There's too many cars. A: I only handle RPP—the city's master plan will look at parking in general in their Transportation initiative. BBI tries to catch offenders of the 3-unrelated people in one house rule but it's difficult. Q: Can we make Pius Street parking on both sides? A: Safety is an issue when roads are already pinched for space. Will give you contact info for follow up.

Judge Ricciardi: I am tough on landlords before me if they have over 3 unrelateds at 1 property.

Q: What is the status of the RPP? Where have you received requests? A: Will be door-knocking soon. Received requests from South 18th, Monastery, Pius, and Clinton Streets.

3. Betty Kripp, Outreach Committee. Illegal trash storage remains an issue. We consider this both an aesthetic issue and a safety issue, as unsightliness attracts other problems. Taking both top-down and bottom-up approach. Many residents don't know the laws. Have done 3 walkabouts to inform people. Ads are in the South Pittsburgh Reporter. Landlords are often unaware of law, even though law exists that they must have tenants sign trash law checklist. Meeting with Lawrenceville United to learn from their work. Also will meet with Open Watch Project. Looking for collaboration. Want a "Good Landlord" project. Neighborhood monitoring—focusing on 10 worst properties. Have a Toolbox for dealing with these. Using 311, then talking to Kraus, then getting a letter to the landlord signed by SSSNA, SS Community Council, and SS Chamber of Commerce. Use trash@southsideslopes.org for more info on this project. Also looking to help those unable to comply with law on their own (elderly, disabled, etc.)

4. Pavel Yakovlev and Peter Margettai. Pavel owns the former St. Josaphat's Church at Mission and Sterling Streets and is redeveloping it into luxury apartments.

Peter: Approximately 45k square feet. Pavel bought it about 2 years ago. Design is preliminary—looking to address community concerns. Most of the basement will be indoor parking. The Assembly Hall will be demolished for more parking. It is the least significant, architecturally, and the cleaner look will help the Church's beauty stand out. 6 one-bedroom units and 13 two-bedroom units (19 total units). Construction to happen in two stages. 28 parking spots. The surface will be restored. There will be a rooftop terrace. Q: Size of units? A: 1200-1500 square feet. Q: Parking access? A: From both Mission and Leticoe Streets. Q: Meet zoning requirements for parking? A: Y. Q: Interior to be like St. Michael's? A: Mostly. Probably will add floor in sanctuary, or could do two-story units to retain high ceilings. Trash will be stored inside the building. Q: Rental or sale? A: Rental. Q: Timeline? A: Best-case, build in fall. Phase I done in 12-18 months. Q: Going for LEED certification? A: Haven't explored that.

5. Brian Oswald, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development grant for South Side Park. SSSNA has received \$45k for SS Park work. Contracts w/ Mount Washington CDC & Student Conservation Association to remove invasive species & trash, and build trails. Also contracting with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to steward the Park. Brad Palmisiano: Park has been priority for several years. Looking to do "use" study. Q: Is it true the City wants to remove Winters Park? A: Yes, but we have a working group looking to evaluate City's proposals and provide support or alternatives. Questioner voices strong disapproval for removal of Winters Park. Jamin Bogi will meet with her after the meeting. Ashley Holloway: The City's plans are currently just recommendations—talk to Parks and Recreation or me to voice your opinion. Q: Last few years of work in the park held up or not? A: So-so. The "turnpike" around the Bandi Schaum garden was successful but is now getting weedy. Q: The entry from Josephine to the park? A: Need more money. Adam Jette: A program is beginning to link South 21st Street to the park and down into the Flats. Q: What has guided SSSNA so far? A: The Skelly and Loy plan, created several years ago.

6. Brad Palmisiano, Community Infrastructure and Tourist Fund grant. SSSNA is applying for \$250k for stair repair. Fund comes mostly from slots revenue. Want to finish the Michael Baker-type study for the stairs that haven't been done (the non-Elm Street section). Kraus, Readshaw, Costa, all to support, Fontana not allowed due to being on the Board that decides. Fitzgerald aware of application and probably on board. Erin Molchany: "I'm happy to help!"

7. Peter Kreuthmeier, update on South Side Planning Forum. Explains Forum—is supergroup of reps from SSSNA, SS Community Council, SS Chamber of Commerce, and Brashear Association. Creates the South Side Master Plan. Main issue now is proposed development at South 18th and Josephine Streets,

Oxbridge Development's Phase 2. Peter is the architect for this development. Developer is Sola Talibi (Oxbridge). Sola: I was here 8 years ago to discuss the start of this project (the current 6 townhouses at the site) and now I'm here to discuss finishing it. Trying to incorporate neighborhood elements and address Design Review Committee's concerns. Changes from original ideas have already been made: dropped total from 21 apartments to 9 apartments and 6 townhouses, and dropped total bedrooms from 42 to 21). 22 new parking spots to be added. Feedback process to continue for several months. Will retain scale/flavor of existing look nearby. Parking will be on lower level as one area, and "fingers" of buildings will rise up, looking individual. Sola: Will only be 2 new curb cuts. Q: Sidewalk is already unusable. Sola: Yes, but these problems (cars on sidewalk) are found throughout South Side. More questions from residents and discussion begun, but then a pause to introduce County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

8. Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive. I represented this area when I began on County Council 15 years ago. We were the second-oldest county (age of residents) when I started and now we're younger than the national average. Transit funding is coming—thank you to Erin Molchany for supporting that. We have transit \$ for 10 years—no cuts or rate hikes expected. Port Authority is improving—real-time data to be available soon. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) being pursued as link between Oakland and Downtown. Rail was looked at—costs too much, takes too long to build. BRT explained. City is growing—where do the cars go? We need better transit. Younger population needs bike lanes, better transit. Q: Can we get the Allentown T back? A: Don't know what that is—will look into it. Q: What happened to skiing at Boyce Park? It's amazing now. A: We hired an expert in snow making from Hidden Valley. Losses for years there—losses now shrinking dramatically, great turnaround. Great success at North Park Boat House restaurant—let an entrepreneur fix it up and now it's a great restaurant and he's paying a lease to the County. Q: You and Mayor Peduto supported City-County sharing of services. Still happening? A: Still discussing where that would make sense. Looking at Pittsburgh's 4 big parks. Sharing could = consistent signs, an app for phones, shared payment options for rentals, etc.

In interest of time, Brian ended meeting, making everyone aware that Ashley, Sola and Peter, etc. would be available for further questions.

Adjourned approximately 8:30.