

PHCA Community Meeting
April 3, 2018

1. Officer's report
 - a. 1 aggravated assault reported inside a home on the 3000 block of Brerton.
 - b. 1 drug arrest from a driver pulled over.
 - c. 1 DUI arrest.
 - d. Speed enforcement on Melwood for the Gold Way corridor:
 - i. The speed monitors on Melwood have in fact been collecting data. We found that the average speed was 22 MPH outbound. Feb 20-March 13, majority vehicles were 20-25 MPH inbound.
 - ii. Neighbor states that Bethoven and Melwood is fast traffic with many accidents. Worried for kids.
2. Demolition at the corner of Melwood and Finland. Monday April 2nd the demo was blocking the sidewalk which is illegal. Councilwoman Gross has been called and she is in touch with the property owner who is responsible for managing the contractor. Councilwoman is reaching out to the police department to get blockades. They don't have a permit to block the sidewalk, they do have a permit for demo, so we're working to get Building Inspection out to the site.
3. PWSA: Rebecca Zito, Communications at PWSA
 - a. Update on the Melwood and Finland green infrastructure project.
 - b. Folders with drawings and information.
 - c. Construction is scheduled to resume on April 16, weather permitting.
 - d. Traffic and parking restrictions will be in effect during construction.
 - e. Right now the project is approximately 5% complete.
 - f. Anticipated completion date is late September 2018.
 - g. Contact is the project manager: Matt Smuts at msmuts@pgh2o.com and telephone 412-255-8800 x2663.
 - h. Geotechnical crews came March 26 and 27 to take soil samples. Their data shows that groundwater will not be a problem for the storm water catchment sites.
 - i. Neighbor on Bethoven: You put one of these monitors right through my neighbor's sidewalk. I can't see how they can say there's no groundwater infiltration when we can see that when it rains we have a pond. Then in 35 minutes, I timed it, that pond goes away. You'll see water infiltration.
 - j. Matt, PWSA: That sounds like surface runoff, not groundwater rising up.
 - k. Same neighbor: Right, I get all the water from Finland street, flowing into my yard.
 - l. Another neighbor: I'm right next door and have the same issue.

- m. Matt, PWSA: Our work here will capture that surface runoff. It will likely contain that water instead of it jumping the curb into your yard.
- n. Neighbor: Are they going to put sewers to drain?
- o. PWSA engineer: There will be new curbs that will be a better boundary to contain the water. We'll also improve the street pavement. But a new curb that we're doing will help a lot. Let's look at your property to make sure we're accounting for what you're seeing.
- p. Neighbor: There's a gutter that runs from Finland all the way down in a culvert and runs into the sewer.
- q. Matt, PWSA: Let's follow up after this meeting. We'll be out there next week to do a walk of the site, maybe if you're around we can talk in person while looking at it.
- r. Another neighbor: Part of the problem is that we have shut offs for our water and gas right in those culverts, so we need the water infrastructure to be on the street, not on our shut off valves. It would help if water were stopped so it doesn't get into that area.
- s. Neighbor: How is the water captured getting into the holding tank?
- t. PWSA engineer: Water will infiltrate the soil or the stack coming up will be a shortcut to let the water into the tank very quickly.
- u. Matt, PWSA: The installations will hold a certain volume and then when it holds all that it can, it will overflow into the sewer lines underneath. It won't overflow into the street, it'll go into our existing sewer pipes.
- v. Another neighbor: For installation 5, your presentation looked like it could be problematic because the greenery was out in the street and that street is very narrow.
- w. PWSA engineer: The curb line will be changed, but it doesn't go beyond the parking lane, it's less than the width of a car. It's similar to when a car parks half on the sidewalk.
- x. Another neighbor: It'll help slow traffic hopefully.
- y. Matt, PWSA: Another pro is that during the work on Melwood, we may have to close it to local traffic only. This may re-train drivers to go around. This could reduce shortcut drivers.
- z. Matt PWSA: Finland will definitely be close to local traffic only.

- aa. Bethany Cameron from Deb Gross' staff: We are aware of traffic calming and we're investigating how to do more.

- bb. Another neighbor: System 5, is that taking away the turn around area at the bottom.
- cc. PWSA: Yes, that spot will be taken by construction.

- dd. Neighbor: How many are happening across the city?
- ee. PWSA engineer: About 10 clusters of these installations.

- ff. Another neighbor: Will anything be done about Bigelow runoff?
 - gg. Matt, PWSA: A state road has another level of bureaucracy that we're working through.
4. What can we do about abandoned vehicles?
 - a. 311, and Deb Gross' office can elevate it, but there are limitations on what can legally be done unless the tags are out of date.
 5. President's report
 - a. Monthly reminder to sign up for your membership for \$5.
 - b. The board passed our budget which was reviewed at the last meeting. Big expenses include renovations at the PHCA building and a Community Liaison position.
 - c. An update that the shared staff position is ending for the PHCA, an accountant shared with other neighborhoods. We recognized that from our financial position that we're not able to sustain.
 - i. Erika, our PHCA Board Treasurer, has taken on the bookkeeping tasks for the organization, at a far reduced cost to the organization.
 - ii. We want to be respectful of grant funds.
 6. Treasurer's report
 - a. March financials review: We paid our insurance early, and Erika reviewed assets including the building and a property on Linoleum Way and inventory of t-shirts. Our debt is \$2,000 which is security deposits from PHCA tenants. We had \$105 in membership dues.
 7. Community Liaison hiring
 - a. We are confirming budget before we hire. We expect a start soon.
 8. 3060 Brerton Improvements and property management
 - a. We're working to bring on a property management company to professionally manage the rental process for some distance between the PHCA board and renting to neighbors.
 - b. We're working to bring on a contractor for renovations. We're still getting complete bids to evaluate costs for keeping the building healthy.
 9. Bike/Ped and Traffic Safety, Tom
 - a. We're sending a letter to Deb Gross office to suggest that we block traffic coming off Bigelow down Finland.
 - b. John Rhoades: Let's have the board review before we send to Council.
 - c. What do neighbors in the room think?
 - d. Tom: Neighbors who live on Finland are supportive.

- e. Neighbors: That's how we come home from work though! That stop sign needs to be improved for drivers to see it.
- f. Bethany Cameron from Deb Gross' office: Is it 1 way? Ok, 1 way streets are easier to get signs put on both sides to improve visibility.
- g. Tom: In the past, the Police did suggest that they could temporarily have a car out to give tickets and warnings for new signage.
- h. Tom: How about we find a way to inform neighbors and invite ideas.
- i. John: Do neighbors in the room have ideas?
- j. Neighbor: Local traffic only signs might help.
- k. Bethany from Councilwoman Gross' office: We've been looking into this, and we are finding ways to use local only signs throughout.
- l. Molly from Mayor's office of community affairs: A request was put in and it's on our traffic department's list to explore a local traffic only signs for Bigelow and Finland.
- m. John: Ok future meeting we'll bring proposals, it's in the queue.
- n. Bethany: We're investigating speed humps and other traffic calming.

10. Communications

- a. Will be the Community Liaison position.
- b. Newsletter and facebook is being managed by Miriam for now.

11. Green Space

- a. April 15th 10am at PHCA, Spring Redd Up

12. Housing and Development

- a. Alexis attended the community land trust training.
- b. John: We're trying to create permanent affordable housing in the neighborhood and this is a mechanism to do it. We would participate in a regional program for a nonprofit to own the land and then lease it to a developer to be able to determine what gets build and rent costs.

13. Monument committee

- a. Thanks for decorating!

14. Arts Festival

- a. Erika: Applications for vendors went out on March 15, the link is on the PHCA facebook page.
- b. Date is set for July 15th
- c. If you know people who want to sell food or any bands, they'll email Aubrey.

15. Two Updates:

- a. Alfred's has closed.
- b. Kaibur coffee has opened!

16. Next meeting is Tuesday May 1st, 6:30p.

17. Mayor's office created an electronic way to give feedback on the City's capital budget.

- a. One is a tax receipt which tells you how much of your money goes to the City's departments.
- b. Budget simulator for both the capital and operating budgets, which shows how budget gets divided up and allows neighbors to explore spending options.
- c. And then there are comment areas to tell the city what you think.
- d. Community meetings will be happening in June to talk about budget input from citizens.
- e. Pittsburgh-trabalancingact.com/taxreceipt

18. Bethany Cameron introduces herself from Deb Gross' office. She's coming up to speed on issues in our area. Bethani.cameron@pittsburghpa.gov