

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2018
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Duquesne University, Africa Room, 3rd Floor, Student Union

Present: Greg Alan (Duquesne Light), Roger Altmeyer (UPMC-Mercy), Anthony Boule (Parking Authority), Brian Brown (GBA), Angelica Ciranni (GBA), Derek Dauphin (DCP), Ruari Egan (PWSA), Tad Hale (Avenu), Carol Hardeman (Hill District Consensus Group), Amy Hart (Center for Hearing & Deaf Services), Simona Loberant (SEA), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mischelle McMillan (De Ruad Resident Council President), Justin Miller (DOMI), Stephanie Moyes (Bethlehem Haven), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Andréa Stanford (Allegheny County), Joe Wingefeld (Uptown Partners), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Regrets: Terri Baltimore (Hill House Association), Cliff Blashford (NRG), Gary Desjardins (PPG Paints Arena), Rich DiClaudio (Energy Innovation Center), Craig Dunham (representing Pittsburgh Penguins), Grant Ervin (City of Pittsburgh), Bill Generett (Duquesne University), Josh Henschel (Resident), Amber Jackson (Bethlehem Haven), Debbi Linhart (Bethlehem Haven), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH), John Kraemer (NRG), Brian Kurtz (PDP), Shantalaya Mathews (URA), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Linda Metropoulos (ACTION – Housing), Leslie Montgomery (Pittsburgh Blind and Vision Services), Ray Morrison (Uptown Resident), , James Myers Jr. (Urban Innovation21), Kristen Osterwood (GBA), Tim Parks (Life'sWork), Rebekkah Ranallo (OPDC), Lama Shehadeh (DCP), Janet Strahosky (Bethlehem Haven), John Wilds (Pitt)

Invited/Absent: Antoine Davis (Pittsburgh Police), Kirk Holbrook (Rep. Wheatley), Marimba Milliones (Hill CDC), Carl Redwood, Jr. (Hill Consensus Group), Sonny Williams, Daniel Wood (Councilman Lavelle)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:08 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ellen asked for a motion to have the July 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 Update: Work continues on the BRT, and Port Authority has hired a consultant to complete the final design process.

Mobility Sub-Committee has been working with the Development Sub-Committee to create an inventory of all construction projects to better coordinate what will be happening in Uptown in the next few years. The goal is to establish coordination between all of these projects to help to mitigate the impact on the neighborhood. The Sub-committee will also explore possible opportunities with other entities to develop a construction mitigation plan focused on supporting businesses.

It was noted there will also be smaller utility projects occurring simultaneously, and the Sub-committee will look to include them in the overall construction management process, as well.

In September the Mobility and Development Sub-Committees will meet to discuss next steps with the planning process.

(2) Development Sub-Committee Update: Tad Hale shared an update on the progress the Sub-committee has made in working on the development implementation items from the Eco-Innovation District plan. Some key opportunities:

- Providing affordable housing options for a diverse income range

- Connecting start-ups with flexible work spaces that meet their needs
- Working with developers to provide workspace, help them to understand the opportunities the requirements of the neighborhood
- Support housing typologies that encourage collaborative, creative production and innovation
- Developing a marketing/messaging strategy for Uptown
- Retaining existing businesses and attracting new ones
- Encouraging density and mixed-use businesses in targeted areas
- Developing a micro website targeted at developers
- Exploring possibilities for development sites
- Creating a community infrastructure hub

The Sub-committee has identified some potential development sites and will continue to explore options and report back progress. In addition, Tad is working on scheduling a meeting with New Sun Rising from Millvale to discuss their experience with assessment and will coordinate that with other Sub-committee chairs.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Infrastructure: The Sub-committee is working to create its work plan and priorities, and they may be able to provide a report on those efforts at the September or October Task Force meeting.

Community: Derek Dauphin and Yesica Guerra, Public Art & Civic Design Manager, presented at the last Sub-committee meeting about the Tustin Street Art Project, as well as the Slow Street Projects, for which there will be an RFP released in the near future. The Sub-committee has also begun to research community land trusts, which is a part of the community section of the Eco-Innovation District Plan. Uptown Partners would likely be heavily involved in such an initiative and would take the lead in presenting any information to the Task Force if and when it's appropriate.

After the sub-committee updates, Mary Ellen stated that now that the Task Force has been meeting for year, it is time to start defining the group more and its overall role. All of the members are volunteers so there is only so much that the Task Force can do, but there is a way for the Task Force to learn from other similar groups on how they handled similar matters. Moving forward, discussions should be had as to what the roles are of the sub-committees, Uptown Partners, and how they relate back to the Task Force, and how they all can accomplish their goals. This will be a continued conversation at Uptown Task Force meetings to come.

Member Updates:

(Moving forward, member updates will be sent via email to Joan Hayek who will then distribute them to the Task Force members prior to each meeting.)

City Planning: Pashek Associates is now on board to develop a plan for the trail that will make connections through the hill above Colwell street in both east-west and north-south directions. Key connections are between the Middle Hill, Uptown and the River, and over to West Oakland near Robinson Street. There will be community meetings in the near future to get public input on the trail plan. The Tustin Art Project team will be holding a public meeting and party on Sunday, September 16th from 4 pm – 9 pm in Tustin Park to kick-off the public involvement stage of the project. A flyer will be sent around with the information, and they will also be presenting at the September Task Force meeting. CP may pursue opportunities to expand the park and will also look at development options for the area around Fifth and Dinwiddie Streets. The design and art work will be coordinated and may

share public meetings to avoid confusion. CP is also working with the GRID Energy Institute at Pitt to help move forward with the district energy program and is seeking parties interested in solar panel installations among other elements of the work.

Duquesne Light: They are currently working on service for the new UPMC Vision and Rehabilitation Hospital. There will be some relocation work going on between Stevenson and Pride Streets, as well as on Colwell Street. Also, there will be details to come about the new sub-station on Moultrie Street.

UPMC Mercy: The Institutional Master Plan was approved by City Council on Tuesday. They will present final design plans for the new Vision and Rehabilitation Hospital building at the September Task Force meeting.

Hill District Consensus Group: They are currently running the “Save My Water” project which has provided more than 750 water bottles to residents in the last year. They would like to connect this project to Uptown residents, and are working with Uptown Partners to do so.

De Ruad Resident Council: The MLK Garden Committee is putting together an Olympic Garden Party and will distribute a flier soon.

Duquesne University: Duquesne students move back onto campus on August 21. The University is continues to work on its Institutional Master Plan, and the University’s Strategic Plan is in the early phases of implementation.

Uptown Partners: Strategic planning is underway. They began working with the consultant in early July and planning should wrap up by October/November. UP made a preliminary application to a local foundation for Business Planning. They are developing review protocol for the Uptown Real Estate and Design Committee. They have created a scope of work with Dr. Robert Sroufe for the Duquesne MBA Fall Semester course. They helped inform the UPMC Mercy Community Benefits Agreement for the Uptown/Hill District and then testified at City Council in support of project. Uptown Partners will be receiving another round of Sustainable Restaurant funds to help Uptown restaurants make additional sustainable improvements. They are working with Albert Presto from CMU and Dr. Sroufe from Duquesne to install air quality monitors to establish air quality baseline. Dr. Presto will work with Uptown Partners to create an air pollution mitigation plan. They are creating the Uptown Design Process Guidelines to provide developers with a clear process to present projects to the Uptown Real Estate and Design Committee and obtain support on their projects. Their intern from CMU is working on a banner project and artwork for vacant storefronts. Finally, UP is advocating for De Ruad Street tenants and connecting them with Councilman Lavelle’s and State Representative Wheatley’s office.

Port Authority: In the new fiscal year, they will focus on improving the rider experience, using a variety of surveys for different stakeholders.

SEA: They have talked with the Green Institute about a potential solar panel installation project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday September 6th at Uptown Partners.