

Oakland Task Force

In Attendance:

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| Antonelli, Linda | Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC |
| Bettinger, Joe | Hieber's Pharmacy |
| Blenk, David | OPDC |
| Clark, Renny | Pitt |
| Eichenbaum, Pam | OCC |
| Ellenberg, Curt | Western PA School for Blind Children |
| Hart, Nathan | OCC |
| Jackson, Sheila | Carnegie Library |
| Leibow, Ron | Pitt |
| Petropoulos, Georgia | OBID |
| Phillips, Sandy | People's Oakland |
| Supowitz, Paul | Pitt |
| Vinski, David | Playhouse |
| Walnoha, Adrienne | CHS |
| Wilds, John | Pitt |

CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE

Stimulate Neighborhood Revitalization:

David Blenk reported that OPDC will have two new houses done on Ward Street in about two weeks and one other house on Frazier Street will be completed within four weeks. KIKO will be out in the neighborhood at the end of November cleaning streets.

Georgia Petropoulos reported that the Environment Committee would like to move forward with the Oakland "Earth Day" celebration. Committee members felt it would be better received if it was a student event. Georgia is working with representatives from the major institutions to get student involvement.

Make it Easier to Get Into and Around Oakland:

There will be a ribbon cutting on the new bridge on November 24, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Representatives from PennDOT, OTF, Legislators and community organizations will speak. A spring re-dedication event will take place. Details will follow.

Hometown Streets construction is done for 2008. April 1, 2008 marks the start of the 2009 construction season. A punch list will be created for the intersections on Fifth and painting will be held off until construction work on the bus lane is completed. Digital countdown cross walks will be installed at all HTS intersections.

Please note any difficulties with pedestrians at the Fifth and Meyran intersection. Traffic is backing up due to the new cross walk. The new mid-block bus stop on Fifth is still a problem as people exiting buses are walking across three lanes of traffic to reach the Bio Sci Tower. Report any problems with either of these intersections to Mavis Rainey.

Announcements:

School for Blind Children – The bronze statues were stolen as well as general vandalism of the grounds.

OBID – On 11/20/08 OBID will host an Oakland Roundtable on the “Clean Indoor Air Act.” The Holiday part will be on December 12, 2008, location/details to follow. At the last OBID Board meeting, two new members were appointed: Jenn Layman from CMU and Councilman Bruce Krause. City Council gave unanimous approval for OBID’s renewal application.

OCC – Pam reported on several issues currently on the agenda for the OCC: 1. The sign committee will be meeting before the end of the year, an email will be sent before the end of November. 2. Work continues on the permanent closure of Lawn and Ophelia Streets. 3. There will be a community newsletter that should be up and running very soon. 4. The Code Walks are beginning to make a difference with 350 complaints so far. 5. Pitt’s Law Clinic and Professor Dan Friedson are a tremendous help to students with housing issues.

Peoples Oakland - Sandy reported that on October 25, 2008 People’s Oakland held their annual fundraising gala at the Pittsburgh Playhouse – Can Can – was very successful.

Carnegie Library – Sheila Jackson updated the group on the construction at the main library as well as the opening of the new library in the Hill District. RAD has approved funding for the main library second and third floor renovations.

CHS – Adrienne Walnoha reported to the group on the successful sleep in for the homeless. Many participants commented that the “personal” stories told by struggling individuals as well as families made the experience more real.

Magee-Womens Hospital – Linda reminded everyone that it is time for flu shots. Magee will deliver 10,000 babies by the end of the fiscal year.

Pitt – Renny gave an overview of the Fall Plenary which is hosted twice a year by the University Senate. This semester’s theme was University/Community partnerships. Renny outlined Councilman Bill Peduto’s presentation on Oakland 2020 and thought that maybe a “master plan” for Oakland might be a topic for January’s meeting and asked that everyone spend time thinking of ideas they could present. Some thoughts he had were:

Environment – Oakland becoming the first gold star neighborhood.

Housing – The quality and mix of housing available in Oakland. The Oakland realtors need to be at the table.

Transportation

“Quality of Life” – Oakland is welcoming to all; residents, visitors, students, institutions.

Expertise – Is there a way that the insitititons can offer expertise in the areas of medicine, public health, housing, engineering, etc.