

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Gary Alan (Duquesne Light Co.), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Keyva Clark (Rep. Jake Wheatley's Office), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Lilly Freedman (URA), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Jordann Kline (SEA), Carly Koza (Pittsburgh Penguins), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Alyssa Lyon (GBA), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Brittany McDonald (Uptown Partners), Kaylani Singh (InnovatePGH), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light Co.), Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners), Megan Zeigler (GBA)

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 January meeting minutes approved that were previously distributed to all members via email. The motion was approved with no dissent.

Agenda Discussions:

(1) Forbes Fund Grant/Status of RFP (Brittany McDonald and Mary Ellen Solomon): Brittany shared that action team chairs met to review responses to the RFP and met with the two final candidates. A firm was selected and we are now in the process of negotiating a contract. Brittany will be working with the Forbes Funds to finalize the process for scheduling a kick-off meeting. This kick-off meeting will include the chairs of the action teams, Mary Ellen and Derek Dauphin.

Mary Ellen then opened the floor for discussion around how to get the larger Task Force membership involved with the consultants. It was suggested that UTF members should be interviewed by the consultants to get their opinions on what a governance structure with Uptown Partners should look like and what implementation challenges are.

There was also discussion around the participation of the Uptown Partners Board, stating that it was essential that the Task Force had a better knowledge and understanding around the Uptown Partners strategic plan and how this project was going to fit into that plan. Brittany stated that she would work with UP Board officers to ensure its participation. The group also discussed having smaller group discussions with the consultants around the challenges of implementing the plan.

A progress report will be provided at the March meeting that will include a schedule of meetings as well as a plan of work.

(2) Member Updates:

- **URA:** There will be an RFP issued at the end of the month for the properties at 1319 and 1325 Fifth Avenue and will let UTF know when that happens.

Action Team Updates:

- Community: The group has been working on a work plan draft and adjusting the priorities as well as the meeting schedule. The plan will be presented to the larger Task Force as soon as it is finalized.
- Development: An up-to-date, ongoing development map is in the works that will live on the UTF website.

- Infrastructure: The group is working to re-categorize their priorities to see which ones they have met and which ones they can advance.
- Mobility: The TDM study is moving along. Duquesne, UPMC, and PPG Arena have all provided baseline data on parking. The next step is to discuss preliminary TDM recommendations and broaden outreach.

As a final discussion, the group talked about the growing need for a construction coordination meeting to help with communication about upcoming utility work projects related to BRT and other projects. Further information will be provided at the March meeting on this effort.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 4th, 2021 via Zoom.