

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Duquesne University, 1st Floor, Union

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC), Angelica Ciranni (GBA), Derek Dauphin (DCP), Gary Desjardins (PPG Paints Arena), Jamie Ducar (University of Pittsburgh), Amy Hart (HDS), Krysia Kubiak (Duquesne Light), Simona Loberant (SEA), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Mike Madden (Pittsburgh Innovation District/Avenu), Tracey McCants Lewis (Pittsburgh Penguins), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Sarah SanGiovanni (Uptown Partners), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Mercedes Williams (Rep. Jake Wheatley's Office), Joe Wingenfeld (Uptown Partners), Caroline Woodward (Bethlehem Haven), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:13 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ellen asked for a motion to have the June meeting minutes approved that were previously distributed to all members via email. One grammatical change was asked to be corrected, and then the motion was approved.

Agenda Discussions:

Development Sub-Committee Work Plan: Mike Madden, chair of the Development Sub-Committee, presented the proposed annual work plan, which included a purpose statement with an emphasis on preserving the character of the Uptown community. The plan focuses on priorities that includes a baseline for annual progress assessment, as well as some general items, diversifying housing options, creating space for innovation, reviving commercial corridors and implementing policies to promote sustainable and affordable development. Additionally the plan includes indicators for each priority. The plan also outlines the topic area and meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar.

There will be a formal motion to adopt the work plan at the August 1 UTF meeting.

Some questions posed by Task Force members:

Where will indicator data be kept? We're not sure yet. There will be a lot of overlap between the sub-committees and the indicator data each are keeping, so it should be kept in a place where it can be easily shared between the sub-committees.

Will there be any policies around the number of restored buildings compared to the number of new buildings that can be in the neighborhood? As of now no, but we'll definitely work with Uptown Partners to create a list of buildings that should be saved or restored in the neighborhood.

Is the development sub-committee tracking senior housing? Not at this time. We would like to track universal accessibility housing at some point as well as making sure that we are creating approachable environments in this area, but we have not established a policy for either yet.

(2) Introduction of Sarah SanGiovanni, UP Intern: Jeanne McNutt introduced Sarah, a doctoral candidate at Clark University whose dissertation is focused on Ecodistricts and how they are advancing in different areas. Sarah will be working with UP over the next month or so to assist with a communications plan for Uptown Partners and potentially for the UTF. Sarah indicated she'd be reaching out to UTF members to learn more about their involvement in the Uptown Eco-Innovation District.

(3) Facilitated Discussion of Governance: Mary Ellen stated that last week, the first meeting of the chairs of the sub-committees was convened in which they discussed at length having a facilitated discussion of governance and hiring an outside consultant for that discussion. Some key points of the discussion: this is an opportunity to explore potential partnerships or better ways to connect the UTF with the Hill District; the need to determine how the facilitated conversation will be funded; and identifying potential consultants or resources to support this process. The chairs also noted that the Collective Impact Forum will be hosting a conference in Pittsburgh, so that could be a great opportunity for members to attend and gather resources.

Next steps include outreach to Hill District leaders to determine interest in exploring collaborations and circulating information on the Collective Impact Forum conference to UTF members.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Community:

- The Tustin block party went well and was well attended. The July meeting will focus on public art and whether or not the UTF should consider having a committee just for public art.

Infrastructure:

- The July meeting will focus on the Colwell Connector Trail and all of the opportunities for partnerships throughout the different phases of creating the trail.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Next meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 1st at UPMC Mercy, Sr. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Side A.