

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 3, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Gary Alan (Duquesne Light Co.), Roger Altmeyer (UPMC Mercy), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Gary Desjardins (PPG Arena), Bill Generett (Duquesne University), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Brittany McDonald (Uptown Partners), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light Co.), Megan Zeigler (GBA)

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 May 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 consultants have been successful in the benchmarking research and due diligence phase, and will finalize that part of the process over the next week or so. The next step is to meet with the UTF Action Team chairs to dig deeper into the feedback about the UTF, a potential governance structure, and the Eco-Innovation District Plan as a whole. After that, the Consultant will send out a survey to the broader Uptown community to get a wider variety of feedback. Finally, in late June, one-on-one interviews will be conducted with UTF members, as well as any other constituents that the consultants choose. The consultant will share with the UTF a list of everyone who has been spoken to.

The Consultant is tentatively scheduled to deliver a debrief to UTF members in August, with final deliverable of findings and recommendations by August 31.

With no questions posed by the group, Mary Ellen thanked Jason and Katie for their time and efforts.

(2) Member Updates:

- **Avenue:** BVRs' parking lease was cancelled, therefore they are in need of parking spots.
- **Duquesne University:** Facilities Management has been holding successful weekly meetings with the utility companies, as well as Uptown anchor representatives regarding construction schedules. Peoples Gas' landscaper is currently working in front of Duquesne's parking garage on Forbes, and their work continues as well in-between Marion Street and Van Braam Street. PWSA construction is currently occurring between Van Braam Street and Miltenberger Street, and Duquesne Light will be starting work on Fifth Avenue near Ross Street and Grant Street on the first and second shifts in the near future. Duquesne Light is looking to start on Forbes Avenue at Diamond Street in about a month, proceeding East to Chatham Square, estimating about 6 months to get that far.

- **PPG Arena:** Duquesne Light has started their work along Fifth Avenue in front of the arena which will continue into November. The next event at the arena is WWE on July 24th which marks the first “real” event post-COVID-19 as the arena is now operating at 100% capacity. James Taylor will be performing on August 3rd, and the arena is looking to add a family show in potentially both August and September.
- **UPMC:** The parking garage was topped off last week. The inside will be completed within the remainder of the year.

Action Team Updates:

- **Community:** The meeting in May was canceled. Uptown Partners hired two new employees, both who will help continue the efforts of the Community Action Team.
- **Development:** The group is working with the URA to add contacts, information, etc. to the Fifth Avenue Business Plan/COVID-19 Resiliency Plan.
- **Infrastructure:** No updates at this time.
- **Mobility:** The TDM Plan is coming along – the consultants attended the last Action Team Meeting to discuss potential governance structures as well as funding opportunities. Mobility is hoping to wrap up the TDM study in mid-July/early August and will share the results with the UTF.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, 2021 via Zoom