

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Tuesday, October 12, 2022

Opening

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

Minutes

Minutes from August 10, 2022 were approved. Motion by Millie. 2nd by Howard. All in favor of approval.

Present

Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Joan Dickerson, Millie Sass, Jeff Berkman, Geoffrey Becker, Mavis Rainey, Sharon Ellinoff, Howard Stevens Jr., Gabrielle DeMarchi, Justin Dandoy, Liz Gray, Mark Oleniacz, Greg Fisher

Old Business

a. Voting on new bylaws

- Correction Two Process and “Step” added to page 6. Article 11.
- Approve Motion: Millie. 2nd Howard

Motion: Joan Add reference to Oakcliffe Housing Club in 1st paragraph. 2nd Millie.
Motion passes.

VOTE on whole bylaws package as amended above: 6 for. 0 against. Passed

b. Nominations for OCO Board of Representatives

To nominate write to oakcliffe.org@gmail.com. Will vote on at November meeting.

c. Walnut Capital’s “Parcel A” proposal for Panera site and Halket Street from Panera up to Louisa – next step is Planning Commission; not scheduled yet.

d. Neighborhood Plan for Oakland

The zoning portion has been sent to City Council. Sept 14 City Council public hearing is being continued. The PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT of the plan can be found at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland>

e. Oakcliffe Greenway - \$200,000 has been allotted for the Oakcliffe Greenway project from the Capital Budget. Our priorities, as determined at our June meeting, have been sent to Councilman Kraus.

f. Quality of Life Ticketing - Bill has been introduced in City Council.

<https://pittsburgh.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5863136&GUID=B425D2FE-1512-42DD-B43B-C11CFADBC73A&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=Quality+of+Life&FullText=1>

New Business

a. OCO hybrid meetings

Considering a return to hybrid meetings. Possible locations are: CHS and UPMC building on Craft.

- CHS has renovated part of building. They want more information about our group including a mission statement and RFP. Mentioned charging us rent.
- UPMC Building on Craft. Will need to contact to see if we are still permitted to hold meetings there. Only used room briefly before pandemic.

Group agrees it should be pursued. Elena will follow up on locations.

Reports

a. University of Pittsburgh- Justin and Gabrielle

- Civic Action Week October 17th – 22nd. Includes education panels, DIY , service project days, etc. Panels and workshops. All welcome to attend. Fri and Sat – service project days. Link <https://caw.pitt.edu/virtual>
- Recruiting Community Ambassadors to engage community to make cleaner and safer neighborhoods. Paid student workers. Snow removal etc. Submit ideas to Justin. Projects will be spread out throughout area.

Info about Pitt projects: <https://www.fm.pitt.edu/projects>.

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<https://www.coi.pitt.edu/resources/pitt-concern-connection-report-concerns>

c. Oakland Planning and Development Corporation – Liz Gray

- DAM meeting on 4 Pitt projects: Heinz, Thaw Hall, University Club Terrace, and Schenley Quad.
- Let's Talk – When a person Passes with no will, leaving property with no owner. Wed, October 19th at 6pm.

- Zone 4 Public Safety Meeting Oct 20th at 6:30. JCC Sq Hill.
- Properties of note:
 - 330 Ophelia - Building maintenance complaint on Sept 13. No court date yet.
 - 226 Ophelia - (Airbnb location) Oct 27th. Weeds and debris.
 - 3204 Niagara - Nov 30. Weeds debris.
 - 362 Ophelia - Jan 12th 2023. Couch on porch.
 - 3214 Niagara – Condemned.
 - 3610 Forbes - Condemned
 - 3221 Kennett Sq - No occupancy permit on record.
 - 3204 Niagara St (Paul Keyes house) - likely being turned into Airbnb.

d. Oakland Transportation Management Association – Mavis Rainey

Link to the Oakland Construction Resource Map, updated monthly and now includes new commuter resources to aid with traffic impacts associated with various projects.
<http://otma-pgh.org/construction-map>

DOMI is still working on final design for the Frazier Street Steps which will be completely replaced. The entrance to the steps on Bates is going to be realigned. Sections of the steps at Romeo Street are being considered for removal due to minimal use of that segment of the steps. Construction expected in 2023. DOMI is working the scheduling of a Public Meeting to present the proposed new designs/alignment/project schedule

Paving on 2nd Ave at the Hazelwood intersection between Minden St and Flowers Ave
 Start time is 9 PM, Friday, 10/14 thru 12 Noon Saturday, 10/15
 The traffic configuration will be: Single lane alternating traffic utilizing Flaggers.
 City of Pittsburgh Police have also been requested.

VII. Next OCO Meeting - Wednesday, November 9 at 7 pm (possibly Zoom and in-person)