

**Oakland Task Force
University of Pittsburgh
February 10, 2009**

In Attendance:

Bettinger, Joe	Hieber's Pharmacy
Blenk, David	OPDC
Clewett, Doug	CHS
Kambitsis, Jason	City Planning
Jackson, Sheila	Carnegie Library
Johnson, Sally	UPMC
Layman, Jenn	CMU
Lieberman, Pam	Pittsburgh Intl. Children's Festival
Leibow, Ron	Pitt
Mergner, Fred	PAT
Petropoulos, Georgia	OBID
Phillips, Sandy	People's Oakland
Rainey, Mavis	OTMA
Sciannameo, Louise	Carlow
Supowitz, Paul	Pitt

Presentations

Pam Lieberman updated the Task Force on the current status of the 2009 Pittsburgh International Children's Festival as well as a brief description of the first year's festival in Oakland. The 2008 festival did match the number of attendees on the North Side even with the poor weather conditions. This year, Bigelow Boulevard will not be closed. All activities will take place on the lawns of Schenley Plaza, CLP and the Cathedral. The only street closure will be the Schenley Plaza extension (between Schenley Plaza and Carnegie Library). The Festival is expecting a crowd of 15-20 thousand. Many volunteer, advertising and exhibition opportunities are available. Please contact Pam Lieberman at 412-471-6073 with any questions.

Georgia Petropoulos gave an overview of the last OTF Environment Committee meeting. The group has decided to meet monthly one week prior to the full OTF meeting. The next meeting is March 31 at 10:00 a.m. and CMU will be hosting. The Committee would like the OTF to give feedback on the top items for this year's arriving Freshmen. Oakland Orientation Packet's will be put together and will be part of the orientation materials sent to incoming students as well as being geared to all Oakland stakeholders.

This year, green education will be the major focus. See attached sheet. Jason Kambitsis indicated to the group the standards for a "LEED Certified Neighborhood" are still being formed, but will work with Georgia on this issue.

- 1) Tree Vitalize (OPDC and OCC currently working on)
- 2) *Go Green Oakland* Sustainable Community Education Program
 - i. Discourage water bottles
 1. Take Back the Tap campaign
 2. Bottled Up Campaign
 - ii. Oakland Orientation Packet
 1. Geared to all Oakland stakeholders
 - a. Universities will tie into OTF campaign
 2. Green Oakland Booklet: Subjects could include: recycling, transportation alternatives (carpool, bike, walk, public transport), map out green spaces, encourage environmental stewardship/ behavior (plastic bottles, plastic bags, etc.)
 - a. Offered electronically as well
 - iii. Design and Sell Go Green Oakland Water bottles (with attached map of water locations)
 - iv. Design and Sell Go Green Oakland Bags
 - v. Purchase domain address for www.gogreenoakland.org ties into OTF website
- 3) On Site Recycling: request City to create Oakland drop off location
 - vi. Work with City: Lindsay Baxter
- 4) On Site Composting (pre and post consumer)
- 5) Design Oakland as a LEED CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD
- 6) Invite Sierra Club, Oakland office to Committee
- 7) Events
 - vii. Pitt: Blue Gold and Green-Thursdays April 9
 - viii. Earth Hour-March 28, 8:30 p.m. est. (turn off lights)

Updates/Announcements:

OBID will again be holding a "Taste of Oakland" in conjunction with the Children's Festival. Plans for the 2009 Farmer's Market are being finalized. It will once again kick off in June but more information will follow.

People's Oakland has formed a partnership through one of the Farmers Market vendors to provide produce all year long for the residents/consumers of their organization as part of the wellness program.

OTMA: May 2009 is Commuting Alternatives Month and will include regional events that will promote National Bike to Work Day, National Employee Health and Fitness Day, National Try Transit Week, and National Clean Air Week. More information to come.

May 2009 Three Regional TMAs (OTMA, ACTA and the PDP) will be kicking off the 2009 Summer Walk Challenge. Registration begins May 1, 2009 thru May 31, 2009. The eight week Walk Challenge will run from June 1, 2009 thru July 20, 2009. More details to come.

Blvd. of the Allies Bridge Replacement Project is on schedule. Final construction work including installation of new sidewalks, completion of landscaping, installation of handicap ramps and traffic signal timing will conclude by May 1, 2009. A special bridge dedication ceremony is being planned for June 1, 2009. The Boulevard of the Allies Bridge Replacement Project has won the 2009 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Pittsburgh Chapter.

PennDOT, City and University Law Enforcement and OTMA will continue to host Safety Enforcement events in Oakland throughout the remainder of the year. The most recent Safety Enforcement day occurred on February 18, 2009. Between 10am and noon, police issued the following citations and warning for various pedestrian safety violations:

- 21 drivers were cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk
- Five drivers received warnings for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk
- 12 pedestrians received citations for failing to cross properly
- Nine received written warnings for failing to cross properly

The purpose of the enforcement campaign is to reduce the number of vehicle/pedestrian crashes and educate the public on properly crossing the roadway.

The Fifth/Forbes Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Improvements Project will resume on Monday, April 6, 2009. Work will be done in the evenings from 7:30pm-6am Monday thru Thursday. The construction project is expected to be completed at the end of August 2009. A formal press release with more project/traffic detour information will be issued on March 31, 2009.

City of Pittsburgh: 2009 Stimulus Funded Construction Projects:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) - City projects receiving funding: Six Projects = \$ 65,850,078.00

(1) Convention Center Riverfront Park: extend recreational trail and pedestrian access along Allegheny River = \$2,000,000.00

(2) East Liberty-Shadyside Pedestrian Bridge: replacement of old Ellsworth Avenue bridge with pedestrian only bridge = \$736,354.00

(3) Bates Street Bridge/2nd Avenue Improvements: replace existing trail bridge and widen Bates Street to improve intersection = \$735,014.00

(4) North Shore Underpass: pedestrian, infrastructure and traffic improvements to Sandusky and Anderson Streets under the Norfolk Southern Railroad Overpass = \$1,078,700.00

*(5)Liberty Tunnel Rehabilitation, Phase 2: repairs of concrete, conduit, and hanger systems located both in the travelled portions of the tunnel barrel and in the supply and exhaust stacks, primarily in the northbound tunnel. Removal of deteriorated portal facade = \$12,500,000.00 (PennDOT project)

(6) Route 28 Widening Project, Phase 1: widening and grade separation of the 31st Bridge intersection = \$46,000,000.00 *Trail Connection as part of this project = \$2,800,000.00

*Out for public comment

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will be holding their 7th annual summer reading extravaganza in June. More details to follow.

On April 23, OPDC will host a 2 part event on the ONP. There will be a 10:00 a.m. press conference followed by an evening reception. They also expect to have 2 houses under contract very soon. At the end of April, 2009 the annual furniture drive will begin. This year, a trucking company has been hired to pick up and deliver to storage any furniture donated.

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

2009 Schedule Oakland Task Force

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

2010 Schedule

January — Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC

February — University of Pittsburgh

March — UPMC Health System