

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 8, 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, Geof Becker, Mark Oleniacz, Greg Fisher, Joan Dickerson, Alex Toner, Pam Lupinacci, Eric Williams, Mavis Rainey, Millie Sass, Lydia, Phil Garrow, Jessica Chau, Maria Natoli, Barton Kirk

Minutes

Minutes of the August 11, 2021 meeting were approved. Elena motioned. Pam 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Old Business

- a. Love Your Block Grant – Oakcliffe Little Library – City is finalizing contracts with Law department. Should hear in few weeks. We can place orders now.
 - a. OCO as a non-profit
 - 1. RCO application – Need to write outreach plan.
 - c. Oakcliffe Community Playground
 - 1. sign with new name – Waiting response from Public Works
 - 2. basketball court paint – Waiting for issue with subcontractor to be resolved.
 - 3. Ribbon cutting ceremony - TBD
 - d. Residential Permit Parking Survey - closed 4/25
 - Public meeting(s) to be held – none scheduled yet
 - <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/rpp-program-updates>
- Currently working through legislation. Dates of public meetings are TBD. All feedback has been taken into consideration.
- e. Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park
 - <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/search-all-projects/lawn-ophelia-stormwater-project>
- Delays with city requirements. Start construction in 2022. Plans are largely the same as presented last February.

Waiting for Department of City Planning to approve plans in order for stormwater funds to be used. Involves multiple reviews. Barton Kirt and Maria Natoli with PWSA.

f. City of Pittsburgh Capital Budget – Lawn Street promenade and cliff – comments closed.

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2022budgets>

Aug/Sept – Office of Management and Budget meets with departments to discuss their budget proposals

Sept – Mayor proposes a preliminary budget

g. Oakland Ave – Possibility of permanent closure of the block.

h. 2610 Forbes Ave – city-owned condemned house – To comment or advocate for its demolition visit:

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/pli-demolition-engagement>

New Business

a. New building planned - Forbes at Craft – Presby SeniorCare LGBTQ+ Housing Slides, meeting recording, and minutes from presentation at Let's Talk/Oakwatch meeting:

<https://www.opdc.org/design-development-review-projects/2021/8/10/psc-senior-lgbtq-housing>

a. Oakland Crossings – Walnut Capital has plans for Isaly's/Zulema/Panera/Halket/Bates/Blvd “press release soon”

b. Sewage problems on Lawn St. – 300 block of Lawn St in particular. Some backup normal after large storm but repeat backups should be reported to PWSA dispatch. Appears to be sinkholes under sidewalk approx.. every 3 houses. (Gaps in sidewalk that appears there is nothing underneath.) Liz will coordinate. DPW is responsible for anything on top of grates. Under grates is PWSA responsibility.

Reports

Oakland Transportation Management Association (Mavis)

PAAC experiencing worker shortage including 100 operators and 60 maintenance staff. Riders are encouraged to check truetime.portauthority.org OR @PghTransitAlert before you depart to see if your trip has been pulled from service.

Route 885 Bates Street On-ramp to Eastbound I-376 Closure this Weekend in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA – PennDOT District 11 is announcing the closure of the Bates Street (Route 885) on-ramp to eastbound I-376 in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, will occur this weekend Friday night, September 10 to Monday morning, September 13 weather permitting.

The ramp from Bates Street to eastbound (outbound) I-376 (Parkway East) will close to traffic from 9 p.m. Friday night continuously through 5 a.m. Monday morning as crews from Allison Park Contractors conduct drainage installation work. Ramp traffic will be detoured

Scooter guidelines to be introduced. Expected to include: Speed limit 15mph. No riding on sidewalks. Users be 18 or older. Currently 15yo. Conversations about where scooters may be ridden. Not to be ridden in tunnels and bridges or other major infrastructure.

Rep. Wheatley's Office – Jessica

Rent rebates, unemployment issues.

Senior Golden Luncheon
Thursday, October 21st from 11am-1:30pm
The IBEW Local 5
5 Hot Metal St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Office of the Mayor – Eric

ATV Update: <https://www.facebook.com/1436747016564145/posts/2986342441604587/>
Street light survey: engage.pittsburghpa.gov/streetlights
Emergency Rent Relief Funding: <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>

Balancing Act Tool Updated with AARP:
<https://pittsburghpa.gov/omb/budget-tax-receipt-simulation>

Citipark's New Website: <http://citiparks.net/>

Garbage Olympics: pghgo.org

Neighborhood Plan Guide: <https://npg.pittsburghpa.gov/>

Community Engagement Website for Condemned Structures:
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/pli-demolition-engagement>

Dolly Parton: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/5148>

FEC: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/fec/?&title=FEC>

Paving List: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/paving-schedule>

University of Pittsburgh - Alex

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation

- Community Land Trust houses on Lawn and Hamlet – NO update.
- Community Garden site – Water was installed. Will be turned on from April to October yearly.

Oakwatch – Wednesday, Sept 22 (NOT 25) at 6 pm via Zoom – topic: Welsford “block” party

Adopt a block groups will be restarting.

Promenade – lock on gate removed. Tents were gone. Still appears to be tarp or some sort of structure. Liz will follow up.

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland to be discussed at Pitt Block Parties

Block Parties are from 5-7 on the following dates:

Tues, Sept 7 at Frazier Field

Thurs, Sept 9 at 3401 Blvd of the Allies (Panera lot)

Tues, Sept 14 at 234 N. Dithridge

Tues, Sept 21 at Terrace St between Robinson and Dunseith

Suggestion has been made to change zoning in residential part of South Oakland.

Please comment on Draft Goal A2 #3 at

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/index.php?cID=581>

update: so far, new draft goal has left out that sentence about zoning in residential part of South Oakland

To read all Community Action Team Draft Goals:

https://hdp-us-prod-app-pgh-engage-files.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/6216/2309/8772/CAT_Goals_--_June_2021.pdf

To comment on them, note the number and go back to

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/index.php?cID=581>

Part of Oakcliffe was recommended for consideration for historic designation.
Approximate: All of Joe Hammer, Kennett between Lawn and Craft except condos.
Ophelia 320 to Niagara. Lawn 331 to Niagara.

Isalys/Panera/Zulema site – To see workshop “Blvd and Zulema Workshop” results and leave your opinions visit:

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

Closing Zulema Street is a popular theme; please comment; OCO opposition letter sent.

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Resident expressed frustration over illegal parking. City has already towed a number of vehicles. Refuse, delivery trucks are not able to turn corners.

Frustration due to trash in neighborhood. Early put out or not put out at all. Not bagging or placing in proper receptacles. Trash loose on sidewalks and streets.

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