

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Schenley Farms Civic Association was held Thursday May 20, 2021, as a “ZOOM app” meeting. This was due to ongoing restrictions about public gatherings from Public Health officials due to ongoing (albeit waning) Covid Pandemic concerns. All SF neighbors with submitted email addresses were notified by email earlier than 2 weeks, and again on the day before, with a link to participate remotely to join the virtual meeting.

The meeting was organized and hosted by president Janet Squires, and begun at 7:00 p.m. Mention was made that 2020 was the year of the 100th anniversary of SFCA, but that no specific celebration was held due to the pandemic, and she expressed a wish for a future celebratory event. Powerpoint slides were used for organization, and to illustrate talking points of speakers Krolick and Reppe. These were posted to the SF website, under ‘Bulletin Board’.

First part of meeting included updates from 5 community leaders:

Erika Strassburger : City of Pittsburgh Councilperson District 8

- Talked about issues of challenge during pandemic, especially businesses and restaurants.

Derek Dauphin : City of Pgh City Planning Dept, Sr. Planner/ Oakland Focus

- Discussed current planning process to create Oakland master plan, with input and direction from multiple groups including businesses, non-profits and neighborhood groups

John Krolicki : UPMC, Vice-Pres Facilities and Support Services

- Presented slides of proposed new construction of a Heart and Transplant Hospital

Paul Supowitz : Univ of Pittsburgh, Vice-Chan for Comm- Govt Relations

- Mentioned recently city-council approved Pitt Master Plan, talked about current early construction at end of O’Hara Street

Bob Reppe : CMU, Sr. Director of Planning and Design

- Presented slides showing early ideas about CMU Master Plan to start 2022

Second Part of meeting was update on SFCA and neighborhood activities.

Janet gave a very brief overview of SFCA, stated its four purposes and showed a map of geographic outline. She reviewed the positions and responsibilities of the nine board members. She thanked outgoing member Mary Cooper for her service. Liz Frame then introduced the two nominees for the two open three-year board positions. They are David Rogers (re-nominated after first 3-year service) and James “Kimo” Jung. Janet called for a vote and the motion passed.

Board Members then gave very brief updates/comments:

Shirley Cassing (Treasurer, Membership): Shirley was absent but sent in her report. The annual dues remain at \$50, and 41 families paid. Janet commented how the pandemic and lack of group activities had lightened the pressure of collecting dues during this single year. Current bank balance is \$17,997.95.

Norm Cleary (Government and Institution Relations): Norm mentioned that interactions with the major ed/med institutions had been paused during pandemic but would soon require efforts. He reported on the new curb designs at Bigelow and Center.

Liz Frame (Historical Preservation): Liz mentioned the rules and roles of the Pgh Historic Review Commission and her interactions with them. She discussed her efforts to increase knowledge around new products and designs, and stated that she hoped neighbors planning exterior renovations/improvements would in the future contact SFCA members for advice and help, before any potential problems with HRC

Laura Waxman (History Education): Laura and Shirley had been co-chairs of the CROW project (Committee to Re-locate Our Wildlife), and mentioned the great success. She mentioned how there was use of some pyrotechnics but mainly wood clappers at specific times of crow flight. She thanked the families, and reminded us that another effort would be likely in the fall.

Mary Cooper (Traffic and Police Liaison): Reported on the upcoming changes to the corner of Bigelow descending and Bigelow/Bayard.

David Rogers (Photographer, At Large) : Reported on his efforts to include pictures of homes in the History section of website.

Ursula MacKenzie (Representative to Oakland Institutions): Reported that she attends numerous Oakland neighborhood meetings as SFCA representation, including OPDC and City Planning Oakland group

Jose Morales (At Large): Absent. Janet mentioned his help with website.

Janet Squires (President): She thanked the multiple persons who helped make the neighborhood better and safer, including the board members, the persons who testified before HRC, the families who participated in CROW annoyance efforts. She mentioned the three annual activities per year: May membership/business meeting, summer block party, autumn educational event. She also mentioned the website www.schenleyfarms.org as improving, and she hoped members would find some of the content useful and interesting. Five sections of website include home/info, bulletin board, history, photo gallery, and 'members only'.

Voices from the Farms section: Blythe Runsdorf mentioned that the new recycle bins are wheelless and heavy, and gave numbers for those who wish to report concerns to the city.

Three new families were welcomed: Lara Shore and Nihit Bhardwaj (4252 Parkman), Zsuzsa Horvath and Seth Weinberg (244 Lytton), Steve and Evelyn Reis (232 Lytton)
The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Reported and submitted,
Janet Squires