

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2019

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Uptown Partners, 710 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC), Gary Desjardins (PPG Paints Arena), Krysia Kubiak (Duquesne Light), Debbi Linhart (Bethlehem Haven), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mike Madden (Pittsburgh Innovation District/Avenu), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Maggie Pike (SEA), Kalyani Singh (InnovatePGH), Andreá Stanford (Allegheny County), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Joe Wingenfeld (Uptown Partners), Megan Zeiglel (GBA), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

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

Agenda Discussions:

(1) Mobility Sub-Committee Draft Work Plan: Mary Ellen asked for a motion to have the Mobility Sub-Committee Draft Work Plan approved and adopted which was presented at the previous Uptown Task Force meeting. The motion was approved with no dissent.

(2) Affordable Housing: Mike Madden, chair of the Development Committee, discussed affordable housing in the neighborhood, specifically how the level of affordable housing may be affected by the DeRuad Street fire, which displaced a number of families. The EcoInnovation District Neighborhood Plan calls for at least 30% of affordable housing units in Uptown, and with the 20 units that were affected by the fire, we may be looking at being below that threshold, at least for a period of time. Upcoming projects such as City's Edge, 5th and Dinwiddie, and the Burrell Building all have plans for affordable housing units, which will help achieve the goal level if the united DeRuad are officially condemned.

Members also discussed different aspects of what data they would like to keep track of around affordable housing, as well as how the UTF could continue to work with the URA and the City of Pittsburgh to make sure that there is some site control within the neighborhood. This is an important issue for UTF moving forward.

(3) BRT: Jeanne McNutt started her discussion by stating that recent media reports about the BRT caused some concern about the status of infrastructure upgrades as part of the BRT plan. Initial plans for upgrades were a positive trade-off for the residents who were going to lose parking with the implementation of the BRT. If those upgrades are no longer planned that may pose significant concerns for residents. Uptown Partners will move forward with a request to meet with the Mayor's Office to discuss the project details further and voice their concerns.

Jeanne asked members if the UTF wanted to be part of the meeting or involved with advocacy. Mary Ellen suggested that it would be good to get information directly from the BRT team before deciding any next steps. Breen Masciotra of Port Authority said that there would be a public meeting in November where 60% of the design would be presented, so that would be a good opportunity to get more information. The BRT was also going to be a

topic of discussion at the upcoming Mobility Sub-Committee on the 10th.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Community: The September meeting was a check-in on current metrics as well as identifying new metrics. The October meeting will be about land trusts.

Development: The September meeting was all about housing. Kalyani was introduced as the CORO intern who will be helping with baseline data collection.

Infrastructure: The September meeting was canceled due to more information needed around the topics of trees. The October meeting will be about the Boulevard of the Allies project with Penn Dot.

Mobility: The work plan has been approved. The October meeting will be about the BRT. The November meeting will be about data collection.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, November 7th at Duquesne University, Africa Room