

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE POINT BREEZE ORGANIZATION (PBO)

- ***KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS*** -

Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 7:05 – 8:45 P.M.
Sterrett School, 7113 Reynolds St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Attending :

Board Members:

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

Committee Chairs:

- Lola Hopper (Email List/Marathon/Light-Up Pt. Breeze)
- Joyce Offerman (Programming)
- Christina Sahovey (National Night Out)
- Pritee Subramany (Neighborhood Yard Sale)

Guests: ~50

- Dan Herrmann, Pittsburgh Police Zone 4 Commander
- Tom Pauley, Pittsburgh Police Zone 4 Community Relations Officer
- Presenters (see below)
- Residents (see separate sign-in list)

Point Breeze Organization's Update

Activities

- Board has obtained 501(c)3 status which allows donations to be tax deductible but limits political activities
- Board has created a new multi-purpose form so that residents and business owners can:
 - o Become PBO members,
 - o Sign-up for the PBO Email List,
 - o Volunteer for PBO activities, and
 - o Send in their ideas for the organization.

Upcoming Events

- Sat., June 20: Solarize Point Breeze (end) – Fred Kraybill chair
 - o Roger Westman spoke for Fred, sharing details about the program and encouraging residents to participate before the June 20th deadline
- Sat., August 1: 2nd Annual Porch Challenge & Crawl – Heather Newlin chair
 - o Heather was unable to attend
 - o Further information will be available via the PBO Facebook page, website and email list
- Tue., August 4: National Night Out – Christina Sahovey chair
 - o Christina encouraged residents to come meet their neighbors at NNO events taking place between 7 and 8:30 p.m.
- Sat. September 19: 5th Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale –Pritee Subramany chair

- Pritee reported that committee has begun to meet
- Participation fees will be raised slightly this year to cover the cost of new yard signs.
- Volunteers are needed to help plan and execute event.
- Sat., October 3: Point Breeze Bonfire and Hayride– Bea Doheny/Maggi Cook co-chairs
 - Bea and Maggi reported that the Bonfire will be back this year with similar activities as in past years, including a hayride through Homewood Cemetery.
 - The Bonfire is the major fundraising event for PBO
 - Volunteers are needed, especially for end-of-event clean-up.
- Sat. December 5: Light-Up Point Breeze – Caroline (Lola) Hopper chair
 - Lola reported that the event will be similar to last year’s and will take place on Reynolds between Hastings and Gettysburg
- Other:
 - An attendee inquired about having a Holiday Decorating Contest. Since no one volunteered to organize the event, it will not be held this year. Residents are encouraged to volunteer to chair it for 2016.

Neighboring Community Updates

Point Breeze North Development Corporation (PBND)

- PBND is working on a Master Plan for the Point Breeze North neighborhood.
- PBO Board members will be taking turns attending the monthly Master Plan meetings.

Greater Park Place Neighborhood Association (GPPNA)

- GPPNA board president, Susan Speicher, reviewed the group’s latest activities, is looking forward to working with PBO, and invited Point Breeze residents to their annual picnic on Sun., June 7th, 1-4 p.m.
- Also attending were GPPNA board members Mary Hupe and Marlene Green.

Speakers

Pittsburgh Police Zone 4 –Commander Dan Herrmann and Community Resource Officer Tom Pauley

- Commander Herrmann explained:
 - His background in investigations and his recent appointment to Zone 4
 - The 7 sectors making up the zone and how the 95 officers are assigned to cover them
 - The renewed emphasis on community-oriented policing
 - The low level of crime in the Point Breeze area
- Officer Pauley reported on:
 - His experience with community policing and his recent appointment to Zone 4
 - The low level of crime in Zone 4 & especially in the sector that Point Breeze is in (which in May included only 3 arrests and 3 burglaries – 2 of the latter being in Point Breeze North)

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) – Sara Powell, Monitoring & Communications Manager

- Presentation on the:
 - History of the Nine Mile Run valley (which includes Frick Park and Point Breeze) and its use and pollution over the years

- Impact of combined sewer overflows on the watershed and the Monogahela River where it empties
- Purpose of the NMRWA and its various programs (StormWorks, GreenLinks, Urban EcoStewards, Clean Rivers Campaign, Education & Outreach, and Stream Monitoring)
- Stream restoration project (largest in the U.S.) and its positive impact on the ecology of the Run
- Upcoming NMRWA activities:
 - Bird Walks & Breakfast - 6/7
 - Upper watershed Clean up & tree care - 6/10
 - Pre-summer storm stream sweep - 6/18
 - Summer storm fundraiser - 6/20

Homewood Cemetery & Arboretum — Jennie Benford, Director of Programming, Historical Fund

- Presentation on the:
 - Establishment of the cemetery in 1878 out of 178 acres from the Wilkins Estate.
 - Design of the cemetery in the “lawn park style” out of an oak forest full of ravines that were filled and scraped to create the current configuration
 - Current 77,000 residents which includes the earliest Chinese cemetery in the U.S.
 - Recent designation as a Level 1 Arboretum, extensive cataloging of trees, and restoration of the original landscape design
- Activities at the cemetery:
 - Working with TreePittsburgh and the City of Pittsburgh Forestry Division to maintain the health of the trees and plant new ones as needed
 - Public tours that focus on topics that include famous people, diverse populations, historic burials and suffragettes (\$10/person; call to schedule)
 - Founders Day – Aug. 22nd
 - Assistance with genealogical research

Other:

- *Envelope of Life* forms (a standardized form that provides life-saving information to emergency personnel in times of crisis or medical uncertainty) were handed out to attendees. For additional copies, residents can contact Paramedic Mark Pinchalk, Patient Care Coordinator for Pittsburgh EMS, at mark.pinchalk@pittsburghpa.gov, or they can download a copy from <http://pittsburghpa.gov/ems/programs.htm#eol>.

Next Meetings:

- Board Meeting: Tue., August 4, 2015; 7 p.m.
- Community/Board Meeting: Tue., October 6, 2015; 7 p.m.
- Board Meeting: Tue., December 1, 2015; 7 p.m.