

Minutes for Uptown Partners Meeting 4-11-07

- The meeting opened with an introduction by Evan Stoddard and a short recap to the process up to this point, beginning with the creation of the “What’s Up with Uptown” presentation.
- It was announced by a representative from the Duquesne University Law clinic that our application for incorporation in PA had been processed, but the name Uptown Partners was already taken. Jeanne McNutt contacted the party owning the name, who was unable to give it up, therefore it was necessary for this group to alter its name slightly.
 - o Two suggestions were made:
 - Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh
 - Uptown Pittsburgh
 - o Short presentations were made for both names and a vote was taken. The vote was an exact tie and the issue was put to the side for a moment in the interest of moving the meeting forward
- Evan explained that at the last meeting applications were made available for all those wishing to be on the Board of Directors for the new organization. He explained the process of the Nominating Committee, and also reminded everyone that the board ratified tonight would only remain in position until the end of this calendar year. At that point a new board would be named and that would begin the use of the two-year terms for the Board of Directors.
- The names presented consisted of community residents, non-residents, and institutional partners:
 - o Renee Aldrich (resident)
 - o Rajah Flewellen (resident)
 - o Antoine Leyn (resident)
 - o Chris Roach (resident)
 - o Sr. Carolyn Schallenberger (resident)
 - o James Simon (resident)
 - o Sr. Liguori Rossner (non-resident)
 - o Jeanne McNutt (non-resident)
 - o Peter Smerd (non-resident)
 - o Stephen Schillo (institutional partner, Duquesne University)
 - o Michele Cooper (institutional partner, Mercy Hospital)
- Each nominee present spoke briefly on why they had applied to serve on the board. A vote was taken and the board was approved.
- As more people had now arrived at the meeting, it was decided again to vote on the name change. Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh was chosen. Eric Chir, our representative from the DU law clinic, reiterated the importance of using the entire name on all official documentation or advertising to avoid any infringement on the Uptown Partners group.
- It was announced that now that we had a organizing board and name that we could apply for our 501(c)3 federal status for tax exemption
- Subcommittees then gave short reports
 - o Clean, Safe, and Green – Renee Aldrich reported that they would again be meeting with Officer Janine Davis to discuss safety issues in the area. Also reported upcoming community clean up on April 21st sponsored by Duquesne University.
 - o Neighbors and Economy – Jeanne McNutt presented the following notes were presented. However, the focus of the report consisted of a presentation about the preservation of historically-eligible buildings on Fifth Ave. in the new arena development.

James Simon and Jeanne McNutt submitted a proposal to the Sprout Fund for a mural on Tommy Small’s building by Dinwiddie on Fifth...and we were accepted. (19 city sites were proposed and 8 accepted.) Community has the permission of Sal Williams for the artist to have access to the wall for several weeks this summer. James is at a mural meeting tonight to review the work of potential muralists.

Jeanne spoke with Lamar Advertising regarding cleanup of a one of their sites at Fifth and Gist...and to enquire if the community would be able to turn it into an urban garden or sculpture garden, if there was enough interest in the community. Lamar is in discussions with Sal Williams, who has expressed interest in landscaping that corner.

James Simon is working with Americorps in Braddock...and we can have the same program here. Americorp volunteers will work with Uptown youth on an urban/art garden, with maintenance commitment from the community.

Library Reception... Groundbreaking for new Hill District Library, designed by Rob Pfaffmann. Light reception will be held at the current Library on Dinwiddie St.

Hill District Consensus Meeting: 10AM on Friday, April 13 (coalition of 70+ organizations and individuals) all aspects of community life.

OPDC Flyers were distributed. Remember that OPDC has rehabbed three moderate income homes in Uptown: 33 and 114 Miltenberger St. and 1713 Forbes. This initially was a collaborative effort with UCAG. OPDC is looking to us to help market those properties.

Most critical issue facing us right now may be the ARENA DEVELOPMENT and the fact that we need to be in discussions with the City and SEA on the process, design, and implementation and parking issues and other aspects that could impact our community.

Jeanne attended a meeting with the SEA, City Planning, URA, State Sen Ferlo's office, Penguins, preservationists, Community Design Center, and representatives in the Hill District...and a commitment to transparency and community process was made. It's critical that we are included in the planning process.

Demolition began yesterday on nine buildings on the north side of Fifth Avenue for the new arena.

ARENA—Rob Pfaffmann, architect and urban planner and Steven Paul, ED of Preservation Pittsburgh to give us an historical overview and their insights on the arena issue.

At this point, the City is meeting with a small group of Hill residents and leaders...though it's becoming apparent that there is a divide in the Hill and confusion on leadership. We're hoping looking for unity, so that we can speak with one voice for the greatest community benefits agreement.

If you're interested in this issue....Important to sign your email address and tel. numbers so that we can contact you about future

Cultural resources and historic building initiative has begun in the Hill District. Call Jeanne for information (412.471.2323)