

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 10, 2021 by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Attendance

Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Mavis Rainey, Liz Gray, Danielle Rodriguez, Chavaysha Chaney, Geof Becker, Mavis Rainey, Eric Williams, Alex Toner, Jamie Ducar, Greg Fisher, Joan Dickerson

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved. Millie Sass motioned. Elena Zaitsoff 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Old Business

Gene Rosner recognition at Ophelia/Kennett corner – Plaque has arrived, waiting for installation. Eric Williams/ Mayor's Office will help with dedication when installed. Date TBD.

OCO becoming a non-profit as part of RCO application – Nothing new to report.

Niagara Playground – Naming Commission (Elena) – Naming Commission originally denied our name request. Krauss wrote a letter on our behalf. No word on current standing.

New Business

Port Authority Bus Layover Lot at Hampton Inn parking lot at Craft Ave/Blvd of the Allies/ Craft Place/Hamlet St –

Meeting canceled ½ before meeting. Received answers to submitted questions. Public Meeting scheduled March 22 at 5PM.

- Many questions still to be answered. Ex. # of busses / hour. How will idling be handled. Shielding (Landscaping) around station itself? Specific operations at site?.How will emissions be handled? Traffic management plan? How will so many busses fit onto the site? Pedestrian safety.

- Numerous issues not yet finalized. Funding to come from multiple sources, community engagement. Project includes widening city street and adding traffic light – will need city involvement.

Reports

University of Pittsburgh (Alex Toner)

- Shifting to guarded posture. – more in person activities allowed. Still following state guidelines. Takes effect March 11, 2021.
- St Patrick's Day – sending students messages to have small - no gatherings. Neighborhood walks. Pitt police units will be patrolling. Call Pitt police if necessary.
- Hybrid commencement plans.
- Be a Good Neighbor Day – Mar 20. Service activities in the area and region.
- Pitt Covid Report a Concern online tool
<https://app.convercent.com/en-us/LandingPage/2d6327d5-9fec-ea11-a974-000d3ab9f296>. Telephone hotline as well: (800) 468-5768
- Continued pandemic related updates: <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/>

Office of the Mayor (Eric Williams)

Mar 23. Next Transit meeting. Long range plan for Port Authority. Bus Rapid transit is part of this plan. Will share our thought on BRT with Mayor.

- Covid 19 emergency assistance program -- [Covidrelief.alleghenycounty.us](https://covidrelief.alleghenycounty.us)
- Civic leadership Academy – accepting applications
- Shade Tree Commission – Goal to identify 10 low income and low canopy locations annually to improve quality of life.
- Financial Empowerment Center – financial counseling, free service.
- Oliver Bath House – engagepgh.com to give experiences, testimonials.. Construction on Bath House should be complete after spring.

State Rep Jake Wheatley's Office (Chavaysha Chaney)

Still handling unemployment issues. Real estate tax rebates.

OPDC (Liz Gray)

- Recommending Lawn St for repaving etc.
- Port-a-john on Lawn St - Called Port A John and 311. No resolution yet.
- Car assistance program for those who need car for work and bad/no credit.
- Pitt Be A Good Neighbor Day. – Liz leading team of Pitt students to clean out house at corner of Niagara and Lawn St to transform into affordable housing.

University Of Pittsburgh (Alex Toner)

- Community grants available. Can submit proposal for up to \$10,000. Clean ups etc.

Oakwatch (Elena)

- Meeting will be Wednesday, Mar.17th at 6pm. Councilman Lavelle will attend. Send questions to lgray@opdc.org in advance.
Wednesday, March 17 at 6 pm via Zoom
- Neighborhood Plan for Oakland – vote on letter to developers. Motion to vote: Joan motion. Dave 2nd. unanimous in favor.
- Looking for anyone with camera on Lawn St to help identify person or persons repeatedly damaging vehicle on Hamlet St.
- Print shop should have work started soon. Permits help up with Covid.

Motion to adjourn – Millie. Second by Dave.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.