

Uptown Action Plan Community Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Minutes

The next Uptown Action Plan community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at Fisher Hall, Room 324.

Welcome

Maureen Hogan, Planning Consultant, facilitated the meeting. Through funding from the Hill District Growth Fund, Maureen is able to continue to provide some technical assistance to the implementation of the action plan.

Celebrate Uptown Pittsburgh

The student abstract on this event was handed out at the last meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006. The Spring Clean Up will precede it from 8:30 a.m. to noon. (See Clean, Safe and Green Committee Report.) The "Celebrate Uptown Pittsburgh" event will be held at the Excel Kitchen parking lot and will start at noon and end at 3:00 p.m. Food and entertainment, as well as resource tables on job assistance, healthcare etc., will be provided. For more information, contact christnerm@duq.edu

Committee Reports

Neighbors and Economy: Two committee meetings were held since the last community meeting. One of the meetings concentrated on Map Pittsburgh, the City Planning initiative to remap city neighborhoods based on land use and the zoning code. At our community meeting in May, City Planning staff will present a zoning primer to attendees and solicit comments on existing zoning. This will be followed by public hearings before both the City Planning Commission and City Council on proposed mapping for the Uptown neighborhood. All property owners will be notified.

The Pittsburgh Partnership on Neighborhood Development will be proceeding with the creation of the Community Information System data base for both the Hill District and Uptown. The field data will be collected by staff of the Community Technical Assistance Center. The Sprout Fund has funded a mural at Myriam's. This effort is being spearheaded by James Simon.

Increasingly committee members have heard stories of parents buying housing in the neighborhood for their student son/daughter. This is a welcomed trend.

Upcoming committee meetings will deal with addressing a vision/design/development plan for the neighborhood. Assistance will be sought from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. The City of Pittsburgh is interested in convening a meeting with community representatives and Sal Williams to discuss the possible future use of his property.

Neighborhood representatives have been added to the official public meeting list of the city.

Meetings will be held this month by the State on the gaming applications. The Hill District has a task force on this issue. For more information, contact Marimba Milliones at 412-681-7812.

Sustainable Organization: A very positive meeting was held with Councilperson Tonya Payne, the president of Duquesne University and Steve Schillo. The future of UCAG was discussed. Ms. Payne stated that the organization will continue and the contact person is Denise Boozer. Denise's contact information is deniseboozer@yahoo.com Steve encouraged attendees to reach out to Denise and invite her into the planning process.

Clean, Safe and Green: Planning for the spring clean up has gone very well to date. The cleanup will also be on Saturday, April 22, 2006. This event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at noon. The check in is at Excel Kitchen. Gloves, bags etc will be handed out to participants. (Note: Wear closed toe shoes.) To date, 375 students have signed up to participate. The neighborhood has been sectioned off geographically and each section will have a section leader. (Note: The city will pick up recyclables and outreach is ongoing with Environmental Services, the Bureau of Building Inspection and Zone 2 Police.) Attendees will be given the opportunity to sign up for future clean ups. Volunteers will be given lunch tickets for "A Taste of the Neighborhood."

Officer Janine Davis was introduced as the Community Relations Officer. Her contact information is 412-255-2848 or Janine.davis@city.pittsburgh.pa.us A far-ranging discussion followed on the availability of crime stats, abandoned cars, graffiti, and silent complaint forms. At the next meeting, Officer Davis will bring crime stat information as well as silent complaint and graffiti forms. Both can be accessed on-line with the city.

Website

The action plan, meeting minutes and implementation updates will be posted at www.outreach.duq.edu Dr. Evan Stoddard told the attendees that one of his students registered the domain www.uptownpgh.com It was recommended that a link be established between the sites.

Hill Consensus Group

George Moses handed out some information on Find the Rivers! and the Confluence of Song, Music and Spoken Word event. This event will be help on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at Hill House.

The Hill Consensus Group is a membership, advocacy organization for those that live or work in the neighborhood. UCAG is an eligible member. George reviewed the mission statement and told the attendees that the first community plan was undertaken in 1996. The plan is currently being revised. For more information on the plan, visit www.hillhouse.org

In the history of the organization, only three votes have been taken. These included: Bedford Hope 6, the Carnegie Library and gaming. Concerning the latter, The Consensus Group is advocating for a 10% set aside for use by the community.