

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Gary Desjardins (PPG Arena), Jamie Ducar (University of Pittsburgh), Lilly Freedman (URA), Leonard Hammonds (Rep. Jake Wheatley's Office), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Alyssa Lyon (GBA), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Brittany McDonald (Uptown Partners), Rif Qureshi (SEA), Kaylani Singh (InnovatePGH), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners)

Guests: Anthony Kobak (City Planning)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

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

Agenda Discussions:

(1) ForgingPGH Presentation (Anthony Kobak): Anthony gave a presentation on the ForgingPGH plan and how it will fit in with the Uptown Ecolnnovation District Plan.

A comprehensive plan, ForgingPGH defines who we are today, who we inspire to become, and includes elements or objectives like land use, transportation, economic development, housing, recreational spaces and other components. Other ways to describe this comprehensive plan are as a strategic framework and vision for growth and development through 2040, or essentially a roadmap for Pittsburgh's future. It is the city's first ever comprehensive land use plan, providing an overarching policy document.

There are three pieces feeding framework of this plan – the displacement vulnerability index (DVI), the p4 model (people, planet, place and performance), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All of the elements in this plan work together and are planned together– housing, mobility, economic development, recreation and open space.

The ForgingPGH planning process will recognize and account for neighborhoods (such as Uptown) that already have existing neighborhood plans. The adopted plans will remain constant through the ForgingPGH plan. The overall goal at the end of this process is to come up with a future land use map, fed by neighborhood plans, county/regional plans, sector plans, and land use scenarios, as well as a list of policies that ties in all these efforts.

The public process for ForgingPGH kicked off in September 2020, and the next public involvement period will be in March of 2021 when different scenarios will be shared through various community engagement activities. Current timeline calls for draft plan to be share with community in July 2021, with final adoption and implementation in late 2021.

All information about the plan can be found at <https://forgingpgh.org/> and public engagement and feedback can be done through <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/forgingpgh>.

Anthony finished his presentation by stating that the Uptown Task Force is going to be involved with this entire process, especially with the public engagement pieces, as well as providing feedback as the process moves along.

Some questions posed by the Task Force members:

When the plan is implemented, will there be guidelines for developers? Not necessarily. It will be very much like current plans where Planning Commission will compare developers plans to the neighborhood plans to see if the developer has considered elements of the neighborhood plan and if their plans align. Neighborhood plans will still act as implementation plans of the overall comprehensive plan.

What is the approach for the open houses? It depends on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, it was planned to have them be both in-person and online, but now they will most likely all be online. There is the potential to connect with existing events or organizations that are hosting public events and plug in that way. However, it has not been decided as of yet.

With no further questions, Mary Ellen thanked Anthony for his time and efforts.

(2) Member Updates re: COVID-19 Pandemic:

- **Duquesne University:** All of the students have returned home and are finishing their finals remotely this week. As of now, they are planning to return on January 21st, however that is subject to change depending on the pandemic situation.

(3) Priority Projects for Funding: DOMI has started to move forward with the planning of the e-hub. There are no other updates at this time.

(4) Forbes Fund Grant/Status of RFP: Responses from interested consultants are expected to be received in the next few days. The Action Team Chairs will review responses and determine next steps.

(5) Adoption of Amendment to Charter (Action Teams): At the last meeting, Mary Ellen proposed an amendment to the existing charter to change the term “sub-committees” to “Action Teams”. The amendment was circulated via email to the UTF members prior to the November meeting. The members of the UTF did not have any concerns or questions at the November meeting, as well as this meeting. Mary Ellen asked for motion to approve the adoption of this amendment. The motion was approved with no dissent.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- Community: The WiFi pilot project has been fully funded and installation started today. Once the network information is known, it will be shared, as well as directions on how to connect. Uptown Partners conducted a few Thanksgiving meal giveaways to ten families with help from Carlow University. Carlow will also be helping with a toy drive, with 18 children receiving 4 – 6 toys. Finally, there will be a food distribution, Narcan distribution, and PPE distribution on December 19th. More information to come about that event.
- Development/Infrastructure: The two Action Teams held a joint event this month – a district energy virtual roundtable that was well attended by Uptown developers.
- Mobility: The contract for the parking and TDM study in Uptown has been executed and the consultants

will be in town next week for a walking tour of Uptown with the Mobility Action Team members.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m. with well wishes for a healthy, safe and happy holiday season.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 7th, 2021 via Zoom.