

**Oakcliffe Community Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes– Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Oakcliffe Community Organization was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 10, 2024, by Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was in person at 3240 Craft Place and virtual conducted on Zoom.com. It was recorded.

**Present**

Michelle Panasiuk, Dave Panasiuk, Rosalie Panasiuk, Elena Zaitsoff, Millie Sass, Pam Lupinacci, Joan Dickerson, Justin Dandoy, Geoff Becker, Jan Raether, Councilman Bob Charland, Christian Umbach, Lindsey Aquino-Robles, Tyrell Best-Savage

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

**a. Lindy Paving**

The following report from Christine Graziano was read.

- The ACHD has not issued a final permit yet.
- Two distinct emissions events were observed and recorded and sent to the ACHD in December.
- The Options Document is complete and under review by Christine and Elena. The ad hoc committee needs to be formed before it can be reviewed by others. There is a public-facing summary of the document under development. We are aiming for the ad hoc committee to meet later in the day during the week at least every other week or as needed to move things forward. We will strategize on incorporating the wider and widening community during those meetings.
- Elena and Christine met with Breathe Project Exec Dir in December, and will be continuing the conversation; Breathe Project are supportive of this effort and willing to help us seek future funding for related needs.
- Randy from CREATELab expects to have the camera up by the end of January; new technology being used is taking longer than expected.
- A new position has been named at the City- Sustainable Procurements- and Erika Strassburger has connected us to her so that the warm mix specification change can be written into new rules. That seems positively to be moving forward. If you can write to your Council rep in support of this change that would be great.
- Funding has not yet been released for EPA funded sampling and monitors. However, Christine took an air sample for lab analysis and those results are back and being reviewed. It appears a variety of compounds were flagged as being over expected limits.
- Lindy Paving's President is on the Innamorato Transition Team. It is important to utilize their survey to ask them to consider our concerns, meet with the community (Lindy and Admin) and to push for a stricter permit per our requests. In addition, utilize this survey to request that the County specifies warm mix asphalt in their contracts and projects. <https://www.allegHENYforall.com/community-survey>
- Comments are being collected on an Allegheny County Climate Plan. This seems like another venue for our thoughts around Lindy Paving. You have to register to attend the sessions. If you can attend and register, let's coordinate. Fill out this form and then let Elena or Christine know you are going. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXqTo1X5Yo8xAn8\\_b9bzMQiETyw758dpeyejkz7gxysz10yw/vie wform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXqTo1X5Yo8xAn8_b9bzMQiETyw758dpeyejkz7gxysz10yw/vie wform)
- MetalTech next door (and in Oakcliffe district) is up for a permit renewal; that hearing date is on January 23 at 6 pm; registering to speak must be done by Jan 18. Info: STEEL DYNAMICS, INC. FLAT ROLL GROUP – METALTECH PLANT (0178-OP24), for the renewal of a Minor Source Operating Permit for steel sheet continuous galvanizing line with preheat and annealing furnaces. Comments need to be sent to Air Quality Permits <aqpermits@allegHENYcounty.us> by Jan 23.

We have the permit documents available for review and Clean Air Council's attorney is reviewing them. It would likely be important for all interested in this section of the riverfront and air quality from there to be ready to speak and/or submit comments. Some emissions and odors have been detected there, although we aren't as informed as with Lindy. It is important to show we are paying attention at a minimum. Please stay tuned for 'talking points' for comments and speaking, which will be circulated in the coming week.

The following are the members of the Lindy Ad Hoc committee:

Joan Dickerson, John Fleenor, Felipe Garcia-Huidobro, Lizbeth Gray, Christine Graziano, Dale McNutt, Jeanne McNutt, Mark Oleniacz, Helen Perilloux, James Simon, Elena Zaitsoff.

## **b. Oakcliffe Greenway**

Lawn Street sidewalk project is on City Engage page <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/lawn-street-promenade>

### **New Business**

- a. **Lawn to Mackey Stairs** – a tree fell on the stairs, Phil Garrow reported it and followed up, stairs were replaced



- b. **County Survey** – The new County Executive Sara Innamorato, wants to use her administration to deliver on community priorities and has a survey to learn what residents want and need from their government.

<https://www.allegHENYforall.com/community-survey>

### **Reports**

- a. **University of Pittsburgh** – info on Bigelow Bash and registration for use of Trees Hall; resident request for a list of Pitt events requesting road closures, and which roads are involved. Pitt Police are handing out safety tips with chocolate attached.

- b. **Oakland Planning and Development Corporation** –

Let's Talk on Jan 17 at 5 pm – Community Response – Lifesaving Skills

Zone 4 Public Safety Council – Jan 18 at 6:30 at JCC – recognizing suspicious activity in your neighborhood

- c. **Department of City Planning** – DOMI is advancing final designs for the Charles Anderson Bridge. Design can be seen on Public Art & Civic Design Commission website. Liz requested that updates on engage page be more obvious.

- d. **City Council** - Our new Councilman Bob Charland was sworn in on Jan 8. A clip of part of his speech was shown: <https://youtu.be/EV4ACNG66e0?si=LqZFMHKYZZzmx5xK>

Councilman Charland will have a district newsletter, is Chair of the Human Resources Committee, and will be hosting Listening Tours. He has asked the controller for an audit of PLI, environmental, and DOMI issues, and would like to see Quality of Life ticketing.

**e. Office of the Mayor** – Mayor is starting a bi-monthly digital newsletter. Lindsey will be attending OCO meetings every other month.

**f. Office of US Congresswoman Summer Lee** - satellite office is in East Liberty

**Round Robin Questions/Concerns**

The Little Library needs books. Justin said Pitt can help supply them.

Liz contacted PWSA about the dip in Joe Hammer as it is getting worse.

**Next OCO Meeting** – Due to Valentine’s Day, it was decided that February’s meeting date would be a week earlier on Feb 7. It will be in person at 3240 Craft Place and virtually via Zoom.