

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 5, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC), Gwendolyn Bolden (Pittsburgh Parking Authority), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Gary Desjardins (PPG Arena), Lilly Freedman (URA), Leonard Hammonds (Rep. Jake Wheatley's Office), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Alyssa Lyon (GBA), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Rif Qureshi (SEA), Kaylani Singh (InnovatePGH), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

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

Agenda Discussions:

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

- **Duquesne Light:** There are still some customer assistance funds available for those having a hard time paying their bills. The PUC (Pennsylvania Utility Commission) ruled that shut-offs can resume on November 9th, however they stop again on the 30th for winter.
- **DOMI:** The parking/TDM study contract for Uptown has been executed. The kick-off call for the project is next Friday, and then site visits will start the week after Thanksgiving. A consultant will be reaching out to Uptown constituents most likely in the upcoming weeks with more information.
- **Duquesne University:** The university is winding down student presence on campus. All of the students will be off-campus by November 25th and will be offered testing before they go home. They will be off-campus until January 21st. Greek Life has been suspended through February.
- **Port Authority:** There will be an invite-only stakeholder meeting about the BRT next week. There might be a public meeting in January.
- **SEA:** The bridge has been completed for the CAP project. They are now working on putting together the top part such as the greenery and park elements. The project is on schedule to finish in November of 2021.
- **UPMC-Mercy:** The new hospital building is finally out of the ground. The re-location of the helipad will occur the week before Thanksgiving, but there won't be any new road closures in tandem with the move.

(2) Priority Projects for Funding: It has been decided that the majority of the city funding will go towards an e-mobility charging hub for the Uptown community and the city-wide development of the Local Improvement District program. The e-hub will be managed by DOMI, and DOMI will be hiring a consultant to help decide what it will look like and where it will be located. The plan and design for the e-hub will have to consider the plans already in place for the BRT. The mobility and infrastructure action teams will be involved as well in the planning and implementation.

(3) Forbes Fund Grant/Status of RFP: Brittany McDonald issued the RFP to the list of Forbes Fund consultants. There hasn't been any outreach, questions, or proposals yet. If there aren't any proposals by the end of next week, the RFP might have to be revisited. The goal was to have this completed by the end of the year.

(4) Amendment to Charter (Action Teams): When the charter was first developed, the wording of "sub-committees" was being used in all planning documents, but now the City has switched to "Action Teams" in their planning documents. To remain consistent with those documents, Mary Ellen proposed an amendment to change the "sub-committees" to "Action Teams". The amendment was circulated via email to the UTF members prior to the meeting. The members of the UTF did not have any concerns or questions, so the amendment will be on next month's agenda for adoption/approval.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- Community: The WiFi pilot project has been fully funded. It will cover the square area marked off by Marion Street, Forbes Avenue, Jumonville Street, and Fifth Avenue. There will be monthly food distributions at Amplify Church starting on November 14th. There are no updates on the Narcan fair with Amplify. At the last meeting, there was a new presentation on the updates to Tustin Park, including adding storm water management, that went well.
- Development: Kaylani thanked everyone for their feedback on the Fifth Avenue Retail District Plan. The document is being finalized and will be submitted to Bill Generett shortly. Hopefully, an RFP can go out in Q4, and Bill can present the final doc to the group at the December meeting.
- Infrastructure: There are no updates.
- Mobility: The contract for the parking and TDM study in Uptown has been executed. There will be a guest speaker at their next meeting.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, December 3rd via Zoom.