

Minutes for CASGED Community Meeting
of Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Board members in attendance: Joe Allbaugh, Mark Ayoub, Brenda Kay Dailey, Ruth Ann Dailey, Bob Herbert, Tye Silverthorne, Joe Valorie

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. B Herbert led Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Zone 1 — Officers gave updates on: ShotSpotter (issues with sensors), very low number of reported crimes last month and ongoing investigation of drug activity (including discussion of vehicles suspected in the operation).
3. **Vista City Steps** — Presentation by Dept. of Mobility & Infrastructure (DOMI) Project Engineer Daisy Saldarriaga and Principal Transportation Planner Kristin Saunders: The Vista steps are ranked high in prioritization for repair. Concrete has a 75-year lifespan if maintained; these were built in 1944. Ranking depends on: nearby population, nearby destinations, available detours if gone, transit access, etc. Vista steps scored 10 out of 10 — “no brainer” to fix but huge undertaking. Goals: to improve safety, achieve ADA-compliance, restore neighborhood mobility and save the mosaic mural. (Working with artist re preservation.)
Options considered: 1. Reroute structure around the mosaic mural. 2. Demolish and do a new mosaic mural 3. Saw-cut the mural and re-install on new base. 4. Keep existing base and attach new steps. They prefer Option 4. This will involve a concrete overlay to existing base and constructing new steps that are to modern codes — same size steps and same number of steps (10) in every flight. They’ll meet with Art Commission and artist in late January.
Now designing pedestrian-scale lighting plan to balance visibility with protection from vandalism. Final design stage in February; construction in May.
Residents asked about including a bike tunnel; maintenance — using salt? (not for first 18 months; some protective coating will be used); trashcans built into design; community stewardship (unclear right now). Also: Will other steps in Spring Garden valley be done soon? (Lappe Lane set has lost its railing) No plans for other steps yet. Residents urged to check online map to see priority rankings.
4. Public Officials — Councilwoman Darlene Harris — CDBG money is available for Fuhr Ctr improvements but she needs contact info for project; a new paving list is being assembled so please contact CASGED board with requests. Discussion about condition of Chestnut St, and Mrs. Harris noted utilities are required to replace any bricks they dig up. Residents complained re stack of bricks left by PWSA in 1000 block, near garage.
5. Molly Onufer, Community Affairs Manager from Mayor’s Office — Two new trashcans have secured for intersection of Homer & Spring Garden, and Lappe Lane opposite Wigle Whiskey. Resident asked for one at Kaboom; residents also asked re dilapidated sidewalks. City needs list of city-owned sidewalks for repair;

please recycle Xmas trees for mulch; and discussion needed about the future of the ballfield. Notice — beginning w/ Feb mtg, Mayor's rep will attend in even# months.

6. Sequoia — Rep. Jake Wheatley's office — Residents raised the following issues: lack of lighting along Spring Garden Ave., need for dead-end signs on High Street, need for "Children Playing" signs on Itin and elsewhere. Discussion of low-rise speed bumps or bollards to slow traffic (like set on 40th Street in L'ville).
7. **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy** — Presentation from Heather Sage, Director of Community Projects. PPC is non-profit, "a friend to the parks system." There are 165 city-owned park sites identified throughout the city, of varying sizes. PPC's goal is to support all parks, bring them to a similar high quality and maintain them. (The city spends \$12 million/yr for maintenance, but national average is \$25M.) To date PPC has raised \$112 million for city parks. Until recently it focused just on the big parks: Schenley, Frick, Highland, Riverview, Allegheny Commons. That's changing.

Small parks are struggling everywhere, all across country. Other cities have started the process, so PPC is borrowing from them. PPC has evaluated the parks, their needs, improvements and possible investments. They examined population, health, environment in each park's "walkshed" — everything within a 10-minute walk of a park, which varies greatly here due to our hills. Now PPC is launching a listening tour to get neighborhoods' input on all these parks, with 40 to 70 meetings slated by April. (A survey was distributed and CASGED was asked to post links to this on their web site and social media.) PPC's report should be complete in early summer; next steps will be constructing an investment strategy and fundraising. This will be a 20-year plan.

Residents asked about maintenance of small local parks, including Kaboom playground, SG school parklet. H Sage noted that PPC funds go only to city-owned green spaces. Some are neighborhood owned, some belong to school district.

8. **Committee Reports** Raphael Walton reported from the Public Safety Committee that the new Citizens Police Academy training starts 1/31 and runs for 15 weeks. He supplied new silent complaint forms.

J Valorie and Paul Stalter presented the revived "Angels in the Garden" project. In 2004 this volunteer crew did \$50,000 worth of work on a needy residents' house. Now they want to repaint or power-wash as many houses as possible in Spring Garden. Any money they raise on IOBY online platform through 1/31 will be matched by the Buhl Foundation.