

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

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on October 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, Liz Gray, Maria Natoli, Mavis Rainey, Pam Lupinacci, Yeraldyn Pacheco, Millie Sass, Greg Fisher, David Friedman, Alex Toner, Mark Oleniacz

Minutes

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting were approved. Millie motioned. Michelle 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Topics

I. 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.

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 and his Chief-of-Staff brosha.tkacheva@pittsburghpa.gov
daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov and his Chief-of-Staff daniel.wood@pittsburghpa.gov

Discussion

Residents had many questions including:

Walnut Capital bypassed the usual process for zoning. Why? - Kraus agreed to discuss with us.

Why is Pitt trying to change zoning on their property even though they know residents do not want the change?

- Pitt doesn't control the zoning. They are remaining neutral. Pitt is dedicated to bringing a grocery store and nonstudent housing to Quality Inn site. Will get back to us on how they

plan to keep students from renting property. Walnut Capital proposed the zoning. Pitt did not play a role in that.

Bonus Points instead of the need for variances and why this practice can be damaging.

After rezoned – the pictures don't matter. There is no rule that the drawings we are being shown is what will actually be built. These drawings are only possibilities.

Who would own Zulema Park, Parklett, and street?

Does new ordinance include neighborhood set back?

Conclusion

Neighbors will meet October 19th to discuss.

OTMA reached out to transportation partners.

II. Residential Parking Permit (RPP)

Proposed Ordinance #2021-1867:

Only one virtual and one in-person meeting was held, and both had poor notification. Changes include giving over to the Parking Authority the making of regulations, developing hybrid districts, and new permit types for landlords, contractors, medical care workers, 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

Comments about the ordinance and/or the need for City Council to hold it at least 4 weeks so resident groups can meet should be sent to the City Council members shown above.

Proposal includes: giving power to parking authority. Doing away with variances such as contractors. Adding nonresident permits – Contractor, nonmedical, child care provider, landlords.

12 days a month for visitors pass.

Discussion of hybrid variance – meters in RPP area. Neighborhood plan can recommend it .

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Lawn / Ophelia Storm water project

Meeting date to be determined.. There will be presentation of the project. Not much has changed since last shown. Planting plan will include: Black Eyed Susan, daylilys, service berry. Requested that we be sent the plan they currently have even if it is difficult to read.

if anyone has questions about the Lawn and Ophelia green infrastructure project please email Maria Natoli at mnatoli@pgh2o.com or 412-606-2921.

OPDC should have a date for the PWSA DAM tomorrow. PWSA is going to the art commission in December.

Playground signage

Playground name changed to Oakcliffe Community Playground. Naming Commission preferred Oakcliffe Park. New sign incorrectly reads Oakcliffe Park. Elena has informed Kraus and will be contacting others about issue.

Additional items

Concern over not seeing police patrol neighborhood.

Concern about students gathering in playground after dark.

Concern about scooters and open containers.

Ask to Alex to schedule a police officer to attend next meeting and to ask officers to give extra patrols on Halloween.

Little Free Library has been installed. Will be officially opened soon.

Tip – after you 911 you should also 311 to document loud parties, disturbances etc. Reason – no one has access to 911 calls. By calling 311 there will be a record of issue.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 13th at 7 pm via Zoom.