

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 13, 2021 by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Bruce Kraus, Liz Gray, Chavaysha Chaney, Geof Becker, Eric Williams, Mark Oleniacz, Greg Fisher, Phil Garrow, Joan Dickerson, Jamie Ducar

Minutes

Minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting were approved. Elena Motioned. Mille 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Old Business

Niagara Playground Renaming – (Bruce Kraus, Mille, Elena) Millie & Elena attended naming commission meeting. There are naming guidelines by City Planning. Oakcliffe Community Playground would not be approved & recommend it to City Council. Oakcliffe wants to hold name Oakcliffe Park for promenade and trail area. City Council makes final decision. Kraus – Spoke to Mayor's Chief Of Staff who suggested Kraus just "override it" which he will. He intends to respect wishes of the community. Expects it to pass without problem. Liz- Where can we find naming guidelines? Eric Williams will research.

Gene Rosner recognition at Ophelia/Kennett corner – (Joan) CHS is pass through agency for funds for plaque. Will be posted on Jardini's laundromat at corner. CHS sending check to History and Landmarks. OCO should send thank you letters to donors. Elena volunteered. Once plaque is installed will plan dedication in warmer weather.

OCO becoming a non-profit as part of RCO application – (Dave) Waiting for response to 1023 EZ.

Capital Budget process for Lawn St Promenade – (Bruce) Extra \$100,000 earmarked for Oakland has yet to be assigned. It's not enough for our project but it's a start. Can build upon with future Capital Budget funding. It is possible the money could go to Promenade and trails. Bruce will keep us updated.

Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater retention area – (Update from Rebecca Zito via email. Reported by Dave) Project manager, Maria Natioli, says project is budgeted and scheduled to remove into

completion this year. Will meet to finalize design. Once complete – goes to Board for approval. Will meet with OCO after approval to provide update.

Active Allegheny Grant Program – Elena emailed asking if will be offered in 2021. No response yet. Dewitt Walton – County Councilman.

New Business

Election of Officers – (Dave) Likely next month for nominations. After becoming RCO we will revise by-laws and possibly reduce size of board.

Timebank – Moved to future for discussion.

Magee Generator Building Update – Demo now until spring. Construction start late summer and to last 1 yr. Playhouse site (now Magee property) temporarily for construction containers.

Reports

University of Pittsburgh – (Jamie) Students can start moving in Jan 29th. Phased approach. Classes beginning of Feb. Bigelow Blvd reopened Dec 24th. Watching for road performance. If you see problems let her know. Petitioned to drop speed limit to 25mph for Bigelow between Forbes and Fifth for pedestrian safety. All classes beginning remotely. Then Flex at Pitt model.

Office of the Mayor - (Eric Williams) Let him know about dedication ceremony for Gene Rosner sign. In contact with Rebecca Zito about storm water project at Lawn and Ophelia. Will place sign at Lawn and Ophelia St playground saying playground will be closed. Residents asked that sign notes there is a new playground on Craft and Ophelia. Geoff asked if there will be lines on court at Niagara St Playground. Michelle asked for trash cans and no smoking signs placed in playground. Snow Angels– looking for volunteers to help shovel snow for those who need help. Snow Operation Procedures – All streets should be done timely and quickly. Snow tracker online. If roads are not being plowed – 311 or let him know. Christmas tree recycling program – 311 to find closest location. Ours is Highland Park.

OPDC – (Liz) Graffiti Survey of Oakland - trying to document all graffiti. In touch with Zone 4 to remove graffiti. Homeowners responsibility to remove. They may ask for assistance but city only has white paint. Liz has idea to cover frequently hit spots with canvas type murals since PennDot does not like murals painted on bridges. Zone 4 public safety meeting – next Thursday 6 – 7:30pm Zoom link on OPDC site. Recycling options: Amazon store in Oakland takes cardboard and small electronics. Appliance Warehouse has box outside for styrofoam. Breathe Project - Jan 26th 6-7:30 Zoom link soon on OPDC calendar. Discussing pollution in the area.

Oakwatch – (Liz) Meeting Jan. 20th. Theresa Bradley, Recycling Supervisor, to discuss distribution of blue bins.

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland – (Elena) Derek Dauphin wants to speak to OCO in February. Search Engagepgh for info. Resident voice is needed. Have been told there will not be an IPOD (Internet Planning Overlay District).

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Mark – Highland Park tree recycling.

- Pitt will not have Leasure Learn but will have online programs.
- Hamlet St resident got Ring doorbell. Recorded person breaking off windshield wiper again. Has happened multiple times. Liz – there is a formal request to have our local security camera reinstalled. Ask Pitt and Walnut Capitol to install cameras on their Oakcliffe buildings.

Elena - Boundary St fully closed Monday to April 4th. Bruce - they are willing to make adjustments to the closure times/days if there are traffic issues. Jeff – work makes it difficult to get to Eliza Furnace trail.

- BRT meeting Jan 2th 6- 8. Must register to attend.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 10 @ 7 pm via Zoom