

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2019
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Duquesne University, Student Union, Africa Room

Present: Greg Alan (Duquesne Light), Roger Altmeyer (UPMC-Mercy), Scott Boringer (Uptown Partners), Angelica Ciranni (GBA), Derek Dauphin (DCP), Jamie DuCar (University of Pittsburgh), Ruari Egan (PWSA), Amy Hart (Center for Hearing & Deaf Services), Debbi Linhart (Bethlehem Haven), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH, Avenu), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH, Avenu), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Anthony Medicino (GBA), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Andréa Stanford (Allegheny County), Joe Wingenfeld (Uptown Partners), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Guests: Kevin Progar (UPMC)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:13 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members as well as new members including Mike Madden, a new employee at InnovatePGH/Avenu who will attend meetings in addition to Sean Luther.

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ellen asked for a motion to have the February meeting minutes approved that were previously distributed to all members via email. The motion was approved with no dissent.

Agenda Discussions:

(1) Resolution of Uptown Task Force Framework & Protocols: The most recent version of the Framework was circulated to all members before the meeting. Mary Ellen opened the floor for discussion around the newest version of the framework.

Some questions posed by Task Force members:

What scale of projects will be presented to the Task Force? It is difficult to define the specific scale of projects that should be presented to the Uptown Task Force. The Uptown Partners Real Estate and Design Committee will review a lot of projects, and it will not be necessary for the Task Force to see a presentation on all of them. Uptown Partners can provide a monthly list of all projects in the neighborhood and the Task Force can decide collectively if it wants to request a presentation or more information on any of them. This list can also be distributed monthly with the agenda and minutes for the group to see ahead of each meeting.

With no more questions, it was decided that next steps would be for an email to go to those with limited or no participation in the Uptown Task Force meetings with the revised Framework document. Depending on their responses, they will either be kept on the list or removed as an invitee. Mary Ellen asked for a motion to approve and adopt the new Uptown Task Force Framework and Protocols. The motion was approved with no dissent.

(2) Infrastructure Sub-Committee 2019 Work Plan Presentation: Angelica Ciranni of Green Building Alliance presented an update, including a revised Sub-committee purpose and the proposed 2019 workplan.

The proposed 2019 workplan includes the following priority areas with respective indicators for each priority area: Open Space and Green Connections; Landscaping; Underground Infrastructure; Energy; and Waste Management. The proposed plan also includes a Sub-committee meeting schedule (with priority topics identified) for the

remainder of 2019. Each monthly meeting will follow a similar agenda, with experts in each field hopefully attending each meeting.

Next steps for the Sub-committee include securing Task Force approval of the plan and presentation of monthly progress reports to the Task Force.

Some questions posed by Task Force members:

How will the reporting occur? This is still under consideration/discussion, as the data collected could be valuable to other entities but no single organization is resourced to be able to do this work full-time. Derek Dauphin offered that the City's efforts to engage a City-wide data contract may be able to provide possible coordination with this effort.

Should the proposed plan be adopted/approved today? It was decided that the presentation would be circulated to Task Force members for further review and adoption/approval would be discussed at the April meeting.

Can this presentation be posted on the Uptown Task Force website? Yes, once it is formally approved/adopted.

(3) Accelerating Investments for Healthy Communities: Kevin Progar, a project analyst at UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care, provided an overview of the Accelerating Investments for Healthy Communities initiative, which is administered through the Center for Community Investment (CCI) at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The national initiative was created to help participating hospitals and health systems deepen their investment in affordable housing in their respective regions, and advance policies and practices that foster equitable housing solutions.

As one of only a few health care systems in the country to be awarded this grant, UPMC is working with various community partners to look at innovative investment strategies to create more affordable housing in Uptown and Oakland, but also Citywide. The hope is for this initiative to lead to significant UPMC investments in several hundred affordable housing units in Uptown and Oakland over the next several years and the creation of 2,000 affordable units across the City longer term. As part of this initiative, In 2019, UPMC is considering investing in landlord education and capital needed to increase absorption of housing vouchers and help homeowners improve the environmental quality, safety, and accessibility of their homes.

Some questions posed by Task Force members:

How are Uptown and Oakland being defined? It is currently a working definition in the context of other community efforts, including the City's Affordable Housing Task Force.

What is the timeline on this initiative? There are 3 phases in total, the first one was completed last year and phase 2 is currently happening. This phase will last for about 2 years in which UPMC will have many discussions with community partners and other external stakeholders on how to proceed forward. Phase 3 will begin two years from now.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Community: The Sub-committee assessed all metrics at the January meeting, and the work plan will be finalized at the February meeting. The proposed work plan will be presented to the Uptown Task Force in April.

Development/Mobility: There was a combined Sub-committee meeting this month that focused on construction coordination in Uptown. DOMI agreed that the permit office could serve as the coordination center for the projects, but could not commit to helping with business resiliency efforts, so the Sub-committees will need to consider other options. Sean Luther will coordinate a meeting that will focus on developing a communication plan for the neighborhood about the projects and the resources available to them. The Development Sub-Committee meets in March and the Mobility Sub-Committee will meet in April.

Other items:

As part of a conversation Mary Ellen had with DOMI regarding a variety of issues, DOMI agreed to renew its commitment to serving as Chair of the Mobility Sub-committee as soon as they have additional staffing in place (within the next several months). In the interim, Breen Masciotra agreed to temporarily serve as Chair to convene the Sub-Committee to keep its efforts moving.

Joe Wingenfeld suggested consideration of the Sub-committees providing progress reports at a future Uptown Partners community meeting. The other Sub-committee chairs agreed this is a good idea, but suggested waiting until all work plans have been approved by the Task Force. The idea will be revisited in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 4 at Duquesne University in the Africa Room, 3rd Floor, Student Union