

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2019

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Duquesne University, Student Union, Africa Room

Present: Cliff Blashford (Clearway Energy, Inc.), Gwen Bolden (PPAP), Dana Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (DCP), Gary Desjardins (PPG Paints Arena), Jamie DuCar (University of Pittsburgh), Bill Generett (Duquesne University), Debbi Linhart (Bethlehem Haven), Simona Loberant (SEA), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH, Avenu), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Mischelle McMillan (De Ruad Resident Council President), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Ray Morrison (Uptown Resident), Hannah Poland (Rep. Wheatley Office), Isaac Smith (GBA), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Andréa Stanford (Allegheny County), Daniel Wood (Councilman Lavelle Office), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Guests: Christine Mondor, EvolveEA

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:09 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

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

Agenda Discussions:

(1) EcoDistricts Summit in Pittsburgh (Nov. 4 & 5): Christine Mondor provided background and summary on the annual EcoDistricts Summit that will occur in Pittsburgh in the Fall. Pittsburgh has a number of neighborhoods and adjacent communities engaged in EcoDistrict related work. DistrictPGH is a short-term campaign around Pittsburgh-area EcoDistricts that could turn into a long-term effort based on improving best practices, widening the adoption of EcoDistricts, and raising the profile of Pittsburgh. Two upcoming events will be used as the lever point in thinking about the next three years. The first one is an EcoDistrict Incubator, where teams from various neighborhoods will engage in discussion and exploration about efforts as related to EcoDistrict protocols and practices. The Incubator will be in Millvale and will host 13 teams of about 5 people each. Then, later this year, Pittsburgh will host the annual EcoDistrict Summit, on November 4th and 5th at the August Wilson Center, where between 400 and 500 people will get together to discuss all things EcoDistrict related with an emphasis on equity, resilience and climate protection.

Leading up to the conference in November, there are many ways for people to get involved, including joining the local advisory committees, providing sponsorships, promoting the event, submitting a presentation idea, and attending the summit. Leading up to the summit, there will be several events around the city where people can come and discuss what they would like to see the summit do for our communities. The first event like this will be April 8th from 4 – 6pm at East End Brewery. More info can be found at <http://www.summit.ecodistricts.org/>.

(2) Infrastructure Sub-Committee 2019 Work Plan Review/Adoption: After a quick conversation about a few clarifications in the work plan, the Task Force approved the work plan with no dissent.

(3) Miscellaneous: Mary Ellen shared that she emailed all organizations who had limited or no participation in the Task Force to inform them of the revised Framework, including member expectations and requirements. Some organizations indicated interest in continued participation. The membership list will be updated after the May meeting to reflect those organizations or individuals who plan to participate moving forward. Also, due to the July

meeting falling on a holiday, the Task Force will consider cancelling or moving the July meeting pending further discussion at the May meeting.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Community: The Sub-committee met last week and discussed programming around the Tustin Park expansion.

Development: The Sub-committee will meet next week to discuss the construction projects in Uptown and the priorities and indicators for the Sub-committee work plan. The goal is to present the work plan in June.

Mobility: The Sub-committee will meet next week, with its interim chair, Breen Masciotra, and will develop a work plan.

Infrastructure: At the last Sub-committee meeting, the group focused on street trees, and came up with a list of ten action items. The Plan has an ambitious tree canopy goal but with little funding available, so the group is trying to come up with creative ways to hit that goal.

Member Updates Provided at the Meeting:

City Planning: The website that was used during the planning of the Uptown EcoDistrict is now outdated and the contract with the consultant who created it is about to expire. The Task Force decided to have that domain reroute to the Uptown Task Force website.

Duquesne University: The Office of Community Engagement has created printed materials about the services that Duquesne provides, and will soon have one that is directed at residents for anyone interested.

Rep. Wheatley's Office: On April 25th, the People's Office and Rep. Wheatley will host the Golden Luncheon at the Rivers Casino for the senior citizens of the 19th District.

University of Pittsburgh: There is a traffic advisory for April 12 – 15th as the ramp from 376 to Craft Avenue will be closed. Also, the University will be hosting its third IMP meeting on April 16th from 6 – 8pm in the William Pitt Union.

Uptown Partners: On April 13th there will be a modified spring clean-up with Duquesne University if anyone is interested.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 2 at Uptown Partners, NeighborWorks Office, 710 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1000