



**Friendship Community Group**  
**August 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**  
Friendship Avenue Church | August 1, 2024

The following Board members were present: Ellen DiBiase (ED), Danielle Novick (DN), Nikki Coffee (NC), Steve Morrow (SM), Rachel Murchison (RM), Sierra Weir (AW), Sheila Grab (SG). Vince Manetti (VM) joined at 7:37 PM.

Regrets from: Elizabeth Schwall, Aafke Butter, Julie Grove, Abby Slovonik, Nancy Cohen, Lee Ann Antol

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:13PM. Quorum was not present.

Vince Manetti joined at 7:37- Quorum was then present.

**I. Review of Consent Agenda - Informational Items. DN moved to accept these items. Motion seconded (SW, SM).**

- a. July 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- b. July 2024 ZDC Meeting Minutes
- c. July 2024 Outreach Meeting Minutes
- d. Jan-July 2024 Treasurer's Report (through July 30<sup>th</sup>)
- e. Baum Grove Income & Expense Report
- f. FCG Events Income & Expense Report
- g. CD Investment Confirmation- 7/18/24
- h. Baum Grove Stage Repair Estimates (3)

**II. Discussion/Approval Items**

- a. There was an online executive committee vote (7/19): Julie Grove moved that FCG approve a \$500 expenditure to Joe Dvorchak for poison ivy and other invasive plant removal along the brick wall in Baum Grove. To allow Mr. Dvorchak to remedy this issue right away while he had time on his schedule, an Executive Committee vote was called for between Board meetings. Motion passed unanimously.
  - i. Project to be completed on Monday 8/5.
- b. SW, on behalf of the Baum Grove Committee, moved that the FCG Board approve a \$250 expenditure to remove the invasive plants along the Roup Ave. hillside of Baum Grove between the stairs. Motion pass unanimously. There were no oppositions or abstentions. Motion passed.

- i. The work will be completed by Joe Dvorchak.
- c. Baum Grove Committee presented a motion that the FCG Board approve an expenditure of up to, but not exceeding, \$10,000 for the Baum Grove Stage repair. The Baum Grove Committee collected 3 bids and proposed moving forward with the bid from Joe Dvorchak for \$6,300 (base) plus the cost of new bricks needed (TBD during disassembly). The work would be completed in 2024.
  - i. DN: if all new bricks are needed (bricks in very poor condition) there could be a significant additional cost. Potentially source recovered or recycled bricks. Mortar type should be discussed in further detail to prevent job rework.
  - ii. Scope of project should be more clearly defined better and conveyed to bidders. VM will create this scope of work and meet with DN and JG on-site to discuss. JG will then present to bidders again, this time with a clear and identical RFP for all to bid against, in order to better compare cost differentials.
  - iii. DN gave VM an overview of main issues from the stage including brick disintegration, high rate of brick replacement needed, loose stone wall could be causing water issues. This gives VM a starting point for scope development.

### **III. Updates**

#### **a. Outreach Committee- RM gave overview of upcoming events.**

- i. Yard Sale- Sat 8/10- 70+ sellers registered
- ii. Friendship Family Night Out- Fri 8/23 (Jeff Tobe is volunteer lead). Sandlot will be shown, will also have live music and food. Rain date is 8/24.
- iii. History and Gardens Walking Tour (Martha Terry & Diana Ames)- 10/5 (afternoon) & 10/6 (evening) (ED gave update). This is intended to be a test run for this event. Could potentially offer this event on the off years from the House Tour Event. Event will be ~1.5-2 hours. Targeting Friendship residents but will be open to all. Free admission; donations encouraged.

#### **b. Zoning & Development Committee. ED gave update.**

- i. Review of PPS Building Consolidation Meeting from 7/11- Overall, it is not looking promising for Montessori School because of cost needed for building repairs.
- ii. Goals: keep Montessori School building and conduct required repairs, play park /greenspace stays open for public use and if school is sold-avoid condos/apartments.
  - 1. Major building issues: it does not meet ADA requirements and there is no AC.

2. During the PPS Building Consolidation Meeting, retention issues were raised (teacher and student retention) and the overall need to address larger issues.
- iii. Pittsburgh Glass Center
  1. Sound Study- background on previous sound study was given (ED). First sound study from 2022 showed levels above threshold. Current sound study (July 2024) used the 2022 as baseline (baseline level was above threshold). New HVAC does not add noise. PGC is not in violation of the city noise ordinance because their baseline amount over the threshold is grandfathered in since it was determined to already be there during baseline study
  2. DN: We need to decide on the level of continued FCG involvement.
  3. VM: gave additional details on sound study/baseline. MOU has been met.
  4. Ellen/Heather meeting on 8/22 to close out remaining issues
- iv. PWSA Community Meeting- 8/22/24

**c. Baum Grove Committee**

- i. Shed organized by Baum Grove volunteers on 7/19-7/20 and committee member Deadra Keener donated shelving
  1. Also working on new rules sign and new banners (goal is to have these by next month)
- ii. Garbage Olympics- 9/21. SW will work with Martha Terry.
- iii. Eagle Scout repairs (Tate Woodward)- currently working on watering and weeding. Eagle Scout project will include repairs of tables and benches.

**IV. New Items of Business**

- a. Board members are to submit intent for 2025 to Ellen by 8/15/24
- b. Love Your Block grant notification slated for 7/31/24- still pending
- c. RCO up for renewal- Fall meeting planned for all RCOs (date TBD)

**V. Upcoming Meetings**

- a. **Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, September 11th, at 7 pm- **Pittsburgh Glass Center**
- b. **Next Quarterly Community Meeting + ELECTIONS:** Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
- c. FCG Committee Meetings
  - i. **Baum Grove Committee:** Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 pm- Baum Grove
  - ii. **Zoning & Development Committee:** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm- Friendship Avenue Church
  - iii. **Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, September 11th, at 6 pm- **Pittsburgh Glass Center**

- d. Other Meetings/Events of Note
  - i. **Monthly Zone 5 Public Safety Meeting:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6 pm- Kingsley Association
  - ii. **Monthly District 7 Mtg w/ Deb Gross:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 12 pm- Zoom
  - iii. **Monthly Baum-Centre Initiative Meeting:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6 pm- UPMC Shadyside or on Zoom – **no meeting in August**
  - iv. **Penn Ave. Phase II Streetscape Community Meeting:** Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am- BGC Activity Center (Meeting #2 of 4)
  - v. **Meet the Artists: Penn Ave Phase II Streetscape Project:** Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, during Unblurred- Irma Freeman Center
- e. ED will be on vacation until 8/22

**Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Grab, Secretary