

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 9, 2023 by Elena Zaitsoff. The meeting was a hybrid meeting; it was held in person at 3250 Craft Place and virtually via Zoom.

Present

Geof Becker, Joan Dickerson, Pam Lupinacci, Millie Sass, Howard Stevens, Elena Zaitsoff, Anna MacKinnon, Gabby DeMarchi, Liz Gray, Mark Oleniacz, Lisa Sharfstein, Jan Raether

Presentation

Lisa Sharfstein, Director of the University of Pittsburgh Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, gave a presentation.

Approval of Minutes

Millie Sass made a motion to approve the July 12 minutes; Howard Stevens seconded it; minutes were approved.

Old Business

OCO in-person meetings – Appreciation was given to all the folks at UPMC for all aspects of providing a meeting room for us, and to OPDC and Mark Oleniacz for technical support.

Oakcliffe Greenway - Jan Raether, Infrastructure Engagement Specialist , Office of the Mayor, presented an option to use the \$200,000 capital budget money for a 10' sidewalk on the cliff side of Lawn Street from Ophelia to Hamlet for the first phase of the project as a way to advance the project. There will be no bump outs for parking but there will be some tree pits. A motion passed to use the \$200,000 in this manner. Implementation likely to be Spring 2024. We asked for full design diagrams and to be included in any future site visits.

Stormwater retention park – Comments were made about the amount of weeds on it; a site visit by Oakcliffers will be planned.

Lindy Paving on Second Ave – They have submitted an application to Allegheny County Health Dept to extend their operations and hours. Last month, OCO unanimously passed a motion to send a letter to Councilman Kraus and County Councilman Walton to ask for denial or a review period. That letter has been sent. We are trying to find out if a decision has been made.

Community Partner Reports

University of Pittsburgh – Students can request a free garbage can; August 17 Green Team neighborhood cleanups.

OPDC – Liz will contact PWSA regarding Joe Hammer sinkholes and Kennett water leak; OPDC is giving out QR code magnets with information about trash dates, recycling, renters rights, etc.; dumpsters for cardboard to be placed on Oakland Ave and at OPDC building on Semple St; August 16 Let's Talk will be on Live Music in Oakland.

City Council - City to provide the URA with \$2.5 million a year for 25 years for a total of \$62.5 million to pay off a bond that officials will take out to fund affordable housing efforts over the next three years. Non-profits and developers can use the money. City Land Bank bill passed.

Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Pam Lupinacci raised a concern about how dimour street lights are, making the neighborhood dark at night. Bob Charland from Kraus' office is to look into it.

Next OCO Meeting - Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7 pm