

## OAKLAND TASK FORCE MEETING

May 13, 2008

OBID/OCC/OPDC/OTMA

Minutes

Present:

Antonelli, Linda	Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
Blenk, David	OPDC
Byrne, Lauren	Mayor's Office
Clark, Renny	Pitt
Ellenberg, Curt	WPA School for Blind Children
Gregg, Brenda	Children's
Hart, Nathan	OCC
Ismail, Noor	City Planning
Johnson, Sally	UPMC
Kelley, Patty	CLP Main
Leibow, Ron	Pitt
Mergner, Fred	PAT
Morris, Lisa	OPDC
Petropolous, Georgia	OBID
Phillips, Sandy	People's Oakland
Rainey, Mavis	OTMA
Robinson, Brooks	RIDC
Sass, Richard	OCC/Resident
Shorak, Eli	Pitt
Stiles, Kevin	Pitt Housing
Veltre, Vanessa	OPDC
Walnoha, Adrienne	CHS

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Presentations

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Ron Leibow updated the OTF on the University's plans for the former Robinson Court site, which Pitt intends to use as an Olympic Sports Complex. The University is planning on having all public approvals by September, 2008. The new fields (Baseball, Soccer, and Softball) will all be of NCAA regulation size and orientation. Two access roads will be built as well as two ticket areas. The building height will be approximately 2.5. The site was designed to keep noise and light to a minimum for Oakhill residents.

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## **Create a Sense of Place**

- **Stimulate Neighborhood Revitalization**
  - **Make it Easier to Get Into and Around Oakland**
  - **Advocate for Quality Development**
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### **Make it Easier to Get Into and Around Oakland**

#### **Portal Bridge Project**

Renny gave the group an update on the Portal Bridge project. It is still on schedule to be completed by November, 2008. The owner of the building on the left hand side has filed suit against Penn DOT for displacing his parking spaces under the old bridge. Negotiations are on going to settle. If he is granted permission to use the area for parking, caveats will be put into place.

1. The contract will only be in place as long as he owns the building and,
2. The owner must provide some sort of visual screen.

#### **Hometown Streets**

The \$700k shortfall in the project has been found. The contract has been awarded to Joseph B. Fay Co. Hopefully construction will begin before the next OTF meeting.

#### **Market Square**

Fred Mergner distributed the new marketing piece on Market Square. It outlines the changes the Port Authority is making as a result of buses being taken out of Market Square on a permanent basis. In the short term, routes will be studied and adjustments made. Fred indicated that the interim plan has problems, but the permanent changes should be okay.

### **Stimulate Neighborhood Revitalization**

#### **OTF Environment Committee**

Georgia Petropoulos asked for OTF support for the Environment Committee's recommendations for a plan of action. The Committee feels that the one piece that is missing is education in the public arena:

1. Raise awareness: go after funding for nylon bags and a public education marketing piece.
2. Place recycling bins in the Oakland area. Get participation of business owners.

Renny gave an update on his on going efforts to clean up the South Oakland area. He has been able to raise \$15k to support a team of Youthworks students to clean up the lots, hillsides and streets for 10 weeks this summer. Adrienne Walnoha indicated the CHS would be willing to contribute. He also reported on a meeting he and John Wilds held

with two Oakland residents, Drs. Ream and Rosato, who described the problems facing residents of Pier Street. A disconnect in the system of getting the delinquent landlords from tickets to actually appearing in court has been found. Lauren Byrne promised to check into the situation. Both Gene Ricciardi and the Oakland Inspector Robert McPhearson have been very cooperative and supportive. David Blenk stated that KIKO will continue to work to keep South Oakland clean. After discussion, approval was given to Georgia to move forward with the OTF Environment Committee's plans.

## **Announcements**

Lauren Byrne introduced herself to the group as Mayor Ravenstahl's Special Projects Coordinator in the Office of Community Initiatives. The Mayor will be holding a community development forum in Oakland sometime in July. She will keep the group informed of date, location and time.

Richard Sass reported that he appreciates the support he has received on the residents plan to make Lawn/Ophelia closure permanent.

Patte Kelly from CLP gave an overview of events scheduled for the summer: May will be puppet shows and June will be the summer reading extravaganza.

Sally Johnson introduced herself as the new UPMC representative to the OTF since Anna Olszewski retirement.

David Blenk gave updates on real estate developments at OPDC. One house on Parkview has been sold and an open house is being planned for another house in July. Furniture collection for the August used furniture sale is going well. One hundred pieces have already been collected and is being stored by RIDC.

Noor Ismail, the Director of City Planning, introduced herself to the group and will be attending future OTF meetings.

Mavis Rainey invited the participation of OTF members at the 2008 Walk Challenge on June 2.

Nathan Hart revealed that OCC will be interviewing for a new Coordinator. Three interviews were set for the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **2008 OTF Meeting Schedule**

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

## **2009 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