

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 1, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC Mercy), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Gary Desjardins (PPG Arena), Bill Generett (Duquesne University), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Dana Kramer (SEA), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Brittany McDonald (Uptown Partners), Sabreena Miller (Uptown Partners), Jamie Piotrowski (Uptown Partners), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light Co.)

Guests: Jason Jones, Katie Grimm (J.S. Jones & Still Consulting)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:04 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:

(1) Consultant Update (Jason Jones and Katie Grimm, J.S. Jones & Still Consulting): J.S. Jones & Still Consulting provided an update of the scope of work that kicked off in mid-April. The Consultant has successfully completed Phase 1, which wrapped with great interviews with the Action Team Leads. Phase 2 is now underway with 7 planned meetings with the Action Teams which will involve deeper conversations with each group. The survey that was sent out has only received 9 responses, so the Consultant urged UTF members to send it out to more constituents, including the Uptown Partners Board members. The Consultant is still on schedule to present their final recommendation at the August meeting.

(2) Member Updates:

- **City Planning:** The city is currently in budget season, therefore there will be requests going out for organization letters of support for certain projects in the next week or so.
- **Duquesne Light:** Construction is continuing along as planned. Project signage is being posted in the residential areas. Duquesne Light will be on Forbes and Sixth Avenue towards the end of July, which will prevent traffic from turning left out of the Armstrong Tunnel.
- **Duquesne University:** Demolition of the LifesWork Building, the future site of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, has begun and is on schedule. Watson Street between Fifth and Forbes is closed due to this construction. The university has lifted mask requirements indoors, as well as the campus visitor restriction.
- **PPG Arena:** Ticket sales are almost back to normal. Arena and Aramark are holding job fairs and encourage UTF partners to spread the word. The FNB Tower is moving along with the groundbreaking planned for August. With this construction, the arena will lose a number of parking spaces.
- **University of Pittsburgh:** Pitt has established a new office, The Office of Engagement and Community Affairs, which will be led by Dr. Lina Dostilio. Government Relations will now be a separate office led by Paul Supowitz. Preparation is underway for the fall semester. Pitt is not requiring COVID vaccines for students. The “Be a Good Neighbor” block parties are back, and are scheduled as follows:

September 7th, South Oakland; September 9th, Central Oakland; September 14th, North Oakland; September 21st, West Oakland.

- **Uptown Partners:** The Uptown Partners Community Day is on Saturday, July 24th from 12pm – 4pm at the lot on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Dinwiddie Street. Direct mailer promo will be going out this week with more information. UP has hired two new employees, Community Project Manager Jamie Piotrowski and Real Estate Development Manager Sabreena Miller.

Action Team Updates:

- **Community:** The last two meetings have been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for later in July.
- **Development:** No updates at this time.
- **Infrastructure:** No updates at this time.
- **Mobility:** Jason and Katie will attend the July meeting. After that discussion, Mobility will revisit and hopefully finalize the TDM Plan, which could be presented to the UTF at the September or October meeting, depending on the timing of completion.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2021 via Zoom.