



## **Board Meeting**

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Meeting Begin: 7:05 PM

Meeting End: 9:50 PM

Board Members Present: Aaron Cohen, Ryan Donnell, Kevin Gray (Vice-Chair), Jocelyn Hill (Corporate Secretary), Desarrie McDuffie, Janet Lorenz, Gus Scheerbaum (Chair), Mark Scott, Betty Seymour, Michael Showell (Secretary), Paul Toner (Controller), Peg Talbott-Lane, Lauran Vidas

Board Members Absent: Brian Lawson (Treasurer)

Others Present: Jordan Block (Intern), Jim Campbell, Andrew Dalzell (Staff)

Mr. Scheerbaum called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### **July 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Vidas made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Scheerbaum reviewed the Treasurer's Report enclosed in the SOSNA Board packets, in light of Mr. Lawson's absence.

### **Initiative Reports**

#### ***Community Impact***

Ms. McDuffie reported on the Community Impact Committee initiative update. The Community Impact Committee met, August 25, 2011, and discussed the continual revival of the Michele Cuttner award.

The committee discussed the creation of the SOSNA newsletter mailing to be distributed to the SOSNA catchment area. The post card sized (5in X 8in) mailing will be an introduction to SOSNA, campaign for membership, and include details of, "what can SOSNA can do for you?"

The Committee resolved to continue discussions pertaining to fundraising. The 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 will be the next Community Impact Committee meeting.

#### ***Development & Planning***

Mr. Toner reviewed the Development & Planning initiative update as written in the SOSNA Board packets. Mr. Toner reviewed the SOSNA Zoning Committee Quarterly Business Meeting, Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 2011 (meeting minutes enclosed in the SOSNA Board packets).

Mr. Toner reported that Toll Brothers participated in a productive meeting regarding the 2400 South Street project, and was well attended by the neighborhood stakeholders, including CCRA and members of the SOSNA Zoning Committee and Zoning Workgroup.

Mr. Toner reported members of the Board will be meeting with the PHA representatives, regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> Carpenter PHA property during September 2011.

Mr. Toner updated the Board with regard to the 2301 Washington Ave case.

Mr. Toner presented the SOSNA Zoning Workgroup's "Residential Best Practices, Questions Frequently Asked", and requested that the Board adopt the residential guidelines officially.

*Mr. Toner made a motion for the "Residential Best Practices, Questions Frequently Asked" to be adopted and utilized. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The Board discussed the process in which the SOSNA Zoning Chair will be asked to incorporate the concerns from other sub-committees pertaining to an application, prior to the public SOSNA zoning meeting.

*Mr. Toner made the motion to include the following amendments to the Zoning Committee's policy; to allow all forthcoming applicant's zoning plans, to be electronically circulated to the sub-committee Chairs prior to the public monthly zoning meeting; to allow the sub-committees to review the plans as necessary and provide an electronic memo, containing the sub-committee's comments pertaining to their stance, regarding the application, to be sent to the Zoning Committee Chair and to be incorporated into the SOSNA Zoning letter to the ZBA, at the Zoning Chair's discretion. Mr. Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The Board vetted two guidelines found in the Zoning Committee Quarterly Business Meeting minutes, enclosed in the SOSNA Board packets.

*Mr. Scott made the motion to approve the guideline (1) as written, and enclosed in the SOSNA Board packet, amended (bold inclusion), as "The Zoning committee generally does not look favorably on **exclusively** residential development on commercially zoned properties." Ms. Talbot-Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed. The voting: eight (8) voted in favor, one (1) voted as opposed, three (3) abstained. The record reflects Ms. Vidas' opposition to the "soft language" of the guideline.*

*Mr. Scott made the motion to approve the guidelines (2) as written and enclosed in the SOSNA Board packet. Ms. McDuffie seconded the motion. The motion was denied. The voting: three (3) voted in favor, eight (8) voted in opposition, and one (1) abstained. The record reflects that Ms. Lorenz and Ms. Vidas opposed the guideline (2) because they deemed the language of the guideline was not strong enough and the guidelines were not strong enough.*

### **Safety**

Mr. Donnell presented the Safety Committee initiative update as written in the SOSNA Board packet.

Mr. Donnell reported the Rally for your Alley had one (1) participant successfully complete the contest.

Mr. Donnell reported that the PSA 1 Police Officer's Meet & Greet is scheduled for Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Jamaican Jerk Hut (1436 South Street), and is being supported with a donation of a keg of beer from Bob & Barbara's (1509 South Street).

*Mr. Donnell made a motion to allocate \$200.00 for food towards the safety committee's PSA 1 Police Officers' Meet & Greet on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the Jamaican Jerk Hut. Ms. Vidas seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.*

### **Economic Development**

Ms. Seymour presented the Economic Development Committee initiative update as written in the SOSNA Board packets.

*Ms. Seymour made a motion to allocate \$500.00 to print the Economic Development Committee's "slick sheet," to be printed for realtors and commercial entities. Mr. Toner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Report from Jordan Block**

Mr. Block presented the South of South Neighborhood Commercial Space Inventory project. Mr. Scheerbaum noted the Board's appreciation for Mr. Block's exceptional work this summer and presented him with a \$25 gift certificate.

### **Clean & Green**

Ms. Talbott-Lane presented the Clean & Green Committee initiative update. Ms. Talbott-Lane reported the judging for the Annual Streetscape Contest had been completed. Mr. Dalzell and Mr. Scheerbaum requested assistance from Board members in helping to gather prizes from neighborhood businesses for the winner's of this year's contest to be presented at the October 2011, Board Election general meeting.

Mr. Dalzell presented, on behalf of Mr. Campbell, a plan to assist neighbors looking to protect a portion of grass adjacent to the South Street Bridge west of 27<sup>th</sup> Street, from being paved over by the City. The proposal is that SOSNA would co-sign an agreement with the City, committing to maintain this small patch of land. By consensus, the Board agreed to table any possible motion and to review the possible agreement, to be vetted and voted on during the September 2011, SOSNA Board Meeting.

A discussion ensued pertaining to the Friends of Julian Abele Park and the Julian Abele Park.

*Ms. Talbott-Lane made a motion to allocate the appropriate funds to cover the monthly water bill for Ilker Ugar's property at 2132 Montrose Street, who is generously installing a water spigot at the rear of 2132 Montrose property for the purpose of maintaining the health of the trees in Julian Abele Park, through May 31, 2011. Ms. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.*

### **General Meeting & Board Vacancy**

Mr. Scheerbaum reported that the September 14, 2011, will be the next General Meeting where Board nominations will be accepted.

Mr. Scheerbaum discussed the Board vacancy left by Daniel Chung's resignation last month. A discussion ensued.

*Ms. Hill made the motion to appoint Kristine Albee, a dedicated Safety Committee volunteer, to serve for the remainder of Daniel Chung's term on the SOSNA Board. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Bylaws Changes**

Mr. Scheerbaum presented the Bylaws changes as enclosed in the SOSNA Board packet. By consensus Mr. Scheerbaum tabled the Bylaws changes so they can be better vetted prior to the September SOSNA Board meeting, when they will again be on the agenda.

### **Fight the Blight Campaign**

Ms. Vidas discussed the Fight the Blight Campaign and the need for input from the Board prior to September Board meeting.

*Ms. Vidas made the motion to allocate \$4000.00 to certify (5) vacant properties with a caveat: a specific criteria and a list of the proposed vacant properties will be presented to the Board prior to any action. Mr. Toner seconded motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Programs Coordinator's Report**

The Greater Saint Matthew's Church will be looking to be listed on the National Register of Historic places.

### **New Business**

Ms. Talbott-Lane reported on the progress of the Blocktoberfest 2011. Blocktoberfest's rain date, October 22, 2011, and the location, the East end of West South Street, has been decided. All discussed the need for setting up an account for Blocktoberfest that was not in the name of an individual volunteer.

*Ms. Talbott-lane made a motion to request an account in SOSNA's name on the Blocktoberfest Committee's behalf. The board agreed by consensus, that if SOSNA's accountant verifies the feasibility of the addition of the bank account, SOSNA will go ahead and set this up.*

*Ms. Talbott-Lane made the motion to allocate \$10,000.00 to the Blocktoberfest Committee for sponsoring Blocktoberfest 2011. Mr. Showell seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.*

Mr. Scheerbaum re-introduced the Better Block Philly Traffic Calming Demonstration Project scheduled to take place in conjunction with Design Philadelphia, October 13-23, 2011. Mr. Scheerbaum noted the significant effort thus far put into the Better Blocks Philly project including community outreach, planning, and coordination by two design firms working pro bono and approximately 15 neighborhood volunteers thus far. It was reiterated that the project will be one that is high-profile and will go far in furthering pedestrian and traffic safety in our neighborhood and throughout the City.

*Mr. Donnell made the motion to allocate \$10,000.00 to sponsor the Better Block Philly Traffic Calming Demonstration Project. Ms. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Adjournment**

*Mr. Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously.*