

Oakland Task Force
UPMC
September 9, 2008

Attendees:

Baurnes, Katie	OTMA
Besong, Jeff	Carlow
Blenk, David	OPDC
Byrne, Lauren	Mayor's Office
Clark, Renny	Pitt
Ellenberg, Curt	Western PA School for Blind Children
Gnage, Casey	1 st Baptist Church
Gregg, Brenda	Children's Hospital
Johnson, Sally	UPMC
Kambitsis, Jason	City Planning
Petropoulos, Georgia	OBID
Phillips, Sandy	People's Oakland
Sciannameo, Louise	Carlow
Supowitz, Paul	Pitt
Wilds, John	Pitt

Elmhurst Group gave an overview of the changes to their project at the corner of Bigelow and Ruskin. After the community input, there has been a major re-tooling to make the building fit the unique nature of the neighborhood. They have now set the building back 30 feet from the curb, reduced the height and scale, used materials the blend with the adjacent buildings and included a "pocket park." The building is now 108,000 sf. of overall space with 91,000 sf. of leasable space and instead of being an "outpatient hospital," it will now be built for general medical offices as the major residents. Elmhurst will be presenting to the HRC on October 1, 2008 and would like a letter of support from the OTF. After discussion, the OTF will send a letter of support to Mr. Hildreth prior to the October 1, 2008 HRC meeting. (LETTER ATTACHED).

Richard Sass and Pam Eichenbaum gave a presentation on the concept of the permanent closure of Lawn and Ophelia Streets after completion of the bridge. Richard pointed out that since the temporary closure; this neighborhood has enjoyed a much safer, quieter environment. Families are now out and about. He requested that OTF and member institutions send letters of support to Pam for inclusion in packet they are preparing for the Mayor's office. OTF will send letter. (LETTER ATTACHED).

Pam Eichenbaum presented her idea to the OTF regarding signage that welcomes visitors to Oakland. She is currently research other cities that have similar programs. Pam asked that anyone interested in serving on such a committee contact her. Occ.pam@gmail.com

Home Town Streets:

Currently, construction continues at the DeSoto Street location. It will continue for approximately 2 more weeks. Plans now call for the downstream crosswalk at the Rangos/Children's Hospital to be eliminated. There are currently discussions underway about whether the Forbes Avenue sites will be started this year.

Boulevard of the Allies Bridge Replacement:

The project remains on schedule and much of the landscaping has been completed.

UPDATES:

OPDC/David Blenk

- Used furniture sale was in the black this year. Over 400 pieces were sold.
- School to Career is up and running this year with over 24 students in grades 9-12. If you have a mentoring site, please contact Karla Stallworth.
- Housing update; 2 houses have been sold and 2 are under contract. OPDC started with 11 and are down to 4.

OBID/Georgia Petropoulos

Orders for holiday turkeys will be taken at the Farmers Market

The OBID is currently working with the Athletics Department for athletes to work on six Fridays.

The new IGA has exceeded projected sales in the Oakland area.

The Go Green bags were a huge success and the only ones remaining are those earmarked for OTF members. The Environment Committee would like to continue to work on the "gold star" recycling rating and concentrate on plastic bottles and bags as their next project.

CMU/Jenn Layman

New crosswalk lights have been installed at the corner of Forbes and Morewood for the vision/hearing impaired.

A new website will be introduced at CMU for community oriented classes, lectures and events. More information to follow.

PAT/Andre Stafford

Gave an update on the TDP plan, bike racks, recently purchased buses as well as contract negotiations.

CHP/Brenda Gregg

Gave an update on the tours and move to the new location.

City Planning/Jason Kambitsis

Introduced himself as the new representative from the Department of City Planning; his contact information is: 200 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219; 412-255-2516;
Jason.kambitsis@city.pittsburgh.pa.us

First Baptist Church/Casey Gnage

The steeple is finally up. Over time, it will blend with the old.

Carlow University/Louise Sciannameo

Students are excited about the “go green” campaign and green bags. A new Vice President for Finance and Operations has been hired, his name is Tyler Kelch.

OCC/Pam Eichenbaum

Presented the new “Trash Talk” magnet produced in conjunction with OPDC and introduced Shane Levi as the new intern.