

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE
POINT BREEZE ORGANIZATION (PBO) – as of Oct 12, 2015**

HAPPY & SAFE IN THE 'BURRRGH

Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 7:05 – 9:00 P.M.
Sterrett School, 7113 Reynolds St., Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Attending (approx. 35 in total):

Board Members:

- Officers: Larry Gerson (President); Amy Oriss (VP); Mary Anne Crecelius (Treasurer); Alina Keebler (Secretary)
- At-Large: Bea Doheny, Don Gross, Jen Mico
- Not attending: Maggi Cook

Committee Chairs:

- Lola Hopper (Marathon/Light-Up Point Breeze chair)
- Joyce Offerman (Programming co-chair)
- Christina Sahovey (National Night Out chair)

Guests: ~25

- Alicia Carberry, Legislative Associate, Council District 8
- Shawn Carter, Chief of Staff, Council District 9
- Presenters (see below)
- Residents (see separate sign-in list)

Point Breeze Organization's Update

Activities

- PBO Website (Amy)
 - o www.pointbreezepgh.org is up and running
 - o Residents are encouraged to visit site for information on upcoming events
- Neighborhood Blog (Mary Anne)
 - o Personal observations on the neighborhood
 - o Residents are welcome to submit entries
- Community survey (Alina)
 - o 96 responses to date
 - o Survey to close Oct. 15; residents are encouraged to respond
- Business & Non-profits Listing (Alina)
 - o 20 local businesses and organizations listed to date
 - o Residents are encouraged to support our local businesses

Recent Events

- 2nd Annual Porch Challenge & Crawl – Annette O'Boyce chair
 - o 14 houses participated
- National Night Out – Christina Sahovey chair
 - o Residents mingled with many local public safety, service and government representatives
- 5th Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale –Pritee Subramany chair
 - o Over 100 houses participated with a great turnout of shoppers
 - o Thank you to the volunteers

Upcoming Events

- Sat., October 17: Point Breeze Bonfire and Hayride– Bea Doheny/Maggi Cook co-chairs
 - o Postponed from Oct. 3rd due to weather
 - o Begins at 4:00 p.m.
 - o Similar activities as in past years, including hayrides through Homewood Cemetery
 - o The Bonfire is the major fundraising event for PBO
 - o Volunteers are needed, especially for end-of-event clean-up: info@pointbreezepgh.org
- Sat. December 5: Light-Up Point Breeze – Lola Hopper chair
 - o Similar to last year's with activities for all ages
 - o Begins at 4:00 p.m.
 - o Will take place on Reynolds between Hastings and Gettysburg
 - o Volunteers & donations needed – info@pointbreezepgh.org

Being Happy: Local Winter Events & Activities

Frick Historical Center - Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Mngr.

- Mr. Langel was unable to attend but left literature on the many holiday activities taking place at the Center
- Special holiday-focused tours at Clayton, dinners at the Café, and programs for adults and children

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts – Laura Domencic, Director

- Holiday sale Nov. 14-30 with over 300 regional artists and a great variety of arts
- Opening reception on Nov. 13th
- Member's Weekend: Dec. 4-6 with 15% discount for members
- Three Rivers Film Festival taking place Nov. 6 -16, at Harris, Melwood, Regent Square & Waterworks theaters
- Laura will send text for PBO to share via PBO social media

The Wheel Mill - Harry Geyer, Owner

- Indoor bicycle park that takes up an entire city block
- Includes mountain biking, BMX biking for all ages and abilities
- Open every day except for holidays until 10 p.m.
- Special events, especially during the winter, with trail biking groups
- Helmets are required; lessons are available

Staying Safe

Snow Shoveling & Heart Health - Joop Offerman, M.D.

- Positive & negative aspects of shoveling snow:
 - o Light snow shoveling is a good aerobic activity if done often and if you are in good shape
 - o However, heavy snow falls can result in heart attacks especially for sedentary & out-of-shape men, smokers, and for those with risks for heart disease and who are overweight. Lower temperatures make the problem worse.
- Advice from the Canadian government on how to shovel safely:
 - o Warm up before shoveling
 - o Do not have a big meal or drink alcohol immediately prior to shoveling
 - o Use a smaller shovel so you're not trying to lift huge amounts of snow all at once
 - o Take frequent breaks

- Don't feel compelled to remove every flake of snow
- Heed any warning signs for impending heart problems such as chest tightness or shoulder pain, anxiety, palpitations, and nausea
- If you experience health concerns, go inside, call 911 and **do not drive yourself to the hospital**
- Message: Exercise caution, especially if you are out of shape, and don't feel guilty about calling 911 if you experience any warning signs. Better to be safe than sorry.

Snow Shoveling - Reacting to Problems – Raina Lewis, City of Pittsburgh Bureau of EMS

- Pittsburgh EMS (Emergency Medical Services)
 - Prior to 1967, police officers would pick up patients and take them to the hospital
 - Currently a City of Pittsburgh program that works under UPMC Presby
 - Becoming a paramedic takes 2 years of training, similar to a nursing program
 - There are over 150 paramedics, with 13 medic units in Pittsburgh (cuts back to 11 units during the night), 2 rescue trucks and a river rescue truck
- CPR classes
 - Able to provide a 2-hour class to a group of 5 or more
 - PBO to consider having a CPR class for residents interested in being trained
- Envelope of Life
 - Standardized form that provides life-saving information to emergency personnel in an emergency
 - Completed form should be placed on the refrigerator for EMS to easily locate
 - Can print form from website, or call Pittsburgh EMS Headquarters at 412-622-6930 to request one to be mailed, or can pick up at any EMS station
- Other programs
 - Health screenings, CPR/AED training, car seat safety checks and more.
 - Pieces of apparatus for "show and tell" events at local neighborhood gatherings, schools and Boy Scout camps
 - Car seats if you can't afford one
- Regarding snow shoveling: Make sure to shovel snow as it accumulates rather than wait till there's more snow and the job is more strenuous

Snow Angels - Jamison Combs, Program Support Coordinator

- Started by City of Pittsburgh in response to "snowmageddon" in 2010 & funded through United Way
- Pairs volunteers with elderly or disabled residents to assist with snow removal but cannot guarantee a match; only had 200 volunteers in 2014 to cover all of Allegheny County, which is not enough
- Help available to any Allegheny County resident with a disability or who is 60 years or older and lacks alternative snow removal resources
- Volunteering: open to anyone who is able-bodied; youngest so far has been ~12 yrs. old
- To volunteer or to receive assistance:
 - Call 412-863-5939
 - Visit <http://alleghenysnowangels.org/>
 - Email manager@alleghenysnowangels.org
- Volunteers must also:
 - Participate in online orientation
 - Sign a release
 - Get a criminal background check

- Report hours spent volunteering (can be done via an online form)
- To get the word out about program:
 - Snow Angels can provide door hangers or can give PBO a flyer to put on website to print and put on seniors' doors

Street & Sidewalk Snow Removal - Mike Gable, Director of Public Works

- Mr. Gable started as director in January 2014; first 3 months were a test due to a lot of snow (68" instead of usual 46") and insufficient salt storage
- Contrary to what the news broadcasted, the city was not out of salt in 2014-2015 winter
- Has implemented new efforts:
 - Collaboration with Allegheny Co. to store back-up salt in Blawnox
 - Snow Plow Tracker: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/snow/snow-plow-tracker>
 - Allows staff and public to monitor current location of plows and see their route
 - Will be enhanced this winter telling when trucks are actually salting, in route to designated areas or being refilled
 - Can see if it's a private street
- Snow season:
 - Goes from October 15 to March 31 with winter shifts in place January & February
 - DPW relies on weather service & Intellicast
 - Snow events vary greatly
 - Supervisors develop a game plan for each specific predicted snow event
 - Different salts are used depending on temperature
 - Primary roads are dealt with first, then secondary, and finally tertiary. Goal has been to try to address both primary and secondary roads at same time.
 - 146 vehicles will be out fighting snow this coming season
- Residents are asked not to call 311 during the snow event until plows have had a chance to get out there. Allow 24 hours to see results before calling (48 if a bigger snow).
- Sidewalk snow & ice removal:
 - Municipal code requires residents to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow stops
 - Municipal code prohibits residents from shoveling snow out onto the street, as it lessens the impact of plowing and salting. Create piles in your front yard.
 - City will start giving out warnings to those who do not shovel
 - DPW has 6 inspectors who could be used to cite people who don't shovel
 - Residents should call 311 to report those who do not shovel their walks
 - Residents are encouraged to help elderly or infirmed neighbors who cannot shovel their own walks
- Besides over 100 miles of streets, DPW is responsible for maintenance of steps, city-owned sidewalks, bridge sidewalks, bike lanes & some state roads
- Comments from audience:
 - Mary Anne: Community could create a list of people willing to shovel for pay
 - Jamison: Now is the time to set up snow removal for the winter. Don't wait until the first snow hits to find resources. Residents should talk to lawn services that also do snow removal; churches and local schools might be able to provide volunteers who can help.

Happy ½ Hour

- Attendees had the opportunity to address personal issues and questions with presenters and PBO Board members during this period
- This portion of the evening was organized by Joyce Offerman and refreshments and snacks were provided by the PBO Board. Thank you to Joyce!

Next Meetings:

- Board Meeting: Tue., October 13, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Board Meeting: Tue., December 1, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Board Retreat: Sun., January 10, 2016, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Community Meeting #1: Tue., February 2, 2016, 7 p.m. Location TBA.
- Community Meeting #2: Tue., June 7, 2016, 7 p.m. Location TBA.
- Community Meeting #3: Tue., October 4, 2016, 7 p.m. Location TBA.