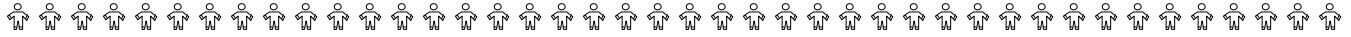




Polish Hill Voice

We are the community...we are one voice!



3060 Brereton Street ☀ Pittsburgh, PA 15219 ☀ (412) 681-1950 ☀ phcapgh@verizon.net

A Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh Publication

Fall 2006, Volume 1, Issue 1

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Smaller issues of the *Polish Hill Voice* (like this one) will be published on a periodic basis or as community issues arise. Two large issues will also be published bi-annually.

If you have suggestions for content, please send your input to the PHCA via phone, mail or email.

Election Seeks to Fill 4 Vacancies

Do you have a passion for Polish Hill? Could you spare a few hours each month working to strengthen the sustainability of the neighborhood and ensuring the safety of our residents?

We could use you on our team.

Nominations are now open for the following positions on the PHCA Board of Directors which will expire at the end of 2006:

Vice President

Mike Duray is currently fulfilling the remainder of the previous term. Mike is eligible for re-election.

Directorship #4

Currently held by Debbie Jozwiak for the past three years. Debbie is

eligible for re-election.

Directorship #5

Terry Doloughty is currently fulfilling the remainder of the previous term. Terry is eligible for re-election.

Directorship #6

Currently held by Colleen Helwich for the past three years. Colleen is eligible for re-election.

All positions are a three-year term.

You may nominate your neighbors through one of the PHCA Board Members, in person or via email, or by returning the enclosed Nomination Form (on page 3) to the PHCA office.

(Continued on page 3)

DECD Funding Provides Much-Needed Face Lift

On June 30, the PHCA drew down the remainder of a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

The funding will enable us to make some long overdue updates to the PHCA office, including: shoring up the front corner of the office floor, installation of new tile floor-

ing, replacement of drywall in the rear kitchen area, installation of a glass block window, lighting improvements and a fresh coat of paint

(Continued on page 4)

In Memoriam

Mayor Bob O'Connor



1944-2006

*Thank you, Bob.
You will be missed.*

Election (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

When nominating candidates, remember the eligibility requirements, as per the PHCA By-laws:

- ◆ Polish Hill resident
- ◆ PHCA member in good standing (paid dues for 2005 and 2006)
- ◆ Must have attended at least two of the past 12 PHCA Membership Meetings

Nominations will be closed and voted on at the November 3 Membership Meeting.

The election will take place at the Annual Meeting in December.



"You will learn more about the people you work with in three minutes by asking them what they do for nothing, than by working with them for three years on the same team."

- Patrick Dixon,
Building a Better Business 2005

2006 Nomination Form PHCA Board of Directors

Deadline: November 3, 2006

I hereby nominate the following individual/s for the position of::

Vice President

Directorship #5

Directorship #4

Directorship #6

The PHCA Membership Chair will determine eligibility of each candidate.

Nominations will be approved by the PHCA Membership on November 3.

Face Lift (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

throughout.

PHCA Board members Mike Duray and Terry Doloughty are spearheading the project, as well as donating most of the labor.

If you're adept with a paint brush, Mike and Terry are looking for a few good volunteers to put the finishing touches on the project! Please contact the PHCA office if you are interested.

Work is scheduled to begin the week of September 18.



Remember the PHCA in your Charitable Giving

As the 2006 United Way Campaign kicks off this fall, remember 258. When your employer asks you to donate to the United Way, say "YES!", and designate your gift to the PHCA through Contributor Choice.

If you so choose, your contribution will be deducted from your paycheck each week.

Polish Hill Civic Association

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UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTOR CHOICE

Membership Votes to Pursue Feasibility of Redevelopment at 3101-3 Brereton Street (former site of Jerry's Market)



Above: The Brereton Street side of the building has two storefronts, as does the Dobson Street side (pictured below). There are potentially four rental units on top.



Members attending the September 6 membership meeting never thought the day would come when they would be asked to vote on the fate of Jerry's building.

But following a lengthy discussion, they finally agreed to submit a sales agreement for the purchase of 3101-3 Brereton Street. The sales agreement, which will be for an undisclosed amount, will be contingent upon the inspection of an engineer.

In May 2006, Jerry Helwick closed his market and sold the building to a private developer, Gregory Reis, who recently expressed a desire to put the property back on the market.

Members voting in favor of the motion expressed concerns that the building would sit vacant and deteriorate beyond repair or, worse, an absentee landlord might buy the property. Discussion centered around the community potential for the building, such as opening a community meeting hall, a coffee shop and a Polish Hill "general store," all with the objective of stimulating further development of key properties in the neighborhood.

With a little help from our friends

If pursued, the scope of this project could span years and millions of dollars. Realizing that the PHCA lacks the resources, staff and technical expertise to go it alone, members voted to seek assistance from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). The BGC is an experienced community development corporation that would act in a consulting capacity on the redevelopment project.

The partnership could potentially benefit the PHCA in its pursuit of general operating dollars, as many funders look favorably on collaboration efforts.

The PHCA Board of Directors met with BGC Executive Director Rick Swartz who voiced his interest in pursuing the venture.

"The PHCA Board of Directors will do the due diligence and make subsequent recommendations to the members," said Sharon Wolkiewicz, PHCA President. "But ultimately, the PHCA membership will be the final decision-making body on this issue."

The issue will be on the agenda at the October 3 meeting.

"...ultimately, the PHCA membership will be the final decision-making body on this issue."



*Representative Don Walko
20th Legislative District*

REPRESENTATIVE WALKO REPORTS FROM HARRISBURG

Walko, Dermody, Flaherty Call on Governor to Have PA Join Prescription Drug Import Program

State Reps. Don Walko, Frank Dermody and Shawn Flaherty, D-Allegheny, are urging Gov. Ed Rendell to have Pennsylvania join a five-state program that provides lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrial nations.

The lawmakers want Pennsylvania to join I-SaveRx, which was founded by Illinois two years ago and now includes Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Vermont. The program helps residents of all ages in those states save 25 to 80 percent on prescriptions while also having strong safety guarantees.

I-SaveRx conducts regular inspections of the participating pharmacies in Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, with quality controls and multiple safety checks. Illinois officials report that the program has saved \$2 million in two years. More

information is available online at www.i-saverx.net. Minnesota has a similar program.

In a letter to the governor, the Allegheny County legislators said, "You have achieved great gains in helping additional hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania's neediest seniors to afford life-saving prescription drugs, through the 2004 expansion of PACE and PACENET

and this year's successful PACE Plus Medicare initiative. Now we believe it is time to build on those successes by helping Pennsylvanians under 65 who have to choose between their health and their finances due to the high cost of many prescription drugs.

"As you know, the high cost of many prescription drugs isn't just an issue for people 65 and older. Plenty of young or middle-aged people are coping with problems like breast cancer, high blood pressure or cholesterol, depression or diabetes. To give another example, birth control often isn't covered at all by insurance."

The lawmakers informed Rendell that they would be willing to implement I-SaveRx as a pilot program in one or more of their districts or for all of Allegheny County. The legislators hold key positions in the House of Representatives.

Walko serves on the House Appropriations and Insurance committees, Dermody is chairman of the county Democratic delegation, and Flaherty serves on the Finance Committee.

"...the high cost of many prescription drugs isn't just an issue for people 65 and older."

If you have questions about the above or any other state-related matter, please call one of my district offices:

Northside Office:
3880 Perrysville Avenue
(Observatory Hill)
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
(412) 321-5523

Lawrenceville Office:
204 37th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
(412) 621-2818
Hours by appointment.

Who to Call



In an emergency, always call 9-1-1. Keep these numbers handy for all other issues.

Zone 2 Police Station:
(412) 255-2827

Mayor's Office: (412) 255-2626

Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI)

Residential Properties:
Ken Seisek (412) 255-2193

Commercial Properties:
Tom Breisinger (412) 255-8872

Abandoned Houses:
(412) 255-2177

Abandoned Vehicles:
(412) 255-8999

Environmental Services (Refuse):
(412) 255-2779

Animal Control:
(412) 255-2036

Dept. of Public Works:
(412) 255-2790

Councilman Len Bodack:
(412) 255-2140

Water & Sewer Emergencies:
(412) 255-2429

Allegheny County Health Department:
(412) 687-2243

CYF: (412) 473-2000

Area Agency on Aging:
(412) 350-5460 or 1-800-344-4319

Please return completed form with dues to:
Membership Chair, PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh 2007 Membership Application *Dues: \$5.00*

NAME: _____

(Street Address) (City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE (optional): _____

EMAIL (optional): _____

____ REGULAR MEMBER? Or ____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER?
(Polish Hill residents only) (Non-residents; entitled to newsletter only)

____ New Member? Or ____ Renewal?

For office use only:
REC'D BY: _____ DATE: _____ GOT CARD? _____ LOGGED? _____

PHCA Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the PHCA office.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

October 3

November 3 (note change of meeting day)

December 5 (subject to change)

Remember PHCA's Contributor Choice Code: 258

PH
CA Polish Hill Voice

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219