

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 11, 2021 by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Liz Gray, Mark Oleniacz, Greg Fisher, Alex Toner, Geof Becker, Jessica Chau, Joan Dickerson, Eric Williams, Howard Stevens

Minutes

Minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting were approved. Michelle motioned. Elena 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Old Business

Love Your Block Grant – Oakcliffe Little Free Library – Grant was approved. Library will be installed in front of laundromat on Ophelia St. Waiting for budget approval to start project.

OCO as a non-profit

1. non-profit insurance – On hold
2. RCO application – Joan - Pending signatures Greg and Joe. Missing statement of outreach describing neighborhood and demographics. Census data comes out tomorrow and Alex was asked to check for demographic information.

Niagara Parklet

1. sign with new name – Kraus said he would talk to Parks and Rec. No update. Eric will check on.
2. basketball court paint – Eric has contacted proper department to have done.
3. ribbon cutting ceremony – TBD

Residential Permit Parking Survey

Closed 4/25. Public meeting(s) to be held in May and June– none scheduled yet. Eric will look into.

Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park

OPDC Community meeting on Tues, Aug 31 @ 6PM has storm water on agenda. Should start work this year and be completed in 2022.
More info to come

Lawn Street Promenade and Cliff - Website open for comments/ opinions.

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2022budgets>

Oakland Ave - Possibility of permanent closure of the block that has been closed. No new info.

2610 Forbes Ave (Powell House)— city-owned, condemned house – Would be difficult to demolish. Would need to close parkway for hours to complete. To advocate for its demolition visit

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/pli-demolition-engagement>

New Business

Street tree damage - Backhoe was used to pick up large trash during last week's collection. The operator used the machine's bucket to knock limbs from trees causing damage to the trees. Neighbors want city to send arborist to repair damage.

Reports

. University of Pittsburgh

1. Hyacinth Place fence – no update
2. Bates site - Walnut will complete demo. Pitt will take over. Plan to plant grass and allow use as a park for now. No current plans to build. Liz has been monitoring process.
3. Panera site – Plans to demolish and replace with full service grocery store and owner occupied condos above. Demo could start as early as fall. Exact dates TBD. Condos directing to small families and university staff.

University interested in working with Oakcliffe to bring programming to neighborhood. Job training, youth or adult classes etc.

Pitt owned house on Coltart - Acquired by former employee of Pitt. Located adjacent to Quality Inn / Panera site.

Updated Pitt Fall Term COVID Measures: <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/>

On campus student move-in begins August 19, details: <https://www.arrival.pitt.edu/>

New Office of Engagement and Community Affairs: <https://www.community.pitt.edu/>

Report a concern through Pitt's Concern Connection:
https://app.convercent.com/en-US/LandingPage/2d6327d5-9fec-ea11-a974-000d3ab9f296?_=1612800567898

Rep. Wheatley's Office – Jessica Chau
Jchau@pahouse.net 412-471-7760

Offering assistance with Labor & Industry, or property tax/ rent rebate programs concerns.

Propel Northside Back-to-School Bash THIS Saturday August 14, 2021 1-4pm located at 1805 Buena Vista Dr. (Propel Northside)

Health & Wellness Event- Saturday, August 21st 8-5pm Located at Centre Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15219 on the Hill District. We will also be hosting another back pack distribution this day as well.

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation – Liz
Grass cutting between Forbes and Ophelia. Contract was in place but funding ran out. Liz suggests finding a sponsor to maintain site and possibly plant trees and get a sign for neighborhood. Suggests sponsoring with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Community Garden site – water. Application has been sent.

Oakwatch – Wednesday, Aug 18 at 6 pm via Zoom. Lets Talk / Oakwatch

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland

1. Block Parties are from 5-7 on the following dates:
Tues, Sept 7 at Frazier Field
Thurs, Sept 9 at 3401 Blvd of the Allies (Panera lot)
Tues, Sept 14 at 234 N. Dithridge
Tues, Sept 21 at Terrace St between Robinson and Dunseith
2. suggestion has been made to change zoning in residential part of South

Oakland.

Please comment on Draft Goal A2 #3 at
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/index.php?cID=581>

3. Isalys/Panera/Zulema site – see workshop “Blvd and Zulema Workshop” results at
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland/workshops>

Closing Zulema Street is a popular theme; please comment; OCO
opposition letter sent.

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Tents / squatter in Oakcliffe Promenade.. Liz will document and will forward to proper department.

House hit by car on corner of Niagara has been condemned.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, Sept 8 at 7 pm via Zoom