

## OAKLAND TASK FORCE MEETING

June 10, 2008

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Minutes

Present:

Blenk, David	OPDC
Clark, Renny	Pitt
Gregg, Brenda	Children's
Hart, Nathan	OCC
Jackson, Shelia	CLP
Leibow, Ron	Pitt
Mergner, Fred	PAT
Petropolous, Georgia	OBID
Rainey, Mavis	OTMA
Sciannameo, Louise	Carlow
Stiles, Kevin	Pitt Housing
Supowitz, Paul	Pitt
Vinski, David	Playhouse
Walnoha, Adrienne	CHS
Wilds, John	Pitt

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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**

Mavis updated OTF on the progress of the Portal Bridge. It is still on schedule to be completed in November, 2008. She and John Wilds met with a group of international bridge builders to discuss the process used to bring the project to the construction phase. Renny and Mavis also reported on the progress of the law suit filed against the City and PennDOT by the building owner regarding the loss of parking spaces and delivery truck access to his property as a result of the new configuration of the Allies Portal Bridge. The owner will be responsible for providing a visual shield of some sort (through lighting and fencing most likely) from the traffic passing by the site.

### **Hometown Streets**

Friday, June 13 will be the first pre-construction meeting of the project. At this meeting, the phasing of intersections will be discussed and decided. Pitt will also provide a project control office to the builder in the Eureka Building.

### **Stimulate Neighborhood Revitalization**

#### **OTF Environment Committee**

Georgia Petropoulos discussed the promotional/educational piece that is being developed for the green initiative project that has been adopted by the committee. A designer has been hired to begin the process of putting the educational pamphlet together. Georgia and Renny also discussed how to get the 10,000 non-disposable shopping bags distributed to students, staff and faculty. The OBID businesses are also behind not providing any paper or plastic bags to shoppers. The new IGA grocery store has already been committed to not using paper/plastic. Georgia would like to add more information to the OTF website and provide the website address on the bags. Georgia also asked members of the Task Force to call the City and request recycling containers for Oakland. She has been able to get the City to commit to only one.

Georgia, on behalf of Lena Andrews, asked the Task Force to send a letter Bike Pittsburgh to support their initiative of an "Oakland Greenway" feasibility study. OCC previously voted to support the project and sent their letter following their last meeting. OTF members agreed to have the Chairman send a letter of support.

Renny announced that the money for Oakland Summer Community Service Project to be administered by Youth Places has been raised. A crew of 20 youth and 3 supervisors will work in Oakland for 9 weeks beginning on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be responsible for keeping Central Oakland cleared of trash from Bouquet Street to Halket.

David Blenk gave updates on OPDC's efforts to clean up Oakland. In the past 4 years, KIKO has collected 4600 bags of trash, put 10,000 volunteers on the streets and had 46 weeks of clean up. Also, the OPDC/Landlord committee is devoted to better living conditions in Oakland, the landlords support the code crackdowns and are organizing a unit tour with the code enforcement officer.

### **Announcements**

Brenda Gregg announced that the new railings are up in front of the Children's Hospital buildings along Fifth Avenue (Halket to McKee Place), and they are still working with one property owner to work out some small issues. The new Children's Hospital in Lawrenceville is set to open in May of 2009. It has been decided that the Primary Care Facility/Well Child units will remain in Oakland due to the availability of public transportation. All other services will move to Lawrenceville.

Jenn Layman reported that CMU has purchased a small parking lot on Henry Street and are working with a resident to resolve some issues. In April, Mr. Wolfe from Councilman Krause's office did a walk-through of the Panther Hollow playing fields with Bob Reppe and Nathan Hart. The next step will be the geo surveys.

Ken Stiles from Pitt's Property Management office reported that as of June all University of Pittsburgh apartments are rented.

Fred Mergner reported that the initial Market Square detours are working well. Sixth Avenue is experiencing no problems. The #61 Bus Routes will remain on this route permanently and the #71 Bus Routes will change. More information to come. Ridership numbers are up system-wide probably due to the cost of gasoline. The TDP is set to begin its public process in about 2 weeks. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Locations/Dates are available on the website. One change, the June 24 meeting is from 11-2.

Georgia Petropoulos announced that the next Oakland Roundtable will play host to the Port Authority on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Farmers Market opens in June and will have 14 vendors.

Nathan Hart reported that OCC has hired a new coordinator. Pam Eichenbaum will start on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nathan hopes to introduce her at the July OTF meeting. He will provide her contact information to Tami.

Louise Sciannameo announced that Carlow has hired a new director of facilities and will play host to the OBID annual meeting and the Mayor's July community meeting. More information to come.

Adrienne Walnoha announced that CHS will host a vegetarian dinner in conjunction with Bridging the Gaps. She will provide details to Tami for the website.

Mavis Rainey reported that Trans Associates will hire six students to survey the parking lots, meters, streets in Oakland for a new public parking map OTMA hopes to have ready soon. June 2, over 500 people registered for the 2008 Ready-Set-Walk Challenge being sponsored by the Oakland and Airport TMA's. More information is available on OTMA's website.

David Blenk gave an update on OPDC's housing. OPDC has done 11 houses in 18 months. Four have been sold, 3 have buyers and 4 are still on the market. OPDC is currently organizing an international restaurant tour, the 2008 Dumpster Project and the KIKO used furniture sale. Currently, they have 200 plus items which will be on sale in August. Please contact OPDC if you have any furniture items to donate. The former Breachmenders School to Career graduated five seniors and all are headed to college. 141 Robinson Street, a 30 unit apartment building, is in the process of being purchased

by OPDC. There will be some market value units available. David will provide the information to Kevin Stiles for the Property Management website.

Renny Clark reported that the Pitt student government board would coordinate the first Pitt Make-A-Difference-Day on October 18, 2008. With targeted participation of approximately 2000 students, staff and faculty, PMADD will take place over an 8-10 hour period. Any community organization that is interested in participating should contact Ryan Haddad at [haddad.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:haddad.ryan@gmail.com).

## **2008 OTF Meeting Schedule**

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 – OPDC/OBID/OTMA/OCC

April – Carnegie Mellon University

May – Carnegie Library/Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh

June – Pittsburgh Playhouse

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