SHCA Board Meeting June 17, 2026
Physick House

Attendees:

Antonio Atacan, Tanya Brassie, Paul Boni, Jay Borowsky, Denise Colliers, Nick DeGregorio, Brandon Engelhardt, Bernard Gelman, Rick Herskovitz, Judie Koss, Bob Kramer, Nancy Lanham, Martha Levine, Priscilla Lo, Brooke Marshall, Kathy McAfee, Joe McLaughlin, Mike Miele, Vince Parlegreco, Mary Purcell, Nelie Shah, Larry Spector, Kim Williams, Patrick Wujcik, Kevin Yoder, Debbie Zak-Cohen

Via Zoom: Helen Grady, Ramona Johnson, Karen Wildau

Absent: Ellen Geller, Bernice Koplin, Mary Tracy

Guests: Gloria Esposito, Tom Newman, Bonnie Halda, Al Meinster, Reporter Editor-in-Chief Judy Lamirand

Minutes:

1. **Welcome** – Following confirmation of a quorum, President Bob Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM when he welcomed new and returning board members and spoke briefly to our process, Robert's Rules and a SHCA overview document he sent to new board members. Bob mentioned the cash on hand of $ $ 322,514.57 as of June 15, 2026 in comparison to $ 420,738.00 as of May 31, 2025 and stated the reasons for the decline. There will be no board meeting July or August but we may call a special meeting if needed.
2. **May 20, 2026 SHCA Board Meeting Minutes by Brooke Marshall** - **Motion to approve passed**
3. **May 28, 2026 SHCA Special Board Meeting Minutes by Brooke Marshall** – President Kramer advised that this agenda item would be deferred as the minutes were not yet available
4. **Administrator Report by Samantha Brown** – President Kramer advised that this agenda item would be deferred as the the report was not yet available
5. **Treasurer's Report by Nick DeGregorio** – Nick spoke briefly regarding the grant application process which is being created now by the Grants Committee. The SHCA board has allocated up to $75K for grants or community projects. Once the Grants Committee develops recommendations, it will present to the board for approval
6. **Garden Tour Report by Martha Levine** – There were 16 gardens and 435 tour go-ers. Martha thanked Samantha Brown, Carolyn Hanrahan, volunteers, hosts and

sponsors, some of whom have yet to send their donations. The financial results are yet to be determined. Everyone praised the wonderful tour and co-chairs Martha and Linda Skale

7. **Ground Mural Motion by Larry Spector** – Motion for SHCA to apply to Mural Arts to put a mural on the slate pavers and/or the walls of the central promenade at Foglietta Plaza – **Motion did not pass. DISCUSSION before vote:**
    a. Larry Spector stated that it was no longer an option for Sophie Roach to do her proposed ground mural and he would like SHCA to work with Mural Arts
    b. Various board members spoke.
        i. Larry was praised for his advocacy for improving Foglietta Plaza.
        ii. It was acknowledged that SHCA had just that day received a petition signed by 61 near neighbors in opposition to a ground mural at the park. Additionally, the feedback received via Google Form showed there was not community support for this project, with a number expressing concern that the community engagement had been compressed.
        iii. Following discussion about what uses the community prefers, Foglietta Plaza Committee Chair Mary Purcell advised that in 2023 SHCA sponsored a professional master plan for Foglietta Plaza, with an extensive community engagement process, resulting in the programming and design embraced by park stakeholders. It called for the character to be green and calm, respectful of the existing memorials and connecting Society Hill to the waterfront. Art specifically was called out as a use requiring significant community engagement. The plan, prepared by Olin Studios, is on the SHCA website
        iv. President Kramer stated that prior to SHCA approval, the burden is on SHCA to properly engage the community to determine support, and he did not see that this support had been demonstrated. The board consensus was that, despite good intentions, we did not have evidence that a ground mural had community support and therefore we could not advance it.
8. **UPDATE TO 2018 HSH REPORT** – Streets Committee Chair Jay Borowsky advised that his committee would be seeking proposals for an update to the 2018 Howard Stein Hudson study of Spruce and Pine Streets, with 3rd St. added. There was no motion.

9. **The Motion Passed** to approve the appointment of Bob Kramer and Lorna Katz Lawson **as representatives to Crosstown Coalition.** Bob asked for a volunteer for the 3rd available SHCA slot on the Coalition
10. Bob Kramer adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM

Draft Submitted to Officers by Mary Purcell on June 17, 2026 and re-submitted on June 23, 2026 with revisions and again on October 5, 2026. Updated September 15, October 19 and October 21, 2026 with comments from Brooke Marshall

Minutes Approved by SHCA Board October 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted October 23, 2026,

Mary Purcell

Secretary