

## Oakland Task Force

### In Attendance:

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

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### CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE

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#### **Make it Easier to Get Into and Around Oakland:**

Lawn/Ophelia Closure - Pat Hassett updated members on the status of Lawn/Ophelia permanent closure. The Mayor has granted permanent closure, but there seems to be complaints surfacing from neighborhood residents wanting the street reopened. All comments, negative or positive, need to be referred to Pam Eichenbaum so that the value of the permanent closure can be documented.

Bates Street Bridge – Pat indicated that 40% of the design has been approved with Penn DOT and it is set for Fall 09 construction start. He will update OTF after the beginning of the new year.

Home Town Streets – Ron Leibow brought the group up to date on the status of HTS. Construction for the season has come to a halt. Forbes Avenue work will resume in April of 09. A final inspection of the intersections on Fifth occurred on 12/10/08. Pedestrian heads will be finished after a decision is made regarding painting of curbs. Currently the project is \$50,000 under budget and the contingency fund has not been tapped. All complaints regarding the pedestrian cross walk at Fifth & Meyran should be referred to Mavis Rainey and the OTMA.

Boulevard of the Allies Bridge – Opening went very well and a dedication event is being planned for Spring of 09. Penn DOT has approached Mavis Rainey regarding the

painting of a mural on the long wall from the Boulevard to Forbes. Mavis requested the input and approval of OTF to move forward with the project. She will apply to the Sprout Fund and the deadline is March 2009.

#### General Updates:

Renny Clark distributed the preliminary report from the University Senate Plenary Session and requested that over the next few weeks, members give thought to what our goals should be for next year.

PPAP - Anthony Boule updated the group on the new parking garage at the Greyhound Station. There are leases still available.

OCC – The next Gateways to Oakland meeting will be held on 12/12/08 at 10:00 a.m. at 235 Atwood. Three spots have been tentatively identified and Pam is working on raising money. OCC is also working with CHS to design and publish a community newspaper. It should be ready in the next few months. Also, trash cans will be arriving soon for placement throughout the neighborhood. Sites will be selected soon. OBID has also been approved for cans/recycling bins in the business district.

UJF – Has moved into two buildings on McKee Place. Originally was renting out the second building but needed the space for UJF programming.

OTMA – Mavis reported on the proposed parking study which will be conducted by Trans Associates/Cindy Jampole early in 2009. Mavis will discuss with Cindy holding off until CHP moves to Lawrenceville to get a more accurate report.

PAT – The new contract can be found at [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org) Fred has not had a chance to read entire report, but it does deal with the legacy costs which were the holdup for release of funding. The consultants review on the Transit Development Plan should be available soon. The plan could adopt route changes, bus stop consolidation, an East End Rapid Transit Route, etc. The stop at Fifth and McKee has been moved to mid-block. There continues to be issues with people exiting buses and crossing at the opening.

City Planning – Bike Pittsburgh will be issuing a RFP soon for a comprehensive bike route through Oakland. Sennott Street and Iroquois Way is one of the proposed routes. As soon as more information is available, OTF will be informed.

RIDC – Thanks to Pitt for all of the dirt for the LTV site.

OPDC – David reported that the illegal parking pad at 335 Atwood has been upheld with the Zoning Board. Questions still remain as to whether the concrete will have to be torn out, or it can remain, but not parking will be allowed. There will be a discussion with BBI. The Neighborhood Partnership Plan has received their tax approval letter, more information will follow. OPDC has six houses ready call David with any questions. Job Links has placed 430 people over the past five years.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will be unveiling a new website soon as well as revamped park maps. Also, the PPC has plans to expand the programming in Schenley Plaza to add more health/wellness centered events/programs.

**PLEASE NOTE THE 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE.  
CONTACT TAMI WITH ANY PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS**

## **2009 Schedule Oakland Task Force**

January 13 — Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC

February 10 — University of Pittsburgh

March 10 — UPMC Health System

April 14 — Carnegie Mellon University

May 12 — Community Organizations

June 9 — Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

July 14 — Pittsburgh Playhouse

**August—No Meeting**

September 8 — Carnegie Library

October 13 — Western PA School for Blind Children

November 10 — Carnegie Museum

December 8 — Carlow University