

Oakcliffe Community Organization
Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 8, 2023 by Elena Zaitsoff. The meeting was in person and virtual conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

Present

Michelle Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Christine Graziano, Joan Dickerson, Justin Dandoy, Jan Raether, Mark Oleniacz, Zoom Name: Neighbors, Liz Gray, Howard Stevens Jr., Officer Colello, Madelyn McLaughlin, Greg Fisher, Christian Umbach, Steve Vinansky Zone 4 Commander, April Houser, Joan Dickerson, Christina Farmartino, Alecia Romano

Minutes

Minutes of the October 2023 meeting were approved. Howard motioned. Joan 2nd. Approved by all.

Old Business

a. Lindy Paving – Christina Graziano – 2nd Ave Hot Asphalt Plant. Plant is in the process of applying for a new permit. An appeal may be issued up to 30 days afterwards. Fair Shake advised to look at all the options. They can prepare an Options Document, a research document, defining the pros and cons of each option. Their estimate to prepare document is \$600. Need OCO to act as fiduciary. Board must vote to approve. OCO members approved that if Board approved Lindy contract they were also approving the formation of an ad hoc committee.

b. Oakcliffe Greenway – Jan Raether– Lawn St construction likely bumped to next year will try to schedule work as soon as students leave, May 1st or close to. Start communicating with Council people for funding for 2025 as soon as possible for next section. Hamlet to garden would be Phase 2.

Lawn Street sidewalk project is on City Engage page.

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/lawn-street-promenade>

Reports

Commander Vinansky, Zone 4 - No felonys in last 30 days in Oakcliffe. Suspect arrested for car smash and grabs. 6 thefts, couple of package thefts, 3 bicycles. Residents encouraged to report suspicious activity. Lawn and Ophelia get hit often. Turn on porch lights if possible.

Prowler on Dawson St, Has been caught. Can only be charged with loitering and prowling. Lives in Wilkinsburg.

Warning 1st then citing 2nd. – Mark said this only emboldens them. Officer responded that officers can use their discretion to cite or not. Need to address landlords, using disruptive property ordinances. Every situation is different. Landlords are the heart of the issue.

Will ask officers to document parties.

Dept of City Planning – Funds for the requested feasibility studies for community hubs at Frazier Field House and the Pumping Station are not in the Mayor's Budget. City Council will hold hearings in mid-November and residents can advocate for what they want to be included in the budget. A copy of the Oakland Plan is being given to Elena. There is an implementation page for the Oakland Study on the engage site. Oakland task Force is helping with implementation.

University of Pittsburgh – Oakcliffe neighborhood cleanup on Sunday, November 12. Programs through the Gismondi Educational Funding will be offered through Pitt at The Corner.

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation – Development Activities Meeting on Monday, Nov 13 for Jewish Federation Bdg in Technology Center. Topic for Let's Talk on Wed, Nov 15 will be Public Safety. Zone 4 Holiday Party will be on Nov 16 at JCC. Inform Liz Gray of parties so they can be documented. Keep your doors and windows locked and lights on.

Office of the Mayor - BRT design is available.

Community Human Services - Working with OPDc for solution to traffic issues at food pantry on Lawn Street. New hours are Wednesdays 11-6, hoping to spread out the congestion, and Thursdays 3-6. They can't afford an off duty officer; Cmdr will meet with them; suggested a flagging service. They are looking for a new space. Want to be join the efforts regarding Lindy Paving pollution.

Next OCO Meeting – Wednesday, January 10 in person at 3240 Craft Place and virtually via Zoom.

