

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, June 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on June 9, 2021 by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Attendance

Elena Zaitsoff, Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Millie Sass, Mark Oleniacz, Geof Becker, Mrs. Cohen, Mavis Rainey, Greg Fisher, Bruce Kraus, Alex Toner, Liz Gray, Jessica Chau, Howard Stevens Jr., Nic Binfield, Joan Dickerson, Pam Lupinacci

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of May 12, 2021 meeting – Elena motioned to approve. Howard Stevens second. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Old Business

OCO as a non-profit

1. Non-profit insurance – Dave in progress
2. RCO application – Joan in the progress. Needs federal papers (copy).

Niagara Parklet

1. New name approved by city council.
2. Sign with new name - (Bruce Kraus) – Signage is city responsibility. Will try to do ASAP so we can plan grand opening. Oakcliffe Community Playground
3. Basketball court paint – Elena - Lines on original plan but not completed. Kraus will check with Parks and Rec.

4. Ribbon cutting ceremony – Waiting on signage. TBD

c. Residential Permit Parking Survey - closed 4/25

Public meeting(s) to be held – none scheduled yet. TBD

d. Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park – No response yet. Ask Nic to be sure plan gets update at OPDC meeting with PWSA.

New Business

1. **City of Pittsburgh Capital Budget / Lawn Street promenade and cliff** - Kraus – Request for survey to see what would need done to do work. Desire study to determine scope of project, viability, ultimate cost to complete. Need to make formal request at Engagepittsburgh.com. Kraus plans to push project.
2. **Community garden** – Greg will be garden captain. Nic request PWSA to open water for garden. Possibly rain barrel could be filled by water buffalo occasionally, not rely on rain water.

3. **Dog park** – Kraus – requirements are right 1.5 – 2 acres for safety of animals, contamination of soil, space to close sections to turn soil. Exceptions may be made due to overwhelming desire. Kraus will look into possibility.
4. **Little Free Library** – Can we place on playground property? Kraus will check. Alex – Love Your Block grant could be great for Little Free Library.
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/loveyourblock2021>
 Office of Pitt Serves should have grants available in the future. Will notify us when available.
5. **Lane restrictions** - southbound Route 885 (Bates Street) start Thursday, June 10, 2021 weather permitting.

Beginning 7 a.m. Long-term single-lane restriction will occur on southbound Bates Street between Hodge Street and Second Avenue continuously through late July 2021.

Sidewalk closed to pedestrians. Pedestrians will be able to use the closed lane of traffic.

Reports

University of Pittsburgh – Alex

- a. Pitt vaccine clinic registration-
 panthers:<https://vaccine.powerappsportals.com>
- b. Clutter for a Cause, next date is Monday June 28:
<https://www.opdc.org/events/2021-04-21/clutterforacausec>.
- c. Pitt Concern Connection:
<https://app.convercent.com/en-us/LandingPage/2d6327d5-9fec-ea11-a974-000d3ab9f296>
- d. Pitt Leisure Learn Summer Camps for kids:
http://www.clp.pitt.edu/?page_id=129
- e. No mask nec for vaccinated people. Expect fall rules to be announced soon. Vaccine clinics on campus at former AT&T store.

Rep. Wheatley's Office- Jessica

- a. Aug 21 Health and Wellness day. Looking for vendors and sponsors.
- b. Rent rebates for tax season.
- c. Taking unemployment calls.

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation – Nic

- a. Moved offices to 294 Semple St.
- b. South Oakland food distribution from Frazier Field House.
- c. June 29th 6 pm Oakland Wide community meeting. Oakland-Wide Meeting:
<https://www.opdc.org/events/2021/6/29/oakland-wide>
- d. South Oakland Food Distribution:
<https://www.opdc.org/events/2021/6/10/southoakland>
- e. CHS: <https://chscorp.org/food-pantry>
- f. Clutter for a Cause: <https://www.opdc.org/events/2021-06-01/clutter>

- g. Oakwatch/Let's Talk:
<https://www.opdc.org/events/2021/6/16/oakwatch-june>

Oakwatch

Wednesday, June 16 at 6pm via Zoom..

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland - Elena – Important to our area and does include potential zoning changes.

- a. Suggestion made to change zoning in residential part of South Oakland. Comments on Draft Goal A2 #3 can be made at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/index.php?cID=581>
- b. Isalys/Panera/Zulema site – see workshop “Blvd and Zulema Workshop” results at: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland/workshops>
- c. Closing Zulema Street is a popular theme in these discussions.

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Millie – Received envelope from PWSA about led pipes.

Geof – disapproves of closing Zulema St. Also, no maintenance has been done on buffer area in front of his house. Mavis will look into.

Dave – Why has small parks only been cutting perimeter of grass? Kraus will inquire.

Next Meeting- Wednesday, July 14, 2021a at 7 pm via Zoom.