



September 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

The Friendship Community Group had its SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING in person at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, on the evening of September 11, 2024. A quorum was present. The following Board members were in attendance: Nancy Cohen, Ellen DiBiase (President), Abby Slovonick (Treasurer), Elizabeth Reitz Schwall, Danielle Novick, Julie Grove, Vince Manetti, and Rachel Murchison. Regrets from Sheila Grab (Secretary), Steve Morrow, Nikki Coffee, Aafke Butter, Lee Ann Antol (Vice President) and Sierra Weir.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. A Moment of Silence was held for September 11th and Nancy Cohen made comments about her and her husband's presence in New York City on the day of the tragedy.

Items for Discussion/ Approval

The President called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda which was affirmed by Vince and seconded by Danielle. All in favor.

The Nominations Committee moved to nominate Gillian McTiernan as a candidate for the FCG Board in 2025. All in favor and motion passed.

The Baum Grove Committee moved to approve an expenditure of \$100 to Diana Ames for mulch and plants to assist in the repair of the Fredericka Street pollinator garden. Julie affirmed and Rachel seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Outreach Committee moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$900 for the initial purchase of up to 50 glass suncatcher ornaments from local artist, Beyvan Schantz, to be sold for a profit during the 2024 Wreath Sale. Danielle affirmed the motion with Julie seconding. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Executive Committee moved to approve a \$200 line item to be added to the annual budget to cover admission costs incurred by any FCG Executive Officer designated to attend a community-related meeting and/or workshop on behalf of FCG. Danielle affirmed and Rachel seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Updates

Outreach Committee

Rachel recapped the 8//10 Yard Sale and 8/23 Movie Night events. She also mentioned the Kevin Hurst concert upcoming at Baum Grove on 10/5. The Walking Tours on 10/5 and 10/6 led by Martha Terry and Diana Ames were also mentioned. As we do not have a lead for the Pumpkin Stroll, there will not be one this year. The Wreath Sale opens on November 1 and will go through November 22.

Pickup is on Saturday November 30. The Holiday Party is Friday, December 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Tomayko Foundation Art Gallery.

Zoning & Development Committee

Vince spoke of the 8/22 PWSA Community Meeting and water pressure issues in a wide area of Friendship. He mentioned that sprinkler systems would not work at Pittsburgh Glass Center and the Children's Home without the remediations those buildings had done on their own to boost pressure and supply. The plan mentioned at the meeting was to tie Friendship into the Garfield water supply by 2026, only if the PWSA's capital budget was approved to do so. Leak checks will still be done regularly.

Pittsburgh Glass Center has agreed to cover fence gaps and parking on the loading dock was determined not to be a zoning violation.

Ellen stated that a tour of the Children's Home scheduled to happen on 9/11 was cancelled due to a Children's Home administrator's family health issue. This meeting will be rescheduled and is to discuss how FCG and the Children's Home can strengthen their relationship moving forward while appropriately addressing neighbors' concerns.

There was an 8/26 PPS School Board Hearing Review, and 5 residents from Friendship spoke on behalf of interests in the Montessori School remaining open at its current location. The FCG/BGC Community Meeting regarding PPS school closures will take place on 9/17 at 6 p.m. at the BGC Activity Center. Decisions on closure will be made by the end of September before a three-month waiting period, as required by the state of PA, goes into effect.

Baum Grove Committee

Julie said the stage repair project was headed by Vince who is producing a document outlining the scope of work, building materials and design requirements to ensure all bidders share the same request and bid with full knowledge of what FCG wants. Julie also mentioned that new signage is coming to Baum Grove. The Garbage Olympics will take place on 9/21, and we will need volunteers.

New Items

Ellen mentioned that the 10/2 Community Meeting has been rescheduled to October 17.

People's Gas Community Meeting is on 9/24 at the Friendship Avenue Church at 6 p.m.

The Board member retreat for 2025 planning will be in mid-November.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on September 12, 2024

Nancy Cohen