



Friends of Race Street Pier

April 10, 2012

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A. Race Street Shears

Tammy Leigh DeMent, Philadelphia Green / Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, arranged for a gardening evening on the pier.

Last month, Andrew Ross, our resident wordsmith, proposed calling the group the Race Street Shears! The Shears met for the first time on Tuesday, April 10 at 6pm on the Pier. We had about seven people show up. The group weeded all the tree pits in the center allee of trees. We also tackled the garden in the front, north side of the pier, where the duck boats enter .

We all had a great time. It was a beautiful night and fun for these city dwellers to dig in the dirt and help to get the pier ready for spring.

We are working on making this a monthly activity. We envision meeting at about 6pm on the second Tuesday of every month (in good weather!). We'll meet on the pier and garden for about an hour and then break to talk about planning activities for the pier. The next meeting is May 8th.

Photos from our gardening event are available on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#).

B. Getting Involved

The goal of the group is to bring the neighborhood voice to the pier. The friends group is newly developing and a core group of about 10 people have been actively involved but we are always looking for more people to get involved!

The Friends of Race Street Pier are the lucky recipients of a PHS grant for the Park After Dark events. The friends group has decided to organize and sponsor two First Friday events this coming summer. The dates that we have selected are July 6th and September 7th.

Some of our ideas for the July 6th event include:

- Inviting Culinary Carts to (or near to) the pier.
 - Bridget will contact Keeya at the DRWC to find out more about the challenges attached to this idea. We understand that the DRWC (the entity that manages the pier) does have contracted vendors and that might hinder the ability to invite innovative culinary carts to provide access to food. Bridget spoke with Keeya on April 13th and learned that the DRWC is working to expand the vending options. Bridget will reach out to the DRWC's food concession manager to find out more about the status of DRWC vendors.
- Entertainment on the pier (music, performance, DJ, etc.)
 - Christine and Bryan had some ideas about local bands and musicians that might be interested in being involved with a First Friday celebration. By April 16th Christine and Bryan will do some initial outreach to artists and get a sense of availability, cost, etc.
 - If anyone has any favorite bands, entertainers, etc. let us know! With information about their rates and availability we add them to our growing list of interesting “acts” for pier events.
- Movies on the Pier: The Friends fully support the idea of a regularly scheduled movie event. This will bring new audiences to the pier. Perhaps this could be a monthly activity – i.e. the first Wednesday of every month.
 - A representative from the Lawn Chair Drive-In attended the meeting and would very much like to bring the drive-in to the pier. It was recommended that the Lawn Chair Drive-In coordinate with Keeya at the DRWC.
 - Andrew Ross came across an organization called [AwesomeFest](#) that also does movie screenings. The group recommended that Andrew pass the information onto Keeya as the Friends group does not have the funds to organize events outside of the two First Friday celebrations.
 - The DRWC has indicated that they are open to having the friends pitch ideas for programs on the pier. If an individual is interested in organizing an event or series (like a monthly movie night) the DRWC will provide the necessary behind the scenes support (i.e. contracting) while the individual can provide the on-the-ground support. The Friends group supports initiatives that bring people to the riverfront and, where possible, the group will work to support individual ideas for events on the pier.

To get more involved with helping plan the upcoming First Friday events, feel free to contact:

Tammy Leigh DeMent: tdement@Pennhort.org

Bridget Keegan: bkeegan@design.upenn.edu

Liz Naskret: liz.naskret@gmail.com

Andrew Svekla: asvekla@dvrpc.org

Bryan Van Lenten: bvanlenten@kseng.com

Christine Webb: christine.c.webb@gmail.com

C. Next Meeting

The Steering Committee meets monthly and anyone interested is welcome to attend. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the offices of the DRWC at 121 N. Columbus Blvd.

The Next Steering Committee meeting is Tuesday May 8th.

Once again, everyone is welcome to meet at 6pm to participate in gardening activities. The group will begin discussing plans for the summer First Fridays at around 7pm.