



SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2012

Call to Order: 9:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

Officers Present: Christy Wepler, Lori Downey, Lisa Belinsky, Michaela Sheridan, Nancy Schlaefer, Liz Tomaselli, Elizabeth Johnson, Deirdre Curtis

Pledge of Allegiance

SCA Executive President's Welcome – Christy Wepler

- Rosalind Wiseman (author of "Queen Bees and Wannabees") presentation during Red Ribbon Week, in partnership with CASA. Will take place on October 29 at the Parent Meeting at Munsey Park for all district students. On Monday, 5th through 8th graders will see the presentation, which will be taped. Christy will find out whether other children can be brought in. We cannot put the tape of the presentation online, but Christy will determine whether we can password-protect it. There may be a live feed of the presentation.

Approval of Minutes – Deirdre Curtis

The September 14, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Johnson

- The SCA Membership drive has brought in \$28,800 to date. There has only been one mailing, so we may get additional members.
- Elizabeth noted that she is still getting up to speed. There are numerous transactions to review, as well as an IRS inquiry regarding tax identification numbers for vendors.
- It is imperative that we get tax ID numbers for vendors. W-9 forms are best, but just get the information if it's not possible to get a W-9. Elizabeth will send a blank W-9 to Jill Pullano for posting on the SCA website. Note that tax IDs are only required for vendors who are paid more than \$500. However, if a vendor is used for multiple projects that total more than \$500 we must have a tax ID. So the best practice is to always get one.
- Elizabeth is looking at alternative investments to CDs and will know more next week.
- In response to a question regarding the amounts of money raised for future Frolics and amounts left over by past Frolic Committees:
 - 2010: No funds remaining
 - 2011: No funds remaining

- 2012: \$3,847.66 remaining
 - 2013: \$9,169.61
 - 2014: \$16,693.14
 - 2015: \$7,117.83
- There are also funds available for future Frolics which will be used for ceilings, etc. and the flagpole and planting maintenance. That amount is \$7,741.62. Total amount of funds in Frolic accounts is \$44,569.86.

Planet Manhasset Presentation on "Edible Garden" Proposal – Angela Classi

Angela Classi gave a presentation on the proposed "Edible Garden" project:

- Other local schools are doing edible garden projects, including The Waldorf School in Garden City.
- Queens Botanical Garden staff has agreed to consult with Manhasset for the project; Clark Botanical Garden has agreed to provide free compost.
- Ms. McGorry and The High School Green Club have volunteered to assist with composting and some maintenance.
- Regarding the budget, Angela estimates that it would take approximately \$5,000 to start the project. The project would be eligible for approximately 70 grants. Whole Foods provides grants and funding to similar projects; Home Depot has tools that it will donate.
- The proposal entails creating three gardens:
 - Shelter Rock: the garden would be located in the interior courtyard. The area is protected from the elements, receives full sun, and has access to water.
 - Secondary School: the currently-existing greenhouse is in good condition. It has been refurbished and is really underutilized. Planet Manhasset is undertaking a greenhouse cleanup as this year's project.
- The triangular area in front of the greenhouse is near where students come out from gym and would need to be fenced.
- An herb garden is being considered near Artie Sims monument. The plan would be to clean up the currently-overgrown area and plant herbs.
- The current plan is for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Green Club students to undertake the work
 - Munsey Park: there are two possible locations: either near the basketball courts close to Northern Boulevard, or next to the path closest to The Congregational Church property. (Christy Wepler noted that there are dry wells located near the path, so that location may not work.)
 - With respect to summer maintenance, it may be possible to have families "adopt" a garden for one week each summer, with backup provided by the landscaper who

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2012

maintains the 2012 Frolic plantings near the rear entrance to the school. Christy Wepler noted that it might be possible to get assistance from local senior citizens – many have beautiful gardens and since they no longer have children in the schools they might not be aware of the opportunity.

- The contemplated size of the gardens is approximately 20 feet by 4 feet.
- In response to Pat Aitken's question regarding what other resources would be needed, Angela noted that there would be no custodian involvement – the maintenance would be provided by Planet Manhasset, and some oversight of that club would be necessary. Suggestions for oversight offered at the meeting were:
 - Zari Ginsburg for Shelter Rock
 - Margaret Black for Munsey Park
 - Eliza Blake and Sandra Martels for the secondary school.
- In response to Pat Aitken's question regarding what approvals would be required to proceed, and whether the garden would be considered a gift to the school or district, Christy Wepler stated that today's presentation was simply so that the SCA Executive Committee could vote on whether to approve the next steps. Christy believes that it would be considered a gift. Lisa Belinsky noted that no funds are being requested from the School District or any of the schools.
 - Carlo Prinzo noted that it is possible that in order for the project to be considered for grants, it may have to be a sanctioned school district project. Carlo also suggested looping in Charlie Leoni with respect to any curriculum issues. Pat Aitken noted that as of now the project is considered extracurricular, but that eventually the Edible Garden would be used for science along the lines of a language lab.
- The SCA Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the Manhasset Edible Gardens Project. The SCA pledged to support the project in the planning stages and to physically and financially support the project going forward.
- Dean Schlanger had several observations about the project:
 - First, the secondary school greenhouse has historically been used for science research projects. He would like to bring in Armand (custodian) for clarification.
 - Second, he wants clarification on who would be responsible for maintaining the gardens in the future. He is concerned that the groundskeepers would ultimately be left in charge.
 - Finally, Dean advised that the SCA should ensure that the gardens are not placed in locations where there are probably expansion plans.
- It was clarified that the Planet Manhasset organization is responsible for the gardens. Planet Manhasset is an SCA organization.

- Next steps:
 - Angela will meet with all the school principals to review the proposal.
 - She will then meet with Charlie Leoni and Charlie Cardillo, and they will ultimately make the recommendation from the School District Administration to the School Board.

Executive Vice President – Lori Downey

- The mailing for Champions for Charity will take place around Veterans Day. The mailing will publicize more than one charity, not just the SCA
- The goal is to have Champions for Charity included in the SCA Highlights for next week.

President’s Reports

Lisa Belinsky – High School

- Spirit Day was Friday, September 28th. For the first time the SCA provided a bagel breakfast for the Seniors only in the MS gym (thanks to Lauren Baranello for the early morning). Seniors had a student DJ and enjoyed themselves without creating havoc. There was a great turnout.
- The Homecoming Dance was Saturday, September 29th. 377 tickets to the dance were sold. Lauren Baranello was our Homecoming Chair and did a terrific job with a host of volunteers to make it a great night. The gym was decorated, there were sandwiches, food and snacks and a DJ to occupy the students. There was a discussion at the Grade Level meeting of what can be done to try to bring more students back to the dance — perhaps a new DJ.
- Thank you to Dr. Schlanger, Mr. Sippin, Mr. Vercessi and teachers and staff who attended the dance for a smooth, safe event. Trish Bedell was in charge of calling all parents whose students don’t show up at the dance for security.
- Thank you to the Grade Level Chairs for organizing ticket sales leading up to the dance and check-in for the night of the dance.
- Senior Banquet is scheduled for November 7th. Chairs Mary Felman, Seval LaRocca and Rose Lavelle are working hard with a great committee. Journal ads are going well, and they’re collecting photos for a senior slideshow and items for raffles and auction. Everyone is looking forward to a great night.
- Directory: Laura Tranchina did an amazing job collecting emails and changes from students and parents in the directory. We heard that some 7th grade parents with older children in the Secondary school don’t realize they have to send in form. We hope to go to print today
- Upcoming dates to remember:

- October 28: HS/MS Parent Council meeting
- November 7: Senior Banquet
- November 14: SCA luncheon
- November 15-18: HS Musical

Michaela Sheridan – Middle School

- The Secondary School Directory is near completion. Thank you to Laura Tranchina and her proofreaders for all their hard work putting the directory together.
- The Athletics Department is now collecting Health History Forms for the Winter I season which starts on November 5th. The sports offered during this season are: Volleyball for girls and Basketball and Swimming for boys. Please be advised that cuts will be made in all of these sports. If you would like to try out, please submit the required forms.

Recent Events:

- On September 21, we had our first joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting. Isabel DeSousa, Summer Studies Awards Program Chair, gave an overview of the program and two recipients spoke about their experience. Dr. Dean Schlanger also introduced the new teachers.
- Photo Day has been completed. Thank you to MS Chair Maria Varrichio for organizing. Photo Day make up is November 8th.
- MS Welcome Back Dance was a huge success and very well attended. The proceeds went towards the purchase of Spirit Day t-shirts for the Middle School students. Thank you to Jill Ridini, Lori Downey and Christy Weppler for all their help with this.

Upcoming Events:

- MS Friday Night Live is Friday, October 19th from 7:30-9:30.
- MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting will take place on Friday, October 26th at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room.
- MS Halloween Party will take place on Wednesday, October 31 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Thank you to Tammy Kelly, Angela Classi and Ann Hance for chairing this event. It is a large undertaking but an event that the students truly enjoy and one that we feel helps keep them safe. Volunteers are needed and donations of bottled water, individually wrapped baked goods and individually wrapped candy are greatly appreciated.
- Michaela also noted that the schools have had great and positive coverage lately in The Manhasset Press. The goal is to have some coverage each week.

Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock

- Shelter Rock closed out the month of September with the final two well-attended Open House Sessions. Our new teachers, sections and students have all adjusted well so far. Amanda Gimondo hosted her annual new student breakfast on Thursday, October 11 welcoming and connecting to each of them.
- Our Lunch/recess committee hosted a sign-up meeting at the end of September. This year we called a few sections at a time and moved them along quickly. It was smooth and efficient. We plan on switching to the Sign-Up Genius for Spring. Thanks to Liz Olivieri, Katie Derasse and Lisa Russell for managing this operation.
- Extended Extras kicked off in the first week of October. We have a total of 99 registrants from grades 2-6 for this Fall session.
- Photo Days were held this week under the organization of chairs Vicki Balacek, Lisa Russell and Andrea Malone. Our vendor, Irvin Simon, provided 3 photographers and 1 for crowd control. All the lines moved smoothly and there were no delays.
- Red Ribbon week starts off next week. We have hundreds of decorated picture suitcases lining up our hallways. The theme is "Life is a Journey / Travel Drug Free". Students will come home with red ribbons today to display at home and show their commitment to a drug free life. The Great Body shop will also speak on Monday to our students in grades 3-5. Thanks to the team of Leslie Fleck and Tara LaSalle and CASA for their commitment to this program.
- Our Enrichment committee has been hard at work – so far we have had Brian Heinz, the renowned author give writing tips to 5th grade, Skippy Jon Jones was presented to grades 2, Robert Vetter came for grades 4, and Teddy Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary brought their bird collection for the 5th grade to see. Thanks to Kristin Mulholland and Kristin Perfetto and their committee for choosing wonderful programs for our students.
- Our Halloween party planning is underway. A big thanks goes to Alice Woo and Joann Santella for spearheading the festivities. We also need to thank Trish Kelly for taking on the Spook walk.

Liz Tomaselli – Munsey Park

- Open Houses for grades 2 and 3 and grades 4-6 were held on September 20 and September 27 respectively. Staggering the Open House times worked very well.
- Directory: Our school directory is out for print.
- Our new procedure for lunch/recess volunteer sign up was successful, using Sign Up Genius. The process went very smoothly.

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2012

- Picture Days: Both days went smoothly and were well run and organized thanks to Amy Keogh and Cathy McAree.
- Next week is Red Ribbon Week. Our hallways are already decorated with the children's creative artwork.
- We have In-View testing coming up on Oct 18th.
- Our joint Parent Council meeting originally scheduled for October 25 has been cancelled due to our guest speaker presentation on October 29 by Rosalind Wiseman.
- On October 31 we will have our annual Halloween Party. This year we are utilizing high school students to help decorate the hallways. This effort will count as Community Service for the high school students.

SCA Committee Chairs

Nominating Committee – Lauren Barrett

- Open positions for 2013-2015 are Executive President, High School President, Shelter Rock President and Secretary.
- Christy must appoint a member of the SCA Executive Board to be the liaison to the Nominating Committee. Nancy Schlaefer agreed to serve as liaison.

ByLaws – Chris Whitaker

- Bylaw revisions are underway. In December the SCA Executive Board will meet to vote on the revisions. The Bylaw revisions will be presented at the SCA General Membership Meeting in January 2013.

CASA – Lisbeth Shibley and Cathy Samuels

- Red Ribbon Week starts October 15th. Stephen Dewey's presentation is October 18 in the High School Auditorium. It is open to students in 5th through 12th grades and addresses the effects of alcohol and drugs on the human brain.
- Rosalind Wiseman's presentation will be October 30.

Saturday Series – Christy Wepler

- We need chairpersons for the Saturday Series Winter Session; without chairs we cannot offer Saturday Series. The chairs for the Fall Session have notified us that they will not continue.
- Saturday Series is profitable for the SCA, with deposits over \$35,710.
- We will include this in SCA Highlights this week, and will also advertise to the current Saturday Series participants and to last year's Winter Session participants. At Michaela Sheridan's

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2012

suggestion, we can also send out a "Sign Up Genius" request to last year's participants. Christy will ask either Renee Press or Tricia Cash to send that out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre F. Curtis

SCA Executive Board Secretary