

Oakcliffe Community Organization

Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 12, 2020 by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Millie Sass, Elena Zaitsoff, Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Liz Gray, Alex Toner, Phil Garrow, Jamie Ducar, Howard Stevens, Mavis Rainey, Office Johnson, Geof Becker

Minutes

Minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Gene Rosner recognition at Ophelia/Kennett corner – (Millie and Joan) Have funds for plaque. Checks have been sent to Community Human Service. However, 1 check needs to be located by CHS. Once done, check will be issued to History and Landmarks Foundation.

OCO becoming a non-profit as part of RCO application – Still waiting for papers from state. Federal papers will then be mailed.

Capital Budget process for Lawn St Promenade – (Elena) Promenade not in this year's capital budget. Brosha is getting copy of the application so the information can be used on future funding applications.

Niagara Playground – (Dave) Nearly complete. Trying to arrange Grand Opening Ceremony. Will follow up with city. (Elena) Park renaming - Would need to go through Naming Commission. Suggested: Oakcliffe Community Playground. Elena moved to rename. Millie second. All in favor - Unanimous. Elena will write a letter and attend meeting. January 4th Naming committee meeting to submit name. Time TBA.

Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater retention area – No updates. Liz said it is delayed until next year.

Active Allegheny Grant Program – Geof feels we don't qualify since our plans are not far enough along. Millie & Elena talked to Regulations, Active Allegheny and city. Told we have to apply through city and use city grant writers. Still funds left for this year. Grant writer has received details. No known progress to date. Ms Rainey said development is limited due to Greenway status. Dave – reminded there are established trails.

New Business

Discussion with Officer Johnson – Aware of complaints of Pitt shuttles speeding on Ophelia. Gathering info and will address. Residents mentioned John Diulus and his car being vandalized. Officer aware. Suggested camera on porch to catch vandal. Phil had van keyed on Joe Hammer Sq. (Not reported).

Personal Delivery Devices – (Mavis Rainey) Coordinating large meeting to allow residents to discuss senate bill 1119 concerning Personal Delivery Devices (PDDs). PDDs are approx. the size of a small refrigerator, approx.. 500lbs empty and can travel up to 12mph. Designated as pedestrians allowing them to operate on sidewalks and streets. Safety concerns. Happening quickly with few details available. Details to follow.

Permit parking enforcement in neighborhood – (Geof Becker) Wondering if being enforced. Liz spoke with Parking Authority. Told staff is limited due to Covid-19. Doing their best. Millie spoke to parking enforcement about cars parked wrong direction meaning plates are no hard to scan.

Wheelchairs – (Howard Stevens) Concerned about safety of residents riding wheelchairs on the street even though sidewalks are available. Liz will talk to property manager at High Rise. She can inform tenants there is a concern for their safety. Liz said personal mobility devices are allowed on sidewalks and roadways.

Reports

University of Pittsburgh – (Alex) University returns to Elevated Covid-19. Small percentage of students with Covid-19.

- **Millie question** – If she knows of party and reports it, what would happen? Answer: University might send Pitt police for “Knock N Talk” for 1st offence. If multiple times other actions may occur. Officer Johnson said they’ve performed over 200 Knock N Talks.
- **Student Safety Ambassador program** – Approx. 30 students. Handing out masks, sanitizer, reminding people to use caution. Directed to walk away, not to engage with someone who is confrontational.
- **Christmas Day At Pitt** – Take away meals. No presents, or in-person dining.
- **Holiday schedule** – Last day of classes – Dec. 5. Residence halls close Dec. 6. Spring term classes begin Jan 19th. No Spring break. Year ends May 1st.

Office of the Mayor - Attachment

Oakwatch – Wed Nov 18 6pm via Zoom. Discussing with Paul Supowitz concerning Covid on campus.

OPDC – Adopt a Block program is ending temporarily due to Covid-19. Restart when possible.

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland – Action teams are meeting. Can still join a team. IPOD – Interim Planning Overlay District. We were promised but never got. Elena motions: Any Oakcliffe resident may represent the official Oakcliffe position of wanting IPOD implementation as soon as the opportunity presents itself. Second by Millie. All in favor. Unanimous.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 13 @ 7 pm via Zoom.
(Per bylaws, OCO does not meet in December)