

## **Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 6, 2021**

**8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Roger Altmeyer (UPMC Mercy), Steven Auterman (DOMI), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Gary Desjardins (PPG Arena), Joan Hilton (Duquesne University), Jordann Kline (SEA), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mike Madden (InnovatePGH), Brittany McDonald (Uptown Partners), Kalyani Singh (InnovatePGH), 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 April meeting minutes approved that were previously distributed to all members via email. The motion was approved with no dissent.

### **Agenda Discussions:**

(1) Overview of Forbes Fund Consultant Process (Jason Jones and Katie Grimm, J.S. Jones & Still Consulting): J.S. Jones & Still Consulting provided an overview of the scope of work that kicked off in mid-April and will conclude in mid-August. The first portion of the work began with research and due diligence, which included benchmarking groups similar to the UTF regarding governance and backbone structures etc. The Consultant will send out a survey to the broader Uptown community to get a wide a variety of feedback, and will also conduct interviews in June, specifically with the UTF Action Teams and Leads. In late June, those interviews will expand to include other members of the UTF as well as any other constituents that the consultants choose.

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

### Questions posed by the Uptown Task Force:

- What other groups of people will be contacted for feedback? The Consultant will contact those organizations/representatives who were involved with the UTF but no longer attend; Uptown Partners Board members, relevant community groups and Eco Districts, and other groups suggested by the UTF.

(2) BRT Utility Construction Update (Mary Ellen Solomon): Uptown anchor institutions have a few productive meetings with representatives from utilities, City, PennDOT and the County around the coordination and communication of current and upcoming construction projects in Uptown. Duquesne facilities staff will meet weekly with a sub-group to track projects and proactively address issues. PWSA started construction this week, and Duquesne Light is set to start next week. Peoples Gas is still working and is currently on Forbes Avenue. The group is also working to develop an Uptown events calendar focused primarily on Duquesne University and PPG Paints Arena events for proactive planning purposes.

### (3) Member Updates:

- **Duquesne University:** In-person diploma ceremonies will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be summer classes on campus. At this point in time, the university anticipates returning at full capacity return in the fall.
- **Port Authority:** There will be two community meetings on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> about Port Authority's 25-year plan. More information can be found [here](#). Changes to fares were announced, that information can be found [here](#).
- **URA:** The RFP submission window for the properties on 1319 and 1325 Fifth Avenue has closed. They are currently under review.

#### **Action Team Updates:**

- **Community:** Uptown cleanups was the discussion topic of the last meeting. UP is exploring a cleaning ambassador program. Marlene Williams, who served as chair of the Community Action Team, is leaving UP in May.
- **Development:** The group is working on an Uptown construction database and overlaying it on Google Maps, with the hopes of publishing it on the Uptown website. Development is working with Community on creating an affordable housing working group.
- **Infrastructure:** No updates at this time.
- **Mobility:** The group has a partial draft of the TDM/Parking study. The meeting next week will be centered on the governance structure of this study.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

**Next Uptown Task Force Meeting** - 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021 via Zoom