

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 12, 2022 by Elena Zaitsoff. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Bruce Kraus, David Friedman, Mavis Rainey, Mark Oleniacz, Greg Fisher, Howard Stevens Jr, Joan Dickerson

Minutes

Minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting were approved. Howard Stevens Jr. motioned. Millie Sass 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Old Business

a. 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, Zulema Street, Halket Street, and McKee Place. The Planning Commission hearing was on Tuesday, Jan 11, 2021.

The proposed ordinance:

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

Walnut Capital's presentation to Planning Commission on Jan 11, 2021:

https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/16949_Council_Bill_2021-1906_OP_R-E_2022-01-11_Hearing_Presentation_updated_WEB.pdf

- Presentation postponed for 30 days. Gainey administration interested in learning more about affordable housing component and inclusionary zoning.

Pitt income level for affordable housing set at \$30,000 per year.

Asked Duquesne Light to provide a statement on parcels. Parcels are located within zoning district PUC regulatory framework for utilities and is not within this project. Why are parcels included in development plan? Developer wants people

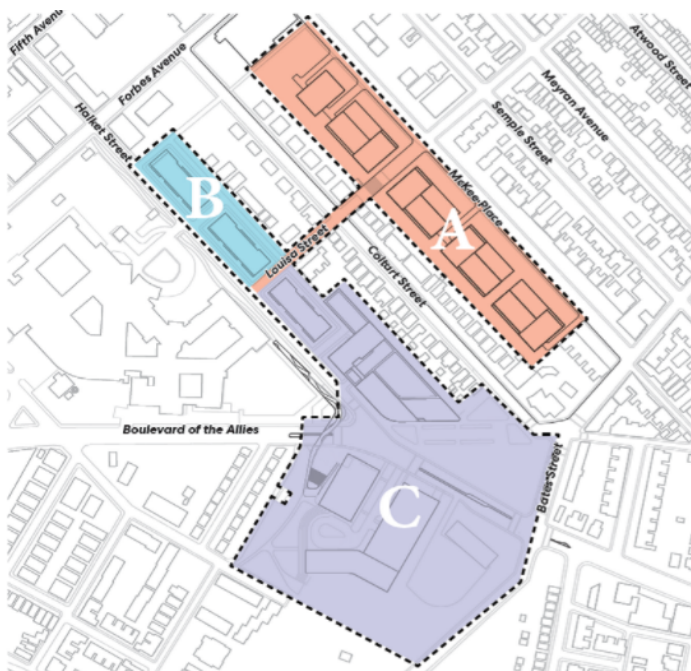
to know they have been in touch with Duquesne Light. However, they have not acquired this property or reached any agreement with them.

Traffic related to this project - Pen Dot has not signed off on any improvements within this project. It is in a discussion phase.

Port Authority had not yet met with Walnut Capital.

Traffic Impact study – none done yet. City Planning would not require that until there is a development plan in place making it a real project.

This project is very preliminary. Currently there is an application for a zoning change. Everything else is just a suggestion and would have to go through its own process.



Blvd Of The Allies Bridge and Ramp Preservation Project: Penn Dot will be doing a bridge and ramp betterment project. Repaving, structural repair on bridges and ramps from Oakland to Downtown. 3 Year project. Identifying contractor currently. Hope to begin work by end of January. Involves 5 ramps by Birmingham Bridge and 376 exit ramp into Oakland. Once a contractor is selected we will have a schedule, starting date, starting location etc.

Also, Work on Bates continues. Paved this spring. Trying to coordinate the 2 projects.

Bates Widening project: Widening to 4 lanes. On a list of approved projects. \$25 Million dollars. Will do environmental impact study and noise study. Add lane on both West and East sides of Bates. Property acquisition will be significant. Preliminary

meeting took place in Dec. Consultants submitting proposals . Should have Idea in Feb about who consultant would be. Goal to begin project is 2025.

Frasier St and Romeo steps are to be replaced and lighting improved with bike run installed. Steps are not to be moved/removed for widening project.

- b. **Residential Parking Permit Program Ordinance #2021-1867** was passed by City Council. Its implementation is unclear as more resources are needed for enforcement and administration. Changes include Dept of City Planning no longer being involved in making regulations and setting policy with unclear roles of Parking Authority and Dept of Mobility and Infrastructure to do so, 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 and andrew.dash@pittsburghpa.gov

Comments can be sent to bruce.kraus@pittsburghpa.gov and daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov

- c. **Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park** – Art Commission recommended its approval to City Council; projected completion is summer 2022. Kraus advises it may take some time due to new administration. UPMC will be removing trees from a property they are developing and is interested in relocating them. Elena expressed our interest.
- d. **Niagara Parklet Ribbon Cutting ceremony** – Councilman Kraus' office has agreed to coordinate, but no word on it yet. To be planned through special events dept. Kraus suggests waiting until spring.
- e. **Capital Budget** - \$200,000 has been allotted for the Oakcliffe Greenway project for a Geotech study of the cliff. Unsure exactly what the focus of study will be.

New Business

Reports –

- a. University of Pittsburgh - was attached to meeting invitation
- b. Office of the Mayor – nothing submitted

- c. City Council – Theresa Kail-Smith re-elected as president. No major changes.
- d. Rep. Wheatley's Office – nothing submitted
- e. Oakland Transportation Management Association –
Mavis - New Watson Substation in Uptown. Along Forbes between 5th and Forbes.
- f. Oakland Planning and Development Corporation – David
 - 3101 Niagara is new in Land Trust. For walk through contact him to arrange. It is ready for sale.
 - Can still submit written testimony for Oakland Crossings due to delay. No need to resubmit if already done. Approximately 40 – 50 people signed up to speak for 3 minutes. dfriedman@opdc.org
- g. Oakwatch – No January Meeting – next meeting is Wednesday, Feb 16 at 6 pm via Zoom

VI. Round Robin Questions/Concerns

RCO application. Joan will send as we have it now. Update website.

Landlord registration will go in effect in April.

Historic Oakland new interactive mapping platform via City Planning
<https://gis.pittsburghpa.gov/historicoakland/>

- _Historic recognition for parts of Oakcliffe – possible future project
- Magee bldg. is at full height. Chimney at full height with additional 6 ft of screening.

VII. Next OCO Meeting – Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

For Your Information:

Neighborhood Plan for Oakland

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.” The Steering Committee is reviewing a draft of the strategies and working to integrate public comments and strategies into a draft plan.

You can click the links on that page to go to each Action Team's page, review strategies and the input received.

0. **2610 Forbes Ave** – city-owned condemned house – advocate for its demolition at

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

0. **3221 Kennett St** – OCO has filed a brief and Common Pleas Ct is now considering our argument that ZBA erred in granting grandfather permits for “continued use as two-family” in every case since we won 3202 Niagara case.

0. **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
erika.strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov and her Chief-of-Staff
emilie.yonan@pittsburghpa.gov
deborah.gross@pittsburghpa.gov and her Chief-of-Staff
james.murray@pittsburghpa.gov
corey.oconnor@pittsburghpa.gov and his chief-of-staff
matt.singer@pittsburghpa.gov
anthony.coghill@pittsburghpa.gov and his Chief-of-Staff
blake.plavchak@pittsburghpa.gov
theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov and her Chief-of-Staff
gino.palmosina@pittsburghpa.gov
reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov and his Chief-of-Staff
marita.bradley@pittsburghpa.gov
bobby.wilson@pittsburghpa.gov and his Chief-of-Staff
sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov

0. **Crisis Funding Available for PWSA Customers** - PWSA Press Release
01/05/2022

Grants are now open to customers who need help with water bills or who are facing a loss of water service.

<https://www.pgh2o.com/news-events/news/press-release/2022-01-05-crisis-funding-available-pwsa-customers-0>