

OAKLAND TASK FORCE MEETING

January 8, 2008

University of Pittsburgh

Minutes

Present:

Andrews, Lena	Planning
Blenk, David	OPDC
Clark, Renny	Pitt
Ellenberg, Curt	WPSBC
Gregg, Brenda	CHP
Lenhardt, Roy	PPC
Mergner, Fred	PAT
Olszewski, Anna	UPMC
Petropoulos, Georgia	OBID
Phillips, Sandra	Peoples Oakland
Rainey, Mavis	OTMA
Robinson, Brooks	RIDC
Sass, Richard	Oakcliffe
Supowitz, Paul	Pitt
Wilds, John	Pitt

Create a Sense of Place

January's meeting centered on the discussion of projects the OTF would take on for 2008 under each of the new functional categories.

Stimulate Neighborhood Revitalization

Georgia Petropoulos discussed the survey OBID just finished and the number one area that most property owners/businesses felt was important was the perception of the safety of Oakland since foot patrols are no longer used in the City of Pittsburgh. The group decided that a subcommittee would be formed to meet with the eight police organizations representing Oakland and discuss the issue of more police presence. Before that meeting, Georgia will focus the April OBID Roundtable on the issue of safety and invite the heads of the police organizations to attend.

Renny Clark expressed his desire that the OTF take on a project around the "greening of Oakland." A discussion followed of the new rating system the City of Pittsburgh is using to grade all of its communities on recycling initiatives. Oakland places second to last. Anna Olszewski requested that in addition to recycling the subcommittee give thought to the planting of trees, landscaping, etc. A subcommittee was formed and Georgia Petropoulos agreed to serve as chair. Other members are: John Wilds, Mavis Rainey, Renny Clark, Sandy Phillips and Richard Sass.

They will meet and inventory what Oakland is doing and what can be done to improve our standing within the next three years.

**** - Georgia will convene the committee, hopefully before the end of January, if not in February. John Wilds will provide space as soon as a date is selected.**

**** - David Blenk expressed the desire to have a marketing/image program developed to off-set the negative impression people outside of Oakland have of the area.**

Make it Easier to Get Into and Around in Oakland

**** - Richard Sass requested that the OTF be actively involved in the planning for when the bridge reopens in 2008 and be conscience of pedestrian issues/crossing.**

**** - Bike Pittsburgh will be added to the agenda for February/March to discuss their biking map which was previously sent to OTF members.**

Advocate for Quality Development

**** - David Blenk will make available the plans for Gustine's property as well invite him to a future meeting as soon as feasible.**

**** - David Blenk will ask the consultants for the Boulevard of the Allies project to make a presentation to the OTF as soon as they finish the initial interviews with interested parties.**

**** - As soon as development plans are filed with City Planning, the OTF will invite Mr. Ed Dunlap to come and present his plans for the site.**

Announcements

Roy Lenhardt – An agreement surrounding the parking issues has been resolved and Atria's will be breaking ground. The PPC is still looking for a Schenley Plaza Manager, please contact him if you know of a good candidate. Several events are already being planned for the Plaza: the celebration surrounding Mazaroski's home run is being considered as well as a PNC/Carousel Tea (similar to the Spring Hat Luncheon) will take place probably in June. All Kiosks are rented and will be open in 2008.

David Blenk – OPDC still has homes for sale, one was closed on in December and ground was just broken for one at 3233 Park Avenue. This will be a three bedroom home, living room, dining room and an upgraded kitchen.

Anna Olszewski – The Mercy/UPMC merger was finalized as of January 1, 2008. It will now be called Mercy UPMC. At this point details are still being worked out as to what services UPMC will offer out of the Mercy location.

Mavis Rainey – The 5th Avenue Railing Project has received all City approvals, the encroachment will be signed by the institutions within the next two weeks. OTMA and UPMC will be meeting on 1/8/08 to discuss OTMA placing directional signage on UPMC property to alleviate the congestion caused by the bridge closing.

Fred Mergner – Reported that due to construction of the medians on Fifth Avenue at Robinson Street, PAT has been forced to eliminate the stop at Robinson. PAT Drivers are reporting issues surrounding the stop on Craft Avenue, at this time, PAT is watching the situation but may eventually relocate this stop as well.

Brooks Robinson - RIDC hopes that he will have Reports to present to the Task Force soon on Hazelwood and the Second Avenue Projects.

Lena Andrews – Portal Bridge Project and Forbes Hotel will present to the Contextual Design Committee on 1/8/08.

Georgia Petropoulos – All are invited to the OBID Annual Meeting on January 22, 2008 at the Wyndham at 5:30 p.m.

2008 OTF Meeting Schedule

January – University of Pittsburgh

February – Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC

March – Pittsburgh Playhouse of Point Park University

April – Carnegie Mellon University

May – OPDC/OBID/OTMA/OCC

June – Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh

July – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

August – No Meeting

September – University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

October – Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children

November – Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

December – Carlow University