

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on April 13, 2022 by Elena Zaitsoff. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Sharon Olaff, Mrs. Cohen, Mavis Rainey, Greg Fisher, Liz Grey, Pam Lupinacci, Mark Oleniacz, Howard Stevens Jr, Jamie Ducar, Geoff Becker, Joan Dickerson

Old Business

a. Neighborhood Plan for Oakland

The PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT of the plan can be found at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland>. Comment period extended to May 1. Comments from residents are needed. Next action will be a Planning Commission hearing on May 17; see <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/planning-commission> for information on providing public comment and submitting a letter to the Planning Commission.

b. Walnut Capital's Oakland Crossings Zoning Ordinance #2021-1906

Planning Commission has made a recommendation to City Council to adopt with some recommendations. City Council will hold a public hearing on it; date unknown. See <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/planning-commission> for information on providing public comment and submitting a letter to the members of City Council.

c. Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Project - PWSA is planning a virtual community meeting for the Lawn and Ophelia Green Infrastructure project tentatively for May 16th at 6:30pm. The project should start construction mid to late June and should be completed in the fall, most likely end of October.

d. RCO status – OCO is officially a Registered Community Organization with the City of Pittsburgh!

e. 3221 Kennett St – Won appeal in the Court of Common Pleas to have it remain a single family dwelling. Decision is not being appealed.

New Business

Vote: Motion to move monthly meeting for next 2 months to a weekday. Motioned – Elana, 2nd - Howard. Board vote to move. Elena, Joan, Michelle, Millie, Howard. Millie motion reschedule for 2nd Tuesday at 1pm. Michelle 2nd. Vote Millie, Joan, Michelle, Elena.

Vote: Neighborhood Plan for Oakland, Oakland crossing. Oaklanders to hold special meeting to discuss both projects. Hybrid – zoom + in person at Panera. Elena motion. Pam 2nd. Vote: yes- Joan, Elena, Michelle, Millie passed with a quorum.

Oakland Pride / Presbyterian Senior Care Network Senior LGBTQ+ Housing – Corner of Forbes and Craft. Parking a concern. Parking lot entrance/exit on Forbes.
<https://www.opdc.org/design-development-review-projects/2021/8/10/psc-senior-lgbtq-housing>

Pittsburgh Wayfinding Project - Pgh Pedestrian Wayfinding. Intends to identify key locations. Located in 4 neighborhoods. Project to include 65 kiosks, directional panel signs, trailblazer signs.

Development Activities Meeting – Thurs, April 21 at 5:30 via Zoom – see attached flyer <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88145016520>

V. Reports (additional info not in attachments)

a. University of Pittsburgh - Jamie :

Set of demolition permits- Permits were in draft form and have been deleted and canceled. Permits were for a future central Oakland housing project (a dorm). Waiting for future public discussions.

Have they met with Environmental services to handle trash issues in Oakland? Yes and there is no plan to address the problems. Can Pitt do trash knock and talks? Jamie can talk to police about it. –

- Concern about rats mentioned.

Pitt Serve grants closed for this year.

Graduation weekend of April 28 and continues through beginning of May.

b. **Office of the Mayor** – Will attend meetings every other month due to staffing issues.

Life guards needed.

c. **Oakland Transportation Management Association** – new interactive construction resource map.

d. **Oakland Planning and Development Corporation** – St Agnes Church will not be demolished.

Apr 26th Oakland plan talk centering in on zoning issues.

Apr 26th Landlords meeting probably many questions concerning rental registration. Registration will be voluntary at first.

Clutter For A Cause next Friday.

311 issues let Liz know. Rats are typically a county issue.

Encouraging restaurants on Forbes to start recycling.

VI. Round Robin Questions/Concerns

Geoff - April 2nd - 2 large parties. 2 cars towed. Police involved. 210 and 208 Ophelia St. Observed someone take gun from car, wrap in towel, and place in back likely due to police presence. Mrs.Cohen believes the problem could be helped if the landlords were included in the discussion.

Mrs.Cohen – Inquired about reopening Community Center. Feels funds could be found for repairs.

VII. Next OCO Meeting – Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 1 pm via Zoom