

**Oakcliffe Community Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

## **Opening**

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

## **Present**

Dave Panasiuk, Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Joan Dickerson, Phyllis Dreyfuss, Millie Sass, Liz Gray, Neighbor, Mark Oleniacz, Howard Stevens, Carillon Young, Rosalie Panasiuk, Mavis Rainey, Councilman Daniel Lavelle, Geoffrey Becker, David Friedman, Alex Toner, Director Andrew Dash

## **Minutes**

Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting were approved. Howard Stevens motioned. Joan Dickerson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approved.

## **Residential Parking Permit program.**

Director of City Planning, Andrew Dash will be present to discuss Ordinance 2021-1867, which would amend the Residential Parking Permit program. Changes include Dept of City Planning no longer being involved in making regulations and setting policy, unclear roles of Parking Authority and Dept of Mobility and Infrastructure in making regulations and setting policy, developing hybrid districts, and new non-resident permit types for landlords, contractors, medical care workers, and childcare providers.

Links to the existing code, proposed legislation, and an explanation of hybrid parking can be found here: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/rpp-program-updates>

Questions about the proposed ordinance can be sent to [rpp@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:rpp@pittsburghpa.gov) and [andrew.dash@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:andrew.dash@pittsburghpa.gov)

Comments can be sent to [bruce.kraus@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:bruce.kraus@pittsburghpa.gov) and [daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov)

RPP and changes – Code has not been changed since start of program.

New types of permits:

People were asking for variances. Decided to make it formal. Create new nonresident permits. Ex. medical caretakers, child care providers such as nannies, contractors (who will be working at an address for an extended period of time), landlords for properties they own and maintain within RPP area.

## **Hybrid residential parking areas**

Proposed for areas near a large institution or stadium. Many areas in Oakland fall under. Instead of a grace period where they park for free would be able to pay at a meter. Student with one class, someone running errands. Would mean no grace period at all. Would have people pay by the app. Would not be putting physical parking meters in residential neighborhoods. If you currently have a one hour grace period, someone would be allowed to pay.

Progressive pay structure - Homes that have multiple cars. Try to discourage them from all parking in the area. Would become progressively more expensive for the number of cars that a resident tries to register.

### **Questions:**

Enforcement: Done through Pittsburgh Parking Authority. Hope by clarifying RPP will make it easier to enforce. Pittsburgh Parking Authority will be responsible for enforcement.

Possibility of citizens' enforcement? Such as allowing citizens to request enforcement at particular times of day. – This will be up to Parking Authority.

Stickers allowed us to monitor. Now we can tell and ask for more enforcement. – Residents can call with license plates. Not sure how effective this is.

Higher fines might discourage illegal parking. Getting a ticket occasionally is cheaper than finding parking elsewhere.

What would people without a phone do to pay without kiosks?

Southside gets enforcement but Oakland never gets enforced its full hours enforced.

Any thoughts to table until there is a budget? Decision is City Council. However current system is harder to enforce.

## **Old Business**

- a. Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park – Need letter of support for Art Commission even though there is no art in the project. It is on public land.

**Vote** to send letter – all neighbors in favor. Unanimous.

<https://www.opdc.org/green-spaces/2019/3/26/lawn-and-ophelia-storm-water-parklet-1-lawn-street>

b. Niagara Parklet

Sign with new, correct name was posted.

Ribbon cutting ceremony – TBD.

**New Business**

Election of Representatives – 6 districts. Open nominations now.

Howard Stevens DA3

Michelle Panasiuk DA1

Joan Dickerson DA2

Joe Panasiuk DA4

Dave Panasiuk DA5

Greg Fisher DA6

At Large Rep. Elena Zaitzoff

All in favor. Unanimous.

Officers:

President Dave Panaisuk

Vice Elena Zaitzoff

Secretary/Treasurer Michelle Panaisuk

All in Favor. Unanimous

**Future Meetings** – Hybrid in person with zoom option. In person will depend on UPMC allowing us in the room.

**Website** - Rosalie will volunteer to update the website starting in December.

**Reports** – see attached information

**University of Pittsburgh** - updates attached to email. Demolition of former County Health bldg. starts in next couple of weeks. Will preserve façade. Removed, cataloged them reinstalled.

Free and low cost holiday concerts coming up at Pitt.

Student traffic between Union and Cathedral is very difficult to drive especially during rush hours. A crossing guard would be very helpful at the raised crosswalk.

Non-student housing at Quality Inn site. – No answer on how to keep students from living there.

Broken fence at Hyacinth Property – Moving slow. Believes there is a meeting coming up to discuss designs.

### **Oakland Transportation Management Association – Mavis**

The legislation would offer Americans a refundable tax credit worth 30 percent of a new e-bike's purchase price, capped at \$1,500. All three e-bike classes would be eligible for the tax credit, but bikes with motors more powerful than 750W would not. The credit would be fully refundable, which would allow lower-income individuals to claim it. E-bikes are significantly more expensive than normal bikes, typically costing anywhere from \$1,000 to \$8,000. But they also have the potential to replace car trips for a lot of people, which could help make real progress in the fight against climate change. A recent study found that if 15 percent of car trips were made by e-bike, carbon emissions would drop by 12 percent.

New scooter rules in place. Including not being allowed on Blvd Of Allies or on highways. Record video and photos of offenders. Send to 311and OTMA.

### **Oakland Planning and Development Corporation**

Attend the DAM on 11/29: <https://bit.ly/zoningbehindcloseddoors>

Increasing displacement in Oakland: <https://tinyurl.com/rxrshhw9>

Tues, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – UPMC presents plans for new tower. Official design meeting for project.

Can continue to comment on Oakland Plan until the end of month.

Tree planting info link <https://www.opdc.org/events/2021/11/20/tree-planting-in-oakland>  
UPMC Presbyterian Bed Tower DAM link  
<https://www.opdc.org/events/2021/11/30/oakland-wide>

**Oakwatch** – Wednesday, Nov 17 at 6 pm via Zoom. Director Dash will discuss RPP. Also speaker from Plan 5 Stay Alive. Update from Kraus' office.

### **Councilman Lavelle**

In Honor of Veterans Day city offices are closed tomorrow.

Council begins budget hearing next week. If there are capital needs of concern let him or Dan Woods know before they begin working on the budget.

Tent on Greenway is on his radar. He will look into it.

## **Round Robin Questions/Concerns**

### **For Your Information:**

#### **1) Neighborhood Plan for Oakland - comment period extended**

From <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland>

“Over the last year, Action Teams met monthly to review input from last summer's online open house which attracted ~2,500 visitors who made ~800 comments, reviewed data, heard from local and national experts, and generated a set of strategies. During the month of September, staff and Steering Committee members attended a variety of events in Oakland to get input from the broader Oakland community on the draft strategies.”

You can click the links on that page to go to each Action Team's page, review strategies and the input received. During November, input will continue to be taken online while the Steering Committee begins the work of integrating public comments and strategies into a draft plan.

#### **2) Walnut Capital's Oakland Crossings Zoning Ordinance #2021-1906**

This ordinance calls for a zoning change for the Isaly's site, the Panera on the Blvd site, Zulema Park, Halket Street, and McKee Street.

OPDC will be hosting a Development Activities Meeting on it on Monday, Nov 29 at 6 pm.

Find more information at:

<https://www.opdc.org/design-development-review-projects/2021/10/20/proposeddistracte>

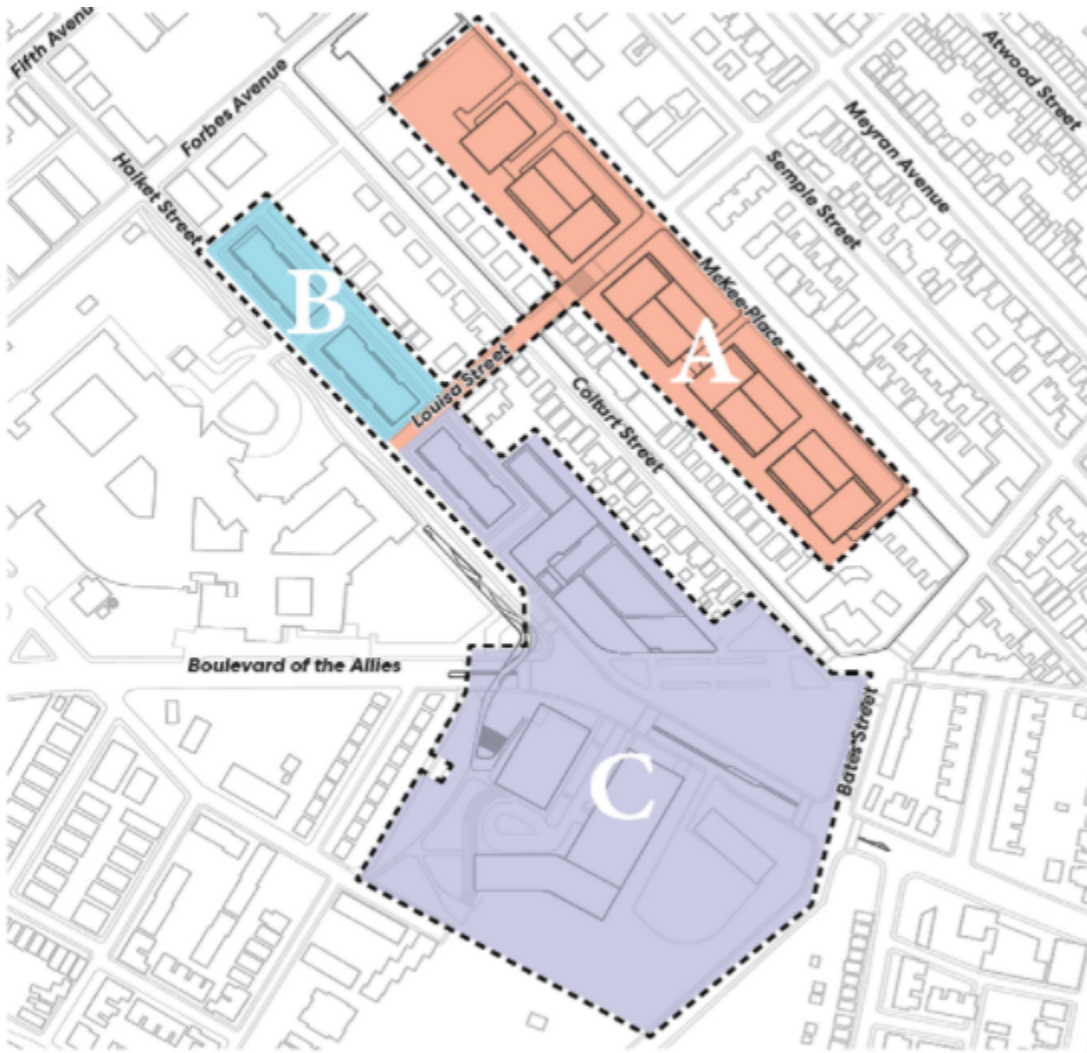
The proposed ordinance can be found here:

<https://pittsburgh.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5142329&GUID=9062D907-C667-40D3-A042-49A9EE86787C&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=2021-1906&FullText=1>

City Council email addresses:

[bruce.kraus@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:bruce.kraus@pittsburghpa.gov) and his Chief-of-Staff  
[brosha.tkacheva@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:brosha.tkacheva@pittsburghpa.gov)

[daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov) and his Chief-of-Staff [daniel.wood@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:daniel.wood@pittsburghpa.gov)



- 3) **The Oakcliff Little Library** has been installed in front of the Oakcliff Laundry. Thanks go out to Ron Jardini for permission to place it on his property and for installing it, and Joan Dickerson and Michelle Panasiuk for their work on obtaining the grant. READ!
- 4) **2610 Forbes Ave** – city-owned condemned house – advocate for its demolition at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/pli-demolition-engagement>
- 5) **Next OCO Meeting** – Wednesday, January 12 at 7 pm  
(OCO doesn't meet in December)

