

**Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
**July 5, 2018**  
**8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Duquesne University, Africa Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Student Union**

**Present:** Roger Altmeyer (UPMC-Mercy), Derek Dauphin (DCP), Ruari Egan (PWSA), Tad Hale (Avenu), Simona Loberant (SEA), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Stephanie Moyes (Bethlehem Haven), Lama Shehadeh (DCP), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Janet Strahosky (Bethlehem Haven), Andréa Stanford (Allegheny County), Joe Wingenfeld (Uptown Partners), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

**Regrets:** Greg Alan (Duquesne Light), Terri Baltimore (Hill House Association), Cliff Blashford (NRG), Anthony Boule (Parking Authority) Angelica Cirianni (GBA), Gary Desjardins (PPG Paints Arena), Rich DiClaudio (Energy Innovation Center), Craig Dunham (representing Pittsburgh Penguins), Grant Ervin (City of Pittsburgh), Bill Generett (Duquesne University), Amy Hart (Center for Hearing & Deaf Services), Josh Henschel (Resident), Amber Jackson (Bethlehem Haven), Debbi Linhart (Bethlehem Haven), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH), John Kraemer (NRG), Shantalaya Mathews (URA), Linda Metropoulos (ACTION – Housing), Justin Miller (DOMI), 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), 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)

**Guests:** Jack Machek (10,000 Friends)

**Call to Order/Welcome:** Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:12 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

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

**Agenda Discussions:**

**Presentations:**

(1) Rail~Volution: Breen Masciotra started the presentation by giving a brief background on Rail~Volution, a national non-profit organization that started in Portland, Oregon, and was originally only focused on rail transportation. Over the last 20 years, the organization has expanded into all types of transit, becoming the place to discuss how to build livable communities with transit. Rail~Volution's annual conference, which showcases how land use, transportation and development can transition communities into livable cities, will be held on October 21 – 24, 2018, in Pittsburgh. There will be panel discussions, mobile workshops, receptions, keynote speakers, and networking sessions. Conference participants represent a wide variety of professions, including, but not limited to, elected officials, community development, planners, academia, and advocates.

Registration for the conference is now open, with the early bird special running until September. Breen encouraged Task Force members to attend the conference, spread the word about the conference, and to help find volunteers for the conference. Volunteers are able to attend for free, based on their hours given. Finally, Breen said they are still looking for sponsors if anyone was interested in helping with that.

Outside of volunteering, the only other free way to attend the conference is through a local scholarship pool that is foundation funded. Applications can be completed online, and anyone willing to host a scholarship

winner during the week of the conference is also able to attend for free. These applications are due by August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Some questions posed by Task Force members:

*What are the locations of the mobile sessions?* As of right now, not all of the locations have been chosen, but there will definitely be sessions held in Oakland and Uptown. Breen sits on the national committee that is helping to develop these sessions, and she is traveling to St. Paul next week to finalize the particulars of the mobile sessions.

*What is the ideal mobile session?* That is really up to the people hosting the mobile session, Breen stated. Jeanne McNutt said that in Seattle, the mobile session she went on gave a walking tour for about 3 hours of a local neighborhood.

(2) Sub Committee Follow-Up Discussion from June Meeting: Mary Ellen began her discussion by stating that at the June meeting, the Task Force had started to talk about numerous aspects of the sub-committees, including if the chairs should be re-assigned, how metrics should be measured within those sub-committees, and if the Task Force's meeting agenda should change to give the sub-committees more of a working session. The following were the main points of discussion on those topics:

- *Who is facilitating the sub committees?* Derek Dauphin commented that Justin Miller was still very interested in chairing the Mobility Sub Committee. The GBA has already scheduled the next Infrastructure Sub Committee meeting, so they will keep that sub-committee. The Community Sub Committee chair, Joe Wingenfeld, is also fine with continuing to facilitate, as well as the Development Sub Committee chair Tad Hale, so the Task Force agreed to move forward as is with the current facilitators.
- *Should we create an assessment tool for the sub-committees?* Joe Wingenfeld stated that he had created a document referencing the matrix in the Eco-Innovation Plan that he was using to track metrics for the Community Sub Committee. Joe also mentioned that he had spoken with Justin Miller and Justin was interested in reaching out to New Sun Rising and to Millvale to see how they have been recording metrics in their communities since Millvale has been doing it for quite some time. After a brief discussion, the Task Force decided that Tad Hale would reach out to Millvale to ask them about their metrics system and to see if they would be willing to present to this Task Force in August or September about that system. After that presentation, the Task Force can figure out how to move forward with an assessment tool.
- *Should we create a document that compiles all upcoming construction projects in Uptown?* Mary Ellen stated that she would be reaching out to Justin Miller to get an updated list that would outline all of the upcoming construction projects, who the leaders were on the projects, and what the project timelines would be. That way, the Task Force will be able to help come up with a plan for small businesses in the Uptown area to help get through these phases of construction. Derek also suggested that there should be a joint meeting between the Mobility and the Development Sub-Committees to help with this project as well.
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- *Should we transition the meeting agenda to a working agenda?* Joe stated that he thought this was a good idea, and was curious if the Task Force thought that each sub-committee

should have a work plan. Derek stated that the Development and the Community Sub Committees both have work plans, and Infrastructure will be putting one together at their next meeting now that the GBA is taking over, but Mobility does not have a work plan. The best course of action might be to have either the Development or the Community Sub Committee present their work plan at the next meeting so that the entire Task Force can learn about it and provide feedback. It was decided that the Development Sub Committee would present in August to the entire Task Force, and then the Community Sub Committee would present in September.

### **Sub-Committee Updates:**

Development: Currently, the Development Sub Committee is finalizing their work plan, as well as continuing to work on their mapping tool. They will present the updated map in August as well as their work plan.

Community: Bill Generett presented at the last sub-committee meeting on community engagement work at Duquesne University. Bill discussed the developing institutional master plan of the University, as well as his meetings with stakeholders that have allowed him to see where opportunities are for Duquesne to add value within the community. Bill introduced a Listening Tour Series that he will be hosting at the University, highlighting the neighborhoods discussed within the University's Strategic Plan. HackPGH hosted the sub-committee meeting, and they discussed bringing a repair café event to the neighborhood in late September, where residents can bring their broken electronics and HackPGH will give them about 15 – 20 minutes of free consultation on how to fix the item. Finally, the 2030 Miltenberger project that involves the Development Sub-Committee, as well, is making progress. The owner of Round Cantina and El Boro is working with the URA to put another El Burro on the first floor of that project, with a couple apartments on the floors above.

Mobility: Derek provided a quick update on the agenda for the next two sub-committee meetings. The July meeting will be focused on the corridor trail that will ultimately connect the Hill District to the river. The sub-committee will be mainly focused on Colwell Street, but it also includes elements that connect through Brady Street down to the Heritage Trail. In the July meeting, they will be working on planning out the trail in much more detail with Pashek Associates. In August, Justin wants to have a joint meeting with the Development Sub Committee to chart out the upcoming construction projects in the Uptown neighborhood and then come up with a plan on how to help the retail district get through these projects. The district has finally started to blossom due to the hard work of everyone sitting at this table, but these upcoming construction projects could really stunt it, so hopefully the Task Force can help make sure the retail district makes it through successfully.

Infrastructure: The GBA will now be scheduling and implementing this sub-committee. The goal is to have the work plan created within the next two meetings. The next meeting will be July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am. The sub-committee is very interested in adding more people because the focus is no longer just on energy; they discuss storm water management, waste management, open spaces, etc., so they would like to have a more diverse group of professions represented on the sub-committee.

### **Member Updates:**

(Moving forward, it has been decided that member updates will be sent via email to Mary Ellen who will then disperse them to the entire Task Force for everyone's review prior to each meeting.)

Avenu: The Fifth Avenue space (Start Uptown) has lost their lease. Dale will still be operating it as a co-working space. They are currently working on developing a plan for Craft Space (an old Cadillac dealership) in Oakland to turn the space into a co-working, maker space.

UPMC Mercy: On July 17<sup>th</sup>, City Council will review the Institutional Master Plan. Councilman Lavelle will be hosting a community meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> at Duquesne University for the public to ask any final questions before the Council hearing.

Uptown Partners: UP will be working on their Strategic Plan through November, which will outline the next three years and beyond for their organization.

City Planning: Recently the City has gotten clearance to begin work on some projects including the trail that was previously discussed, along with some storm water management projects along that trail as well as in Tustin Park. There is now money available for strategic planning for Uptown Partners. Finally, CP is moving forward with a micro-grid, and conducting more research with Katrina Kelly of the Green Institute, who is also working with Millvale on a similar project. As of right now, there is some framework around the micro grid, but CP is very excited to move forward with this research to find out more about renewable energy sources they could bring on and who the big users are, etc.

Port Authority: The Port Authority began a new fiscal year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This year, they will really be focusing on improving the rider experience, making sure that time tables are met, and that the buses are properly maintained. There will be some changes in the planning department, which hopefully will lead to better support for the Port Authority. 2018 will be a big survey season; the Port Authority will be talking with people on the buses and within the communities, as well as measuring commuter choices within the 2030 district.

Duquesne University: There is a lot of construction happening around the campus this summer. The students are set to move back on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The University is working on completing an Institutional Master Plan. There hasn't been any movement with the Palumbo Center renovations past the Athletics Department meeting with the PWSA to discuss adding stormwater management options to the plans.

PWSA: There was a ribbon-cutting recently in the Hill District to mark the completion of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure at the corner of Herron Avenue and Centre Avenue, behind the University of Pittsburgh Athletic fields.

Bethlehem Haven: The construction at 905 Watson Street is complete, moving the 1402 – 1408 Fifth Avenue project to the front burner. They are discussing the possibility of putting retail on the first floor, and about 40 units of low income housing in the upper floors, but they are open to ideas from the Task Force.

And an update from 10,000 Friends: Currently, 10,000 Friends is working with the DCNR on a multi-faceted contract where they are looking to fund a multi-project, revitalization project. This could include not only green space projects, but stormwater management projects as well. Previously, the Task Force talked about submitting the Curtain Call project, however, this did not work out due to the DCNR and the SEA already pressing forward with the 579 Cap Project that would have competed directly with Curtain Call. To appropriately prepare for developing an application for the next round of new submissions for the spring of 2019, it was suggested that a 10,000 Friends representative come to the next Mobility Sub Committee meeting to discuss this further, as they will be focused on planning for the trail.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

**Next Uptown Task Force Meeting** - 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Duquesne University's Africa Room.