

Uptown Task Force (UTF) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2020
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Duquesne University, Student Union, Africa Room

Present: Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Ben Grunauer (PWSA), Amy Hart (HDS), Joan Hilton Hayek (Duquesne University), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH/Avenu), Alyssa Lyon (GBA), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Caroline Woodward (Bethlehem Haven), Megan Zeigler (GBA)

Guests: Alison D'Addieco (Duquesne University), Scott Bofinger (Uptown Partners)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. with an introduction of members.

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) Exploration of Backbone Structure with Uptown Partners: In follow up to last month's discussion about exploring the possibility of backbone support with Uptown Partners, the following questions were posed to UP Board members present:

- Can UTF have a role in the UP Executive Director search process?
- Is UP Board considering revising existing strategic plan to include backbone support for EID Plan implementation?
- Will there be a joint fundraising effort to implement the Eco-Innovation District Plan?
- Will the UP Board participate in the facilitated conversation with the UTF about the backbone structure?

Scott Bofinger of the UP Board discussed some of the answers to these questions with the group. He mentioned that the next UP Board meeting was scheduled for the end of March and he would be able to discuss these questions at more length after that meeting. Scott stated that the Board is very committed to exploring this partnership. Mary Ellen stated that the UTF is also excited about this opportunity, and asked for a motion to vote on exploring a backbone alignment with UP. The motion was approved with no dissent.

(2) Uptown Task Force Goals for 2020: Priority Projects for Funding: At the last meeting, the UTF asked Derek Dauphin and sub-committee chairs to identify projects in the EID plan that could be accomplished in the near-term using remaining funds. After reviewing the EID Plan, Derek shared a potential list of projects. After some discussion, it was decided that Derek would circulate the list through Survey Monkey. Derek will bring the results to the April meeting for further discussion.

(3) Development Sub-Committee Work Plan Update: Mike Madden stated the Development Sub-Committee continues to work on some re-aligning, and in that spirit, they cancelled their February meeting. The Sub-committee will take a different approach to this year's work plan. The proposed 2020 work plan could be presented at the April meeting. Mike will advise as we get closer to that date.

(4) Infrastructure Sub-Committee Work Plan Update: Megan Zeigler shared the proposed 2020 work plan which includes some updated language but remains consistent with the previous year's plan. The proposed plan has streamlined priorities into three categories: Energy, Green Connections, and BRT Alignment with the EID. The work plan also focuses on finalizing the Energy and Water baseline for the EID, which will include residential components.

UTF member will review the proposed work plan and contact Megan with any questions or suggestion. A motion to adopt the work plan will be proposed at the April meeting.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- Community: The February meeting had been cancelled. The March meeting will be focused on finalizing the work plan.
- Mobility: No sub-committee updates at this time. DOMI is planning for their summer interns to do a curbside study in the Uptown neighborhood.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 9:34am.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 2nd at Duquesne University.