

**Oakcliffe Community Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 8, 2023 by Elena Zaitsoff. The meeting was a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom.com.

**Present**

Michelle Panasiuk, Joan Dickerson, Elena Zaitsoff, Howard Stevens Jr., Justin Dandoy, Mark Oleniacz, Millie Sass, Geoff Becker, Mavis Rainey, Adam Butkus, Christian Unbach, Pam Lupinacci, Liz Gray, Lindsay Aquino-Robles

**Minutes**

Minutes from February 2023 were approved. Motioned by Millie. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam . All in favor.

**Old Business**

- a. Oakland Plan rezoning <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland/oakland-zoning>

Passed without our amendments. Residents disappointed with outcome.

- b. Lawn/Ophelia Stormwater Retention Park – Elena starting committee to plan ribbon cutting event this spring. Anyone interested in joining contact Elena at [ezaitsoff@comcast.net](mailto:ezaitsoff@comcast.net) No progress in repairing curbs damaged during construction. Weed trees have not been removed. Liz noted that the weather is unreliable right now so unlikely to see any concrete work done before April.

**New Business**

- a. Status of Registered Community Organizations survey at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/registered-community-organizations-program> Closes end of March. Suggested City Council Districts hold further separate meetings on subject. Future of RCO program/recognition in question.

**Reports**

**Office of the Mayor**

- Snow Angels still recruiting. Charles Anderson Bridge in conversation stages. More to come next meeting.

**City Council (Bob Charland)**

- RCO process works differently in every neighborhood. Process having growing pains. Residents commented that survey reads as slanted negatively.
  - Will be sure Oakcliffe is invited to future RCO discussions.
- Quality of Life Ticketing – Question for Mayor's Office.

**University of Pittsburgh – Justin- see attached March update.**

- Cars turning left onto Biglow Blvd from 5<sup>th</sup>. Very hard and dangerous to turn due to constant streams of pedestrians between classes.
- Updating blotter is sporadic and not reliable.

**Oakland Planning and Development Corporation**

- Trees will be planted all over Oakland.
- Lets Talk this month was supposed to be on Charles Anderson Bridge but meetings about bridge were canceled etc so meeting will be general topic.
- 311 reports about Niagara and Blvd intersection. No signs saying "no right" turn. No results yet. Reply – Blvd is a state road. Need to contact state. Mavis will follow up.

**Oakland Transportation Management Association**

- Rebekkah Ranallo, Neighborhood Services Senior Manager with Mayor Gainey's office is working on the coordination of Community Engagement on the upcoming Romeo and Frazier Street Steps projects. We anticipate community engagement in the Spring 2023.
- Wanted to remind everyone that PennDOT has begun short-term traffic stoppages on I-376 (Parkway East) in both directions under the Birmingham Bridge weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through late June 2023. Crews will conduct steel repairs and replace bridge pins and hangers.
- Scheduling of Virtual Public Meetings on the Study of the Widening of Bates Street are anticipated to begin in late Spring 2023
- Charles Anderson Bridge – many conversations occurring. Trying to accelerate a total bridge rehab. Originally scheduled for 2025.
- Public meetings to beginning about widening Bates. Working to coordinate construction projects so there are so many things being worked on.
- Frazier St Steps – staff changes at DOMI. Waiting for final word on schedule for project. Questions about final design/ scope of project. Hoping to have community engagement meetings to discuss project design etc.

**VII. Next OCO Meeting Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm by Zoom**

