



## Friends of Midtown Board Meeting August 16, 2021 ~ 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm ~ ZOOM

- **In attendance:** Molly Haragan, Ben Hinnenkamp, Rhiannon Jacobs, Annie Hughes, Eileen Carson, Jodi Sanger, Puja Gellerman, Hannah Witwer, Priscilla Morales, Selina Tremmel, Lina Beron Echavarria, Lindsey Sansoni
  - Not in attendance: Terri Smith, Autumn Anderson, Nate Lotze, Katie Talada, Linda Walters
- **New Board Nominations** (Nate Lotze, Hannah Witwer, Autumn Anderson, Terri Smith)
  - Nominate Selina Tremmel for Safety Committee Co-Chair
  - Selina is a friend of the Midtown area, while she doesn't live in Midtown, she used to work here and loves to hang out with friends in the area. Her favorite place in all of Midtown is the Midtown Scholar! Selina comes to us with a background in communications and call-center experience. She wishes to use her skills to help Ben with the online component of the Safety Committee, which would be engaging with residents, creating Facebook Events in the Safety Committee Facebook group, and promoting the various events held by the Committee. She is passionate about the mission of the committee and is excited to make Midtown a safer place for residents and the general public. Selina also comes to us with exciting ideas, such as creating a weekly or bi-weekly Safety Committee newsletter to better engage the community. For all of these reasons, the Nominating Committee recommends that the board vote to appoint Selina Tremmel to the Co-Chair position on the Safety Committee.
  - Eileen Carson moved to accept Selina Tremmel as safety committee co-chair, Annie Hughes seconded
  - Selina Tremmel was voted onto the board with no nays or abstentions
- **Mission Moment:** Safety and Beautification Committee and their Trash Tuesday initiatives
  - Ben Hinnenkamp shared
  - The collaboration has gotten a lot more people involved and people are noticing the efforts, Harrisburg Young Professionals has reached out along with other organizations that have expressed interest
- **Treasurer's Report** (Eileen Carson)
  - Eileen Carson shared
  - The Treasurer's report has grown and involved into a large file
  - Eileen is brainstorming ways to condense, simplify, and make the report more understandable to others. It's important to understand because the report shares how FOM spends and makes its money
  - The new format will be run by the exec committee before changes are set in stone
  - We are doing well financially, the dog park is out of money but grass cutting money can come out of admin expenses
  - Puja Gellerman motioned to approve the July Treasurer's report, Jody Sanger seconded
  - The July Treasurer's Report was accepted
- **Membership Report** (Rhiannon Jacobs)

- Rhiannon shared
  - Total - 190
    - 79 Individual
    - 76 Household
    - 25 Business
    - 10 Sustaining Members
  - Quick discussion on how to register new members on the spot, invoicing people after the event doesn't seem to work, people do not follow up
  - Note: cannot set up recurring memberships through PayPal
- **Nominating Committee Updates** (Nate Lotze, Hannah Witwer, Autumn Anderson, Terri Smith)
    - Interviewing for Community Building, and Events Co-Chairs
    - Plan to work with Comms to create social media posts about joining the board
    - Puja Gellerman expressed interest in learning more about being on the committee
- **Board Business (vote)**
    - Approve [July meeting minutes](#) for public release
    - Eileen Carson moved to accept the July meeting minutes, Lina Beron Echavarria seconded
    - The July meeting minutes were accepted
- **Board Discussion Items**
    - Recommend September public virtual Board meeting
- **Board Updates (FYIs)**
    - H2-2021 Planning: [Events, Volunteer Opportunities & Resource Needs](#) - lots of upcoming volunteering needs, please help where you're able
    - FOM T-Shirts & Tanks - if you haven't picked yours up, reach out to Hannah & Molly
    - FOM Board Member - [Update contact details and info here](#)
    - FOM Board Photos on web page - Please send by this weekend
    - Add committee records & materials to your committee Google Drive folder
- **Committee Updates**
    - **Beautification** (Lina Beron Echavarria & Lindsey Sansoni)
      - **Pocket Park** - As of 7/29, the Rain Barrel was installed! Sprocket volunteers finalized construction of the rain barrel and we helped install it. Now we don't have to walk 3-4 blocks to get water when we need it. She's already full. Pictures uploaded [to folder](#). Sprocket will start painting the mural this Friday 4:00 - 7:00 pm (Rain day: Saturday 9:00 -12:00 pm) and 10 FOM folks are invited to help (\*Not a public event). Anyone interested? If so, bring clothes you're willing to say goodbye to and house brushes.
      - **Wood Chips** - We're still not 100% sure of where to move/use leftover wood chips from the Pocket Park. Our first choice would be the elevated garden attached to the northern wall of Sayfords. We would like to mulch it during the next Trash Tuesday if we're allowed.
      - **Food for thought** - Lindsey ran into a couple who live around the area. They were super interested in participating in the 3rd St. Community Garden. I told them that

FOM is not formally involved with the garden (although Lina is actively participating with it). Both had extensive experience with gardening, building garden boxes, and researching the benefits of urban/community gardens. They could be useful contacts or even the lead(s) for potential Garden Planter Box Workshops; partnering with homeowners/schools or the Hbg Summer Enrichment Program/businesses.

- **Safety** (Ben Hinnenkamp & Selina Tremmel)
  - Weekly “Midtown Walks” continue. Upcoming walks:
    - This month
      - 08/20 - Family Friday (3rd in the Burg)
      - 08/26 - Thirsty Thursday
      - 08/31 - Meeting/Safety Walk
    - Next month
      - 09/07 - Trash Tuesday
      - 09/17 - Family Friday (3rd in the Burg)
      - 09/23 - Thirsty Thursday
      - 09/28 - Meeting/Safety Walk
  - Trash Tuesday/Thirsty Thursday continued success
  - Starting Family Friday to coincide with 3rd in the Burg
  - Information video about Midtown Walks
  - **Reminder to FOM Board Members, please commit to participating in at least 2 block walks annually.**
- **At Large** (Puja Gellerman)
  - No updates, but willing to help with any current/active projects or programs
- **Business** (Autumn Anderson & Katie Talada)
  - Sharing of the results of the FOM Community survey got delayed, however it is for the best because some last minute updates will now be included and the Business Committee will include an intro to Molly as the new FOM president
  - Meet with Molly to discuss additional ways to Market our Business Members and add value to Business Memberships.
  - Meet with Chad Fry regarding Midtown Asset map which was developed through the STEAM ecosystem initiative. Map will be updated and maintained by FOM. Business committee learning how to navigate the site and then will share with the Board during an upcoming meeting. Will have opportunities to highlight business members and possibly get people involved with FOM activities.
  - One Midtown Campaign being launched 9/13-9/19/21, in conjunction with Small Business week, prize will be a \$50 visa gift card
  - Business Committee continuing to work on Midtown Makers and Annual Dinner Event
  - **Please promote the One Midtown Campaign once you see it posted**
- **Dog Park** (Jodi Sanger & Terri Smith)
  - Possible purchase of fencing/gates (would also include teardown)
  - Closure announcement shared
  - Community survey is open until 8/31 (depending on number of responses, may extend)
    - Social media posts/stories
    - Posted at dog park
    - Newsletter
    - Flyers at local businesses
    - MOH tiny dog contest 8/14
    - 3rd in the Burg 8/20
  - Usage observation planned for 8/23 - 9/19
  - Last Bash to take place on 9/29

- Disassembling of park 10/2-3 (tentative)
- Lawn care has been canceled as of 8/31
- Vartan has been notified of plan to close; will meet for walkthrough in Oct
- Edders has been notified of nonrenewal (Eileen)
- Potential to collaborate with CRW on future dog park - thanks to Cate for connection!
- Other things to consider:
  - FOM role in future advocacy for a permanent park
  - Additional fundraising?
  - Woofstock (Sun, 9/26)
- **Community Building** (Mikell Simpson)
  - No updates
- **Events** (Hannah Witwer)
  - August 28 - MC Outdoor Movies
    - The Lego Movie
    - back to school block party
  - October 9 - Superhero Day
    - Capital Rebirth
    - City Island, 2pm - 6pm
  - October 23 - Midtown Gives Back
    - Personal Item Drive with EFP
- **Communications** (Linda Walters & Priscilla Morales)
  - Thanks to everyone who tags FOM in Instagram stories. We make sure to share those, so please keep it up!
  - Priscilla is back from vacation
  - Linda will be away 8/19 - 8/24
  - Please utilize the communications request Google Form (see bottom)
  - Linda and Priscilla will send a reminder Wednesday for newsletter items; please send items by this Friday - will send newsletter by next Friday (8/27)
  - Please feel free to text or email Linda and Priscilla with social media requests
- **Meeting Close**
  - Lindsey Sansoni motioned to end the meeting, Lina Beron Echavarria seconded.
  - The meeting ended at 7:15 PM.