



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 54
ISSUE 2

CITIZENS REPORT

March 2024



Brighton Heights and Brightwood Spring Clean-up Day

WHEN: Saturday April 20, 2024

WHERE: Starts at All Saints Church; located at 3577 McClure Avenue

TIME: 9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.

AFTER PARTY: Free BBQ and drinks (parking lot of Young Brothers at intersection of McClure Avenue and Woods Run Road)

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and Brightwood Civic Group will be holding their 5th Annual Spring cleaning of their neighborhoods on Saturday, April 20th. The goal is to pick up the majority of trash and debris throughout both neighborhoods, so we need many volunteers to make this event a success!

If the weather is good, we will have tables set up outside on McClure Avenue; if we have inclement weather, please sign-up in the fellowship hall (side) entrance of the church. The Citizens Federation will provide gloves, trash bags and vests. There will also be coffee, fruit and donuts to jump start your day. Everyone who signs up to volunteer that day will be eligible for a free prize!

Be sure to mark your calendar for this annual collaborative spring clean-up of our neighborhoods. Many hands make light work!

If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinators below.

CONTACT: Tim Maloney

PHONE: 412-726-0800

EMAIL: dirtdoctim@msn.com

CONTACT: Jamie Younger

PHONE: 412-292-7100

EMAIL: youngbrosbar@verizon.net

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

John Morrow Auditorium

p. 2 President's Report	p. 4 Build Your Wealth in the Trades	p. 6 Gardens and Greenspaces	p. 8 Spring Plant Sale Order Form	p. 9 Strategic Plan Questionnaire	p. 10 Development Activities Meeting	p. 12 State Rep. Kinkead	p. 13 Councilman Wilson	p. 14 Review of Last General Meeting
----------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	----------------------------	---



From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

It never ceases to amaze me how fast winter goes by despite some unbearable temperatures, ice, and lack of sunlight it produces. Well it is March. An exciting time to get back out doors, visit a park or trail, start to work that

vegetable garden, or volunteer with the BHCF. Whatever it is please enjoy this spring season.

Many of our committees have stayed very active throughout winter with the continuation of the Strategic plan and new committees under Gardens and Greenspace. Jenn Skirtich and Melanie Panutsos have reorganized the Plant Sale. Please consider ordering your spring flowers or plants with us. It supports the BHCF as a fundraiser and will add beauty to our neighborhood all summer. The second newly formed committee is a Vegetable Garden Committee that is working with residents on their beliefs we can grow our own food in the neighborhood we live. Haley Moore and Charise Lutz are leading the effort to plot land in BH to grow on, fundraising, and implementation.

I want to report on support we have receive from the Buhl foundation for the St. Johns Green Space. After meetings that began in 2021 with Buhl, The Allegheny Land Trust and BHCF the last meeting in January yielded a 25k commitment to the project to fund the neighborhood amenities portion. A second request to SSB Bank received a commitment of 5k for the incorporation and installation of vegetable garden and material costs. This has been a long process but I'm pleased to announce the 1.2 million dollar project is now over 95% funded and set to break ground this summer. Thank you Diana Bucco, President of the Buhl Foundation and Daniel J. Moon President of SSB Bank who have always stayed in communication and offered us time to meet with them.

On January 16 the BHCF hosted the Healthy Active Living Center (HALC) Development Activities Meeting (DAM). An architect under contract with the City of Pittsburgh presented a 5.5 million dollar renovation to the building for a new Senior Center Space and a dry shell for future use in the majority of the building. The presentation showed an Add/Alternative for Community use and youth programming should additional funding be available. If you support this project you may contact the Mayor's Office or your Councilman to request their support of the community portion. The entire meeting minutes are in the back of this newsletter.

I continue to hear from residents about the dangerous drivers and unsafe roads. The City of Pittsburgh solution is traffic calming. The Mayors 2024 Capital Budget showed funding for DOMI and traffic calming increased to a new high. Please considering working with the BHCF on any traffic calming applications you submit. You may work with the public safety and neighborhood watch groups to monitor you traffic

calming application timeline. It has not been clear to me how the traffic calming applications are processed, reviewed, or awarded. This is a concern of mine due to the millions of dollars these project receive. There must be a transparent process to review and award traffic calming projects so these resources are equally distributed. I am looking to receive more information from the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) on how projects are awarded.

The BHCF works closely with many of the businesses in Brighton Heights. We support them with by patronizing them and they support us at our events and with sponsorships. This year please support the businesses that support you. There are a number of new businesses I plan to introduce to the BHCF, some I already have, and most we are in regular communications. If you would like to know the businesses that support of or have a new business to meet with please contact the BHCF.

I have two final brief updates. The Termon Ave Gardens residential housing project permits have been approved and construction is set to begin this summer. The first year will be demolishing of the 2 vacant structures and site work. My last update comes from the Feb 1 BHCF Board meeting. Allegheny City Brewing owners Al Grasso and Matt Yurkovich attended and presented their plans to host a summer series at Legion Park. The monthly events will be host music and vendors one Saturday per month from May to Sept. The application permit will be submitted to the City of Pittsburgh and when approved more details will be available.

Our next General Membership Meeting is on March 14 7:00 pm in the John Morrow School Auditorium on Davis Ave. BHCF has had significant growth with many new residents attending these meeting regularly and bringing our attendance up. Thank you for your involvement and please bring a new friend or neighbor.

And as always, I'll see you in the neighborhood.

Do You Have a New Neighbor?

If so, let us know, BHCF will give them a one year free membership and send them a newsletter for a year. And if you would like to write something about Brighton Heights, please feel free to send your article to:

BHCF Newsletter
PO Box 99602, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Or E-Mail it to Editor, Dave Lebec
submissions@brightonheights.org

This newsletter is printed for us by Allegheny General Hospital and we appreciate their generosity.

Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Dave Lebec
Manager: Regina Kolodziej
Copy Editor: Erin Marie Yourd
Distribution: Joseph Glassbrenner

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the membership of the board.

BHCF Board of Directors:

Officers

President: Joseph Glassbrenner
Vice President: Brendan Delaney
Treasurer: Robert Haller
Corresponding Sec: Elaine Gloeckner
Recording Secretary: Todd McCollum

Directors

Judy Bendtsen, Stacy Berkebile, Bill Goodrich, Parker Goolsby, Janice Johns-Engelman (Emeritus), Regina Kolodziej, Donna Kramer, Tim Maloney, Seth McClarey, Raymond Robinson, Soo Yi Thompson, Ryan Yesenchak

The United Way #188

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is a United Way agency. You can make a donation to the Federation by choosing #188 on your donation form. All United Way donations are used exclusively for children's activities such as the Halloween Parade.

Any member making a United Way donation receives free membership in the Federation. Usually paperwork does not catch up to us until the year after the donation.

Membership Renewal

Check the date after your name on your mailing label and make sure your membership is up to date. If it is not, please renew your membership now, either by sending in a renewal with the form on the back of the newsletter, or by going to our website online and renewing it by PayPal.

BHCF Information List	
BHCF Answer Line:	412-690-0918
Address:	PO Box 99602, Pgh PA 15233
E-Mail:	BHCFpgh@gmail.com
Web Site:	www.brightonheights.org
ALCOSAN (odor control)	412-766-9445
Allegheny Co Health Dept	412-578-8390
Animal Control	412-255-2036 (before 3 p.m.) 412-255-2935 (after 3 p.m.)
Building Inspection	412-255-2176
Building Permits:	412-255-2175
Burned Out Street Light	412-255-5483
City Council Office	412-255-2142
City Council Rep for BH	412-255-2135
City Planning	412-255-2200
Emergency	911
Environmental Services	412-255-2780
Graffiti in the neighborhood You are a direct victim Graffiti Busters (will remove it) Graffiti Watch	311 911 412-255-2872 412-255-2272
Litter Hot Line (PA State)	888-548-8372
Mayor's Office	412-255-2626
Mayor's Response Line	311
Organized Crime, Narcotics, and Intelligence Division (ONI)	412-665-4300
Parking Authority	412-560-7275
Pittsburgh School Police Police - Zone 1	412-622-3520 412-323-7201
Public Works	412-255-2790
Refuse/Recycling	412-255-2773
State Rep. - District 20	412-321-5523

FREEdge Project Update

from Lilian Akin

The Freedge continues to be supported primarily through donations of residents of Brighton Heights. As a reminder, it is at 1301 Davis Avenue in the back of the church. You enter from Shadeland Avenue.

The members of the committee want to wholeheartedly thank those of you who have made donations, cleaned up messes, contacted us with pictures, and who been donating to the freedge. I am sure I have missed someone, sorry! We could not do this without the support of the community. Please continue to keep the freedge in mind when you do your grocery shopping.

I was walking my dog past the freedge the other day and ran into three adults who were coming to the freedge for food. The one told me that he was squatting in a house nearby with his girlfriend and they do not have running water and electricity. While we were talking, two other adults walked up to the freedge. My conversation with this man made me rethink my own personal donations. I am choosing to donate some pre-cooked food. They also told me they have dogs who eats Rachel Ray food, so I have been purchasing bags of dog food for their dogs. I know one friend of mine has been donating cat food as well.

The committee is actively seeking out donations from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Trader Joe's, and 412 Food Rescue to help take pressure off of community members. Fingers crossed these corporate donations come through.

As a reminder, the freedge accepts fresh fruits and veggies, frozen meat, pre-cooked meals, milk, eggs, cheese, etc. We do not accept home-made food because of the inability to know ingredients and basic food safety issues. All fresh meat should be put in the freezer. We accept donations of canned and pantry items – please do not donate anything that has been expired. Also, the pantry can accept cleaning and hygiene products and dog/cat food as well.

Thank you all for helping keep the freedge running. If you want to donate, we can always accept gift certificates and/or money. You can mail a check to the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation at PO Box 99602, Pgh PA 15233 and put "Free Food Fridge" in the memo. You can also donate through the BHCF Paypal Account. If you want to be more involved, please contact me – Lilian Akin at laakin@verizon.net.

CONTACT: Lilian Akin

EMAIL: laakin@verizon.net

Save The Date: Build Your Wealth In The Trades

The 4th annual BYWITT will be held on Saturday, May 18th, starting at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the New Life Family Worship Center at 1301 Davis Ave. This year, participants will learn construction techniques and the proper use of tools. Instruction will be led by volunteers from the Local Trades Unions: The Carpenters Local Union No. 432 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 5. Participants will assist with the construction of a wooden ADA ramp for the Church and the electrical portion will be the installing of Ethernet surveillance cameras. The purpose is to expose our attendees to the opportunity in the Building Trades and learn some skills that can be used at home. We are in need of committee volunteers as well as donations to fund the cost of building materials and lunch. Please contact Joseph Glassbrenner by calling the BHCF office or email. Last but not least, if you know a teen interested in participating, please register via the Eventbrite page that is on the BHCF Facebook page and website or call or email. We look forward to seeing you on May 18th!

Joint Development Activities Meeting

The next Joint Development Activity Meeting [DAM] for BikePGH's Street Mural project on Woods Run Ave has been scheduled for March 20 at 6:30 p.m. via online format. Through a grant from AARP, BikePGH has been collaborating with the Northside's CLP Woods Run Library, the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI), and artist Ashley Kyber to develop a street mural to act as a welcome mat to the library.

You all probably know about the project already that can help with traffic calming on this street. More information about the project can be found at bikepgh.org/2023/10/06/woods-run-project/.

To refresh your memory, this will be a little different from an individually conducted DAM by an RCO. As the project is at the border of two RCO's [Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and Brightwood Civic Group], we [DCP] are required to hold a joint DAM. We would love for the community members to participate actively before BikePGH moves forth with the Art Commission processes.

BikePGH is aiming for the Public Art and Civic Design Commission's public hearing in April that is set for 04/24.



2024 Registration



**Open now through
March 1st**

*All baseball and softball groups
Tee-Ball / Instructional up to
Colt and 15u/18u Softball.*

Practices and most games played
at Jack Stack Fields
600 Brighton Woods Road*

**Spring / Summer
Season
April - June**

**some teams play against other neighborhoods
like Mount Washington, Southside, etc*



<https://northsidebaseball.org>

Follow on Facebook and Instagram
Northside Baseball & Softball Association

Gardens & Greenspaces

by Ed Gergerich

As I write this in early February, it has been a milder winter than usual. If Punxsutawney Phil is correct, it won't be too long before we'll be seeing crocuses and daffodils start to bloom!

One thing that seems to be blooming this early is volunteers!!! A new group headed by Haley Moore and Charise Lutz met to discuss expanding our garden mission to include vegetables. The idea is to raise veggies to donate to our "freedged," the neighborhood free food fridge project.

Vegetable gardens need sunshine, a water source, and decent soil or room to build raised beds. Unlike our flower gardens, the sites don't need to be super-visible, but they usually need protection from marauding deer. If you know of locations that might make a good vegetable garden (even temporarily), contact Haley (haymaymoore@gmail.com) or Charise (charise.lutz@icloud.com).

While it is still too early to plant our flowers, it is not too early to mark your calendars. Each Saturday in May will be a garden day:

- **MAY 4:** we will plant and mulch flowers on the WPC Garden at P-65 and BH Blvd.
- **MAY 11:** we will prep the beds at the 3 Termon and California gardens.
- **MAY 18:** we will plant the annual flowers at those gardens.
- **MAY 25:** we will catch up on anything that didn't get finished in the previous two weeks.

Also, Saturday, May 11, will be our annual free Plant Swap or Adopt exchange at Legion Park, where you can pick up or donate plants or surplus garden tools and equipment. Look for more details in the May newsletter.

In addition, volunteers will be working at Legion Park and other community gardens across the neighborhood on nice weather days in March, April, and May. If you are interested in the Plant Swap or prep work at Legion Park, contact Kim Larsen at [412-818-8876](tel:412-818-8876). For fun and sun at the PA-65 or the T&C gardens, call me at [412-779-9222](tel:412-779-9222). Thanks.

Stay safe, stay green.

St. Johns Update

For the last few years, the community has dreamt of transforming the abandoned St. John's Hospital into a haven for nature and recreation. Allegheny Land Trust, Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, Ethos Collaborative, and Oikos Ecology have joined forces to design a multi-use natural area that reflects the community's aspirations. This 3.6-acre gem will be permanently conserved as a multi-use natural area, offering a green oasis not just for Brighton Heights, but for the entire North Side of Pittsburgh.

The site is currently owned by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the City of Pittsburgh's community and economic development agency. We are working with our partners to perform the due diligence necessary to move the property through the URA's official disposition process. To complete this process, and begin any work on the site, we will need to have every step of our plan, from beginning to end, financed with funding in-hand.

We are working together to close the ever-shrinking funding gap, and to secure the necessary reviews and permissions. We are optimistically anticipating approval by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Board during their meeting in March of 2024 that will allow us to close on the property. Once we have the approval from the URA, we can begin planning for the on-the-ground work of restoring the land and implementing the community-informed design.

Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

Melanie Panutsos and Jenn Skertich are serving as co-chairs to bring back the BHCF Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser. The committee is working with Soil Sisters, an amazing nursery focused on addressing the needs of local communities. We are working with them to sell natives, annuals, vegetables, hanging baskets and herbs. The order form can be found on the BHCF website or through Facebook. Orders will need to be in by April 12, and payment will be needed in advance. Plant pick-up will be at Legion Park on May 11 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., coinciding with this year's Plant Swap or Adopt. Thank you so much for your support of BHCF and for helping to make our neighborhood that much prettier with your plant purchases!

SEE PAGE 8 FOR THE ORDER FORM.

Think Spring

from Megan Graham

It's not too early to be thinking about the Plant Swap or Adopt. Seed catalogs are out and the hard-core gardeners among us are choosing what interesting vegetables to start growing on their windowsills.

If you are such a person, don't limit yourself: fill those windowsills with seedlings. If you have too many in the Spring, bring your bounty to the Plant Swap or Adopt. If your green thumb is more house plant-based than victory garden, now is a good time to give your potted beauties a haircut and start rooting the trimmings. You guessed it: you can then bring those little babies to the Plant Swap or Adopt. For those who aren't hard-core gardeners or have a house filled with plants, fear not. The Plant Swap or Adopt is for you as well. Adopt is the most important word in the event's title. You don't have to bring a plant to take a plant (or two or three!)

The date for this year's Plant Swap or Adopt will be May 11th. It will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is the Saturday before Mother's Day, so bring your Mom and give her some free plants and flowers. She'll love spending time with you and who doesn't love free plants? To make it easy to remember from now on, the Plant Swap or Adopt will ALWAYS be on the Saturday the day before Mother's Day. You no longer have to wait for me to consult the star charts, the Farmer's Almanac and the Weather Channel before picking the Saturday that always ends up being the day before Mother's Day. This will be a rain or shine event so always listen to your Mother and bring a sweater, umbrella or sunscreen depending upon the weather.



Community Vegetable Garden Committee

There has been great interest in starting a community food garden in Brighton Heights. The Garden Committee, chaired by Ed Gergerich, has had great success at beautifying the neighborhood. To expand upon his efforts, Haley Moore and Charise Lutz came together to garner interest in adding some vegetables into different spaces in BH.

The first community interest meeting was held on January 30 and there was a total of 18 members in attendance. The committee discussed securing a temporary space for this growing season and working toward a permanent space for next year.

The goal of the community vegetable garden is to provide a growing space for interested neighbors while increasing the food security of Brighton Heights. If the operation is successful, the hope is to donate fresh produce to the "Freedge" which will also increase nutrition security for the neighborhood. In the coming months, the committee will research available grants while working on developing strategic community partnerships and potential sponsorships. All are welcome to join. For more information, please reach out to the contacts below.

CONTACT: Haley Moore
EMAIL: haymaymoore@gmail.com

CONTACT: Charise Lutz
EMAIL: Charise.lutz@icloud.com



BHCF SPRING PLANT SALE ORDER FORM



NAME		(First & Last Name)
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
LOCAL ADDRESS		
PAYMENT METHOD		(Cash, Paypal or Venmo)
COLLECTION OPTION		(Free Pickup or Local Delivery +\$5)

TYPE	PLANT	SIZE	UNIT PRICE	QTY	SUBTOTAL
Annuals	Angelonia (Blue)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Alyssum (White)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Begonia (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Celosia (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Coleus (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Cosmos (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Gomphrena (Purple)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Impatiens (Violet)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Lobelia (Blue)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Marigold (Yellow)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Pentas Graffiti (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Petunias (White)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Snapdragon (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Vinca Cora	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Cascade (Lilac)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Verbena (Purple)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
Zinnia (Mix)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00			
Perennials	Dusty Miller	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Gazania (Yellow)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Gerber (Orange)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
	Salvia (Red)	Half Flat (24 Plants)	\$8.00		
Annual Herbs	Basil	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Dill	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Parsley	3" Pot	\$2.50		
Perennial Herbs	Chives	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Oregano	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Thyme	3" Pot	\$2.50		
Vegetables	Tomato - Red Slicer	4" Pot	\$2.50		
	Tomato - Yellow Cherry	4" Pot	\$2.50		
	Pepper - Bell	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Pepper - Sweet	3" Pot	\$2.50		
	Pepper - Hot	3" Pot	\$2.50		
Fruit	Strawberries	3" Pot	\$2.50		
Hanging Baskets	Fern	10" Diameter	\$15.00		
	Impatiens (Mix)				
	Dianthus (Rose)				
			SUBTOTAL		
Delivery			If yes, add \$5		
Addl Donation to BHCF					
GRAND TOTAL					

Pay through Venmo or PayPal: @brightonheights
 PLEASE INCLUDE "BHCF PLANT SALE" IN THE COMMENTS
 Pay with cash: email BHCFOrders@gmail.com to
 coordinate payment

To Submit Digitally: please scan or photograph this form,
 then email it to BHCFOrders@gmail.com
 To Submit By Mail: please send form to: Brighton Heights
 Citizens Federation P.O. Box 99602, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



Brighton Heights Citizens Federation Strategic Plan Questionnaire

Brighton Heights wants to hear your opinions on the future of the neighborhood!

Please fill out the questions below and turn in the survey at a meeting or scan the QR code to fill out the form online.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THIS IS TO GET AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHO IS TAKING THE SURVEY.

- Are you a current resident of Brighton Heights?
 Yes No
- How long have you lived in Brighton Heights?
 > 20 years 20-15 years 15-10 years
 10-5 years < 5 years
- Do you rent or own?
 Rent Own
- What is your gender expression?
 Male Female Non-Binary
 Prefer not to say Other: _____
- What race/ethnicity do you identify with?
 Black/African-American White/Caucasian
 Hispanic/Latino Native American
 Multiracial/Multi-ethnic Asian American/Pacific Islander
 Prefer not to say Other: _____
- What is your age?
 < 18 18-25 26-39 40-65 65 +

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

THE BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZENS FEDERATION (BHCF) AIMS TO HAVE A LIST OF NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE TO FACILITATE QUICKER RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AND TO MORE EFFECTIVELY ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

- Which improvement would you say is most important to the neighborhood?
 Traffic Calming Stormwater Management
 Attracting Businesses to Brighton Heights
 Bridge Safety/Improvements
 Public Safety Enhancements
 Increasing Housing Availability
 Supporting Public Art Other: _____
- If you'd like, please explain why you chose the above as the most important improvement?

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS, PLEASE RATE THEM FROM 1-10 WITH 1 BEING STRONGLY AGAINST AND 10 BEING STRONGLY SUPPORTING.

- Turning the section of Shadeland Avenue beside Legion Park into a pedestrian centered roadway. (Think Market Square downtown with cobblestones and raised road)
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Improving California Avenue Five Point Intersection (California, Termon and BH Blvd). Options could include turning it into a large roundabout.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Implementing Traffic Calming throughout Brighton Heights. Examples include chicanes, raised crosswalks, corner extensions (bulb-outs) and speed humps.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Advocate for bike-sharing stations in the neighborhood.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Implement public art in the community (murals, decorated crosswalks, park art).
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Advocate for the T (rail transit) to run through Brighton Heights.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Please tell us, in your own words, what we should focus on in Brighton Heights. Feel free to be as specific or general as you'd like.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

THIS PLAN AIMS NOT JUST TO LIST CURRENT IDEAS AND PROJECTS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUT ALSO TO LAY OUT A SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT BHCF WILL APPLY TO FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES.

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES FROM 1-10 WITH 1 BEING STRONGLY AGAINST AND 10 BEING STRONGLY SUPPORTING.

- Brighton Heights should have housing for anyone who wants to move here.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Brighton Heights is beautiful and we should amplify that beauty where we can.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Every Brighton Heights resident should feel safe at their residence, while walking or biking, and when at school/work/place of worship/commerce.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- BHCF will work to update Brighton Heights infrastructure to the 21st Century.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**
- Brighton Heights should be a place to live, play, worship, work, and raise a family.
STRONGLY AGAINST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

MINUTES (Review of Development Activities Meeting on January 16, 2024)

This report created by the Neighborhood Planner and included with staff reports to City Boards and/or Commissions.

LOGISTICS

Project Name/Address: 3515 McClure Ave

Parcel Number(s): 75-H-12

ZDR Application Number: DCP-ZDR-2023-11831

Meeting Location: In-person at Healthy Active Living Center
3515 McClure Ave, Pittsburgh PA, 15212

Date: January 16, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 7 pm

Applicant: DPW and AE7

STAKEHOLDERS

Groups Represented: Brighton Heights Citizens Foundation
BHALC Director and Residents, Applicants [DPW & AE7], DCP

Approx. Number of Attendees: 31

BOARDS AND/OR COMMISSIONS REQUEST(S):

ZBA (Multiple zoning variances required)

1. Nonconforming Use: RD-1M Zoning does not allow for community centers larger than 5,000 SF. Current HALC Area: 4,445 SF, Proposed HALC Area: 10,820 SF.

2. Property Setbacks: Commercial properties located in RD-1M districts must meet Residential Compatibility requirements when adjacent to homes.

3. Off-Street Parking Requirements: Spaces Required: 22, Spaces Provided: 11.

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

During this in-person meeting, the applicant(s) gave us an overview of the history, the function(s) of the facility, and the proposed renovation plan and design, and the timeline for it. Plans for the building include renovating the basement for potential future tenants, re-finishing the first floor for use by the senior community, and preparing the second floor for potential future uses.

The main focus of the renovation was the Healthy Active Living Center but also to expand the space to give more room for different functions and activities for the seniors, both inside and outside of the building. They are adding an elevator to make it fully accessible, and a variety of amenities to provide full services for the HALC. Part of the renovation and part of the current administration's goal is to create sustainable buildings. So, they are building this to be Passive House Ready standards. [Not activating it yet, but for future.]

The community design goals include limiting exterior alterations, keeping a "warm shell" to accommodate more community use, increasing safety and accessibility and increasing use of the outdoor spaces. No change in footprints but adding new insulation. Some windows have already been replaced. They will replace the rest as well. Keeping the historically accurate grill patterns, they will put in thermally efficient fiberglass casement windows- operable but tightly sealed when closed.

A new accessible side entrance- the main entrance would be off of the parking lot. Adding various access controls and exterior

lighting and cameras to activate the building throughout the day to increase safety. To increase outdoor activity space, the over-run mini golf course is being replaced with an open lawn with trees and a walking loop and seating areas.

Parking is being expanded as much as possible based on the existing layout of the site. From 8/9 parking spots, the number is going up to 11 including 2 designated accessible spots. The porte co-chère (overhang) will be removed to give access to the dumpsters in the back left- fenced in and not visible from the street. The landscape allows space for art, community gardens etc. but not all of those are within the scope because of the budget.

Level 00 is the proposed area for the future tenants or community use and exercise room. The bathroom will be updated to be accessible. Water fountains and janitor's closet will be added. The stairwell will be extended all the way to the basement and the elevator will be next to it to make sure the future use of the lobby is separate.

Level 01 will have the HALC office space, a lounge, the kitchen and the dining, a couple of enclosed porch areas with library and built-in storage spaces for the seniors. The rear will have the rentable area for future use with accessible restrooms and shower facilities. The access is fully controlled by building operations.

Level 02 will have heating and cooling for now to make it a "Warm Shell" so that the future tenants can build it out as they need to. The proposed design still makes sure that the access can be separated and controlled for security purposes. This is what the base bid allows. There is also an "add alternative" drawing proposed to give direction to the future use(s).

After (and during) the overview and presentation, the applicants responded to questions and concerns which are as follows.

Input and Responses

Could you tell us about the heating? Can you show us the new circulation?

The heating will be changed from Radiant (existing) to Central Air system. Air conditioning is included in the proposed system design.

Can you show us the new circulation?

[AE7 explains the circulation/pathway showing the plan drawings.]

What are your plans for loading/unloading from the buses?

The drop-off would remain on the street. However, there is an accessible path from the sidewalk leading along the side to get to the new accessible entrance.

The restrictions of the site do limit the allowable parking spots as well as widening of the curb-cut for the parking lot due to a hydrant and an electrical pole. There won't be the ability for a van to get into the parking lot and make a turn around.

What is MEP?

Mechanical Electrical Plumbing.

Pickleball is great. But what about a flexible or multi-use space to attract more people?

Research shows that the targeted age group is more interested in pickleball. A great example is the Beechview HALC we see these.

Just around the bend, two houses got burned down. Any chance those lots could be used for pickleball court?

Doable but not in the current plan with the proposed budget. But we can definitely think about this, few years down the line.

Dining room- is that where we are going to hang out? If so, where are the piano and lounging sofa etc.?

Yes, and those are shown on the third-floor (level 2) plan. But all the furniture is mobile, so they can be accommodated in this proposed dining space as well.

Is the elevator lobby accessible (ADA)?

Yes. 42" standard doors.

If a group wanted to use the proposed rentable space, would they pay?

They will go through the CitiParks department, submit the application and pay the very small fee tied to it. But, that's about it.

Is the proposed level 2 guaranteed to be built?

Yes and No. It depends on the "base bid + add on". If the total is within our budget, then yes. The idea is to have the city's long-term vision for the space and build as much as the budget allows us to.

Is there a similar senior center that is functioning and we could visit?

Yes, the Beechview HALC. We [DPW] can definitely arrange a visit if you all are interested.

Would this floor (Level 00) be open during construction?

No. But also, this is open for conversation. We can definitely work with you all in this regard and see what is most efficient and safe.

What about the on-street parking you are proposing? Can the city help?

We can explore options to work with the city to have permits for on- street parking for this center.

How many seniors come here every day?

10 to 15.

Will the number increase?

Yes, that's the goal!

What would be the capacity w/o Level 02?

Dining Space: 50. Additional seating in other areas.

Is this a grant? Or, money out of the city budget?

No. The funding is funneled from the federal govt to the state and from there through the county. And, it's competitive. The more attendance you get, the more money the city residents get from the county. We get a lot of money, being the state lottery location. They provide the food. Most of the city budget goes to payroll.

[Add.] This center acts as a warming and cooling center in respective seasons. That's another great value it brings to the community as well.

Do seniors pay?

No charge, no. If you want to donate something, you can, but not needed.

There are two senior residences around. Are you in touch with them?

The renovated facility should attract them as well. And, the city will work on outreach as it does.

What is the Senior Age?

60.

What is project budget?

The base bid is approx. \$5.3M.

How could we make sure that the promised spaces are all built?

Maybe, reach out to your state legislator's office to help them see the value of this facility? Also, explore other funding avenues [big corporations etc.]?

What is the gap (budget)?

Less than a million, approx. \$700K.

If the classrooms are locked out [level 02], how do we use them for kids and youth?

[AE7 response] There is a requirement [for the funding] that the spaces be used only by the seniors. We had to oblige by this while designing this.

[Audience response] We can probably get creative and create opportunities for the seniors to mix with the youth through crafting and other activities. Research shows the health [both physical and psychological] benefits from mixed-age activities across the AE groups.

Passive house requirements cost a lot, no?

It adds to the cost, yes, but it is city-mandated. Every city owned facility has to be designed and built as passive building.

How many people can be accommodated?

By code, 300. Practically, much less.

If not finished as proposed, can level 02 be rented out still?

No, there is not enough bathrooms per code in the base bid proposal. So, no, that would be a violation.

What are the hours [of HALC]?

M-F. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Other Notes

After the overview, Q/A and other discussions around the Development Activity, the board made a motion- and unanimously voted- to approve this project to move forward.

Planner completing report: Nazia Tarannum

From State Rep. Emily Kinkead

"Pennsylvania's new and improved Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) is HERE and my staff is geared up and ready to help you apply for it!!

In case you are new to the PTRR Program, it has long been a critical initiative designed to provide financial relief to eligible senior homeowners and renters in the state. The program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, aims to ease the burden of property taxes, or rent for low-income seniors, widows/widowers over 50, and persons with disabilities. Democrats have been fighting to improve and expand this program for years and with our new Democratic majority in the House, we were finally able to make it happen. These changes will expand the program's impact and accessibility, so let me tell you a little more about the changes that have gone into effect for this year's PTRR season:

1. Income Limits Adjustment:

Previously, only qualifying renters with an income of \$15,000 a year or less and qualifying homeowners making \$30,000 a year or less could access this program. Now, qualifying individuals with a total household income of \$45,000 a year or less, regardless of rental or owner status can apply. That is a \$15,000 increase to property owners' income eligibility and a whopping \$30,000 increase for renters' income eligibility! These adjustments have expanded eligibility, allowing more individuals to qualify for the rebate. The improvements reflect my commitment to relieving economic and housing affordability challenges faced by many Pennsylvanians. *NOTE* Only ½ of Social Security income is counted toward your eligibility!!

2. Increased Rebate Amounts:

To provide even more money back in my constituents' pockets, we also increased the individual rebate amounts. This change acknowledges the rising costs of living and ensures that eligible individuals receive a more meaningful rebate to offset property taxes or rent expenses. Applicants may see a rebate of \$350 up to \$1000 compared to \$250-\$650 from last year.

3. Streamlined Application Process:

Recognizing the need for a more user-friendly experience, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has worked on streamlining the application process by sending out only the most necessary paperwork, and by providing an online application. Making it easier for eligible individuals to apply for the rebate, reduces potential barriers to access, and helps recipients receive the rebate faster. We encourage eligible constituents to apply online as it also makes tracking

your application easier. Don't have internet access or aren't computer savvy? Fear not! Make an appointment with my office or call to see when we'll be hosting PTRR events near you!

Whether you are new to the process, or a seasoned recipient of PA's Property Tax Rent Rebate, my office is here to help you get every dollar you are entitled to! And of course, if you have any questions or concerns, my staff and I are always here to help. Please contact us at the information below.

CONTACT: Emily Kinkead, State Representative, District 20

PHONE: 412-321-5523

EMAIL: RepKinkead@pahouse.net

ADDRESS: 658 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue

WEBSITE: <https://www.pahouse.com/kinkead>

TWITTER: @RepKinkead

FACEBOOK: Rep. Emily Kinkead

INSTAGRAM: @repkinkead



From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello Brighton Heights! I'm thrilled to share that at the beginning of January, City Council swore in two new members, Councilperson Bob Charland (District 3) and Councilman Khari Mosley (District 9) alongside re-elected members, Councilwoman Deb Gross (District 7), Councilperson Barb Warwick (District 5), and myself. Council members also selected Councilman R. Danielle Lavelle as the new Council President and officially kicked off the 143rd session of City Council.

At the end of 2023, Council passed the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets which included \$12 million in proposals for capital projects within District 1, which is double the amount from 2023. This includes \$400,000 for Marmaduke Park upgrades, \$1.3 million for improvements throughout Riverview Park, including landslide remediation and facility upgrades, \$800,000 for renovations at the Brighton Heights Healthy Active Living Center, and \$800,000 for reconstruction of Fire Station 35 located on Orchlee Street.

To jump start my second term as City Councilman, I introduced legislation to change the City's zoning code that would reduce burdens on proposals for attached homes. This bill amends an existing rule within the Zoning Code that treats "attached" row houses in "detached" districts as an unpermitted use, putting them in the same disfavored category as industrial and commercial uses. Recognizing that this rule sets an unreasonably high legal standard for

approving proposals for building future attached row houses, my bill will do the following: (1) Allow attached single-family homes by-right in neighborhoods with lots 35 feet wide or smaller and (2) permit attached single-family homes with lots larger than 35 feet wide as a Special Exception at the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Council on this and other similar legislation within my second term. If we are going to make it easier and cheaper to build more housing and more affordable housing in Pittsburgh, we need to make sure that our own laws and rules are not getting in the way.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact us below. My staff and I look forward to working together to make 2024 a great year for Brighton Heights!

CONTACT: Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1

PHONE: 412-255-2135

EMAIL: district1@pittsburghpa.gov

X (FORMERLY TWITTER): @Dist1Pgh

FACEBOOK: Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson

INSTAGRAM: @councilmanbobbywilson



MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

January 11, 2024

- Approximately 60 persons attended.
- Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion to approve the November General Membership Meeting minutes by John; second by Stacey. Motion carries.

Special Guests:

Pittsburgh Police

Officer Peyton

- There's been a change in the reporting system. This will reduce the volume of calls that are being reported for statistical purposes. That change will be noticeable.
- 13 reports, 2 arrests.
- President Glassbrenner extended a special thanks to the police for their presence at the holiday event.

Elected Officials:

City Controller

Rachel Heisler

- City Controller Rachel Heisler, a Northside native, was on hand to introduce herself and left contact information for any questions of the Controller's Office.
- Office phone: 412-255-2054
Email: Rachael.heisler@pittsburghpa.gov

Representative Kinkead

Represented by Rob

- There will be a shredding event on March 23rd at the Ross Township Municipal Building.

Councilman Wilson

Represented by Jordyn

- \$1.4 million in capital budget investments.
- \$800,000 will go towards improvement 435 Engine Fire Station.
- \$800,000 for Community Center improvements.
- Davis Ave. Bridge work will begin in

2024 will continue until 2025.

- Check the city's Engage Page often.
- Looking for three roads recommended for paving in the coming year.

Report of Officers and Others:

President's Report

Joseph Glassbrenner

- Christmas trees can be dropped off at Jack stack park until January 23rd for recycling.
- There will be a planning meeting this coming Tuesday for Healthy Active Living Center (HALC).
- Permits and deeds have been approved.
- The developer for that project will be at the March meeting.
- Testing interest for Davis Ave. Bridge, "Fun Run" 5k run in Riverview Park.
- Testing interest for a veggie garden that we could use the St. John's greenspace for that project.

Vice President's Report

Brendan Delaney

- No report.

Corresponding Secretary

Elaine Gloeckner

- 201 welcome bags have gone out in the past two years.
- Check the date in the newsletter for your dues.

Treasurer's Report

- There's approximately \$13,900 available. This time last year, there was approximately \$21,000 available.
- Federation has raised approximately \$17,000.
- Currently the operating budget stands at \$13,871.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Donna Kramer; second by Stacey Berkebile. Motion carries.

Report of Committees:

Northside Leadership Conference:

- No report.

Bright the Night

- The event had approximately 500 attend and was received well by the community.

House Tour:

Seth McCleary reporting for John Ebeck

- There will be a committee meeting Tuesday, January 23rd, time TBD at John's house. Anyone interested in being involved should contact John.

Memorial Day:

- May 24: flag planting at Highwood Cemetery.
- May 27 at 10 a.m.: Memorial Day will be celebrated at Legion Park.
- Committee meeting this Monday at St. Cyril Church.

Neighborhood Safety:

- Asking for get well wishes for John Takarski.
- President Glassbrenner gave thanks to Donna for 40 years of service to the Federation.

Land Use Committee

Nick Petrillo

- Reminder that we own 4 properties: one house on California Ave.; two vacant lots closing on those properties are expected soon.
- We also own one property on Fleming Ave. that will receive more attention after the closing of the California Ave. properties. That property will be more difficult to sell because of the grants that were received. We will need to seek out partners to sell that property.
- The Land Use Committee has also morphed into strategic planning. The executive board is currently reviewing a draft of that plan.

Food Freedge:

- As of today, the fridge is empty.
- The committee is working on bigger sources to provide food.

Communications:

- Some updates have been made to the website.
- The best and most recent information will always be found on our socials and in the newsletter.

Clean-up Committee

Tim Maloney

- No report.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No new business.

Adjournment:

- By Stacey Berkebile
- Second: Nicole Marks
- Motion carries.

Anything for the Good of the Federation

- Question on the Snow Angel program that is run by the City.
- Mardi Gras on February 11, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lutheran Church.
- 50/50 winner of \$28 won by Bob Haller, who donated the \$28.00 back to the Federation.
- The next General Membership Meeting will be March 14, 2024.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary, Todd McCollum



Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

Harry came home after fishing all day without a catch, and feeling quite rejected, told his wife, "THAT'S IT! I'VE HADDOCK, I QUIT FISHING!"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S)

DATE

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE

ZIP CODE + 4

PHONE

EMAIL

New Member Renewal
Membership for _____ years

MULTIPLE YEAR BONUS:

Pay 3 years >>> get 4 years!

Pay 5 years >>> get 7 years!

Family (\$10)
 Individual (\$7.50)
 Senior Citizen (\$5)
 Social (\$5)
 Corporate (\$20)

Additional Donation
(optional) _____
for: _____

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

Make checks payable to BHCF, INC.
Send to: BHCF TREASURER
PO BOX 99602
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Your membership renewal date will be printed after your name on your mailing label.

Membership is also available online at www.brightonheights.org

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

MEETING WILL BE LOCATED IN JOHN MORROW AUDITORIUM. VISIT WWW.BRIGHTONHEIGHTS.ORG FOR DETAILS.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED FOR US BY ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL AND WE APPRECIATE THEIR GENEROSITY!

Address Service Requested



Brighton Heights Citizens Federation
PO Box 99602
Pittsburgh, PA 15233