

Uptown Task Force Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 2, 2020
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Duquesne University, Student Union, Africa Room

Present: Roger Altmeyer (UPMC), Dara Braitman (DOMI), Derek Dauphin (City Planning), Ben Grunauer (PWSA), Amy Hart (HDS), Breen Masciotra (Port Authority), Sean Luther (InnovatePGH/Avenu), Alyssa Lyon (GBA), Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners), Sarah SanGiovanni (Uptown Partners), Andreá Stanford (Allegheny County), Mary Ellen Solomon (Duquesne University), Paul Svoboda (Duquesne Light), Alex Toner (University of Pittsburgh), Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners), Joe Wingenfeld (Uptown Partners), Megan Zeigler (GBA), Joan Hayek (Duquesne University)

Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Ellen Solomon convened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. with an introduction of all present Task Force members.

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ellen asked for a motion to have the December meeting minutes approved that were previously distributed to all members via email. The motion was approved with no dissent.

Agenda Discussions:

(1) Uptown Partners RCO Status: Jeanne McNutt reported that at its last meeting the Uptown Partners (UP) Board approved UP to apply for RCO (Registered Community Organization) status. The application is currently 99% completed and submitted; all that is needed is a letter of support from Councilman Lavelle's office. UP should know the outcome in about two weeks.

If UP is given RCO status, there will be two RCOs within the community, as the Hill Community Development Corp (Hill CDC) has been approved as an RCO with boundaries that include Uptown. UP met with Hill CDC in December to discuss review processes and potential collaborations. This conversation will continue with the UP Board at its retreat, so more to follow.

(2) Uptown Task Force Goals for 2020: Mary Ellen began the conversation by stating that the goals of the EcoDistrict Plan are established, that isn't the case for the UTF itself. The most immediate goal right now for the UTF, she said, is finalizing the RFP for a consultant for the facilitated conversation around governance. Mary Ellen then asked the group if they had any thoughts or ideas for other goals in 2020.

Some ideas:

- Create a communication plan for the UTF to communicate EID Plan success. Sarah SanGiovanni has been working with UP on a communication plan for the organization, which could provide some ideas for the UTF. Sarah will present the UP communications plan at the February UTF meeting.
- Develop a plan for using the remaining funds City Planning budgeted for EID Plan implementation. This should be a goal for the UTF in Q1 2020.

(3) Sub-committee Work Plans 2020: Mary Ellen stated that she would like to get all the sub-committee work plans on the same cycle this year and moving forward. The Infrastructure Sub-Committee work plan is up at the end of February, so if possible, Mary Ellen asked all the sub-committee chairs to update their work plans and have them ready to review for the next meeting or in March.

3) Update on Meeting with Uptown Partners Board: Mary Ellen stated that the Executive Committee of the Uptown Partners Board requested a meeting with her in follow up to the meeting the UTF Sub-committee chairs had with the Board in December. The Board appreciated getting a better understanding of UTF progress and challenges, and wanted some clarifications. It was a very positive meeting that hopefully provided additional information that will be useful to the UP Board for its January retreat. The UP Board will consider the possibility of working with UTF on a governance model that could incorporate UP as part of the backbone structure solution.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Community: At the upcoming January meeting, the Sub-committee will be reviewing what they accomplished in 2019 and prioritizing 2020 projects and goals.

Development The next meeting is Thursday, December 12th where the Sub-committee will continue to finalize their process review. Most likely, the chair Mike Madden will be ready to present in January in the hopes to formalize their process review with a motion.

Infrastructure: At the last meeting, the Sub-committee discussed that maybe they took on too much in 2019. Therefore, they decided to break up their priorities into two sections: advocating and leading. They will have a new format of the work plan to propose to the UTF in February.

Mobility: The last meeting was centered on sidewalk inventory – what data the Sub-committee has and what it doesn't have and how they can fill in the blanks. There is a construction coordination meeting this week about all of the upcoming construction projects in Uptown.

Member Updates:

Duquesne University: Duquesne has entered into a purchase agreement to acquire the Life'sWork property which will become the site of the new College of Osteopathic Medicine. There will be a community meeting about the plans in the very near future. Please look to get that info from Duquesne's Office of Community Engagement soon. All UTF members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 9:14am.

Next Uptown Task Force Meeting - 8 a.m. on Thursday, February 6th, Africa Room, Duquesne University.