

**Rod Dobish**

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**From:** <kmbrean@aol.com>  
**To:** <helmam@duq.edu>; <dmorehouse@pittsburghpenguins.com>; <kenneth.thomas@pnc.com>; <dsolomon@hillcdc.org>; <dobish@duq.edu>; <claneast@nauticom.net>; <schillo@duq.edu>; <egarlock@nspnet.org>; <neha.gabhawala@city.pittsburgh.pa.us>; <rsantilo@sunkingig.com>; <tblack@pittsburghpenguins.com>; <uptownaction@aol.com>; <abanks@hillcdc.org>; <tlink@ura.org>; <benjamin.kelley@city.pittsburgh.pa.us>; <wschwab@liscnet.org>; <kaz@sunkingig.com>; <tim.jencka@gatewaymsp.com>; <jm@sohoinvention.com>; <rquerio@lifesworkwpa.org>  
**Cc:** <maureenhogan@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2005 9:25 AM  
**Attach:** UptownPlanningCommittee11august05\_final.doc  
**Subject:** Uptown planning\_minutes from August 1, 2005

Good morning all,

For your review, we've attached the minutes from our meeting of August 11th. Please note the follow-ups. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th, at **3:30 PM**. The location remains to be confirmed, but the meeting will most likely be held in the Duquesne Student Union.

Prior to the meeting, we will be sending you a draft action plan for review and comment.

Thanks,

Maureen and Karen

UPTOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2005  
MINUTES

Follow-ups

- Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan will include a section on issues to be addressed by developers on behalf of the community as well as a scope of services for staff/management consultant in the action plan.
  
- Michele Cooper will identify a date for the final presentation of the action plan and community celebration. This is dependent on the availability of the auditorium at Mercy Hospital. (Note: We are currently looking at the weeks of October 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.) Both Mercy Hospital and Duquesne University will assist in supplying refreshments.
  
- Duquesne University will assist in the printing and mailing of the invitations.

Report on Focus Group Themes

Karen Brean handed out a summary of the themes of the focus groups with businesses, arts related businesses, social services and Mercy Hospital. (Note: A special focus group was held with Mercy Hospital due to scheduling conflicts.) The big ideas shared by all of the focus groups include the following:

- safety (perception vs. reality, prostitution/drug trade, and difficulty in recruiting employees);
- need to empower the neighborhood and provide tools;
- lack of/or uneven delivery of city services;
- condition of the environment (vacant lots, graffiti, demolitions);
- need for marketing plan;
- accessible location; and
- positive buzz (related to development on the edges, art on Gist Street and inexpensive housing).

Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan reported that despite challenges, individuals are hopeful and want to become involved. Additionally, the work of the Planning Committee is in concert with both the concerns/recommendations of the community as voiced at the public meetings and the attendees of the focus groups. (Note: As a reminder, the focus groups were undertaken to round out the public participation process. Residents mostly attended the evening public meetings.)

Design/Development Guidelines

Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan reported that they spoke to Skip Schwab, Program Director of LISC, and asked him if it would be possible to submit a request for funding to the Hill District Growth Fund for design/development guidelines for Uptown. He stated that it would be appropriate but we should wait until the action plan is completed. Maureen Hogan suggested that Steve Schillo and Michele Cooper might want to be the co-sponsors of the request. It was noted that good things continue to occur due to the planning efforts to date. This has included the inclusion of the neighborhood in Map Pittsburgh by City

Planning and the VP 2 data collection by the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

### Development Sites

In order to identify potential development sites for further study, Tom Link of URA reviewed the land use map. Publicly owned land (URA and City) is located primarily north of Fifth Avenue. Remaining potential sites include the various surface parking lots. It was reported that First Commonwealth Bank is interested in investing in development in the neighborhood. Dale and Jeanne McNutt distributed a fact sheet about the Bank. Steve Schillo asked Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan if they could identify issues for the community that should be addressed by developers. He was particularly interested in the prospect of the impact of Penguins and gaming. Additionally, Steve Schillo and Jeanne McNutt asked if Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan could draft a scope of services for a potential staff person/consultant. Karen Brean and Maureen Hogan agreed to include both in the action plan. Further, they suggested that there are several options related to staffing besides full time including part time, consultants for specific tasks such as management and development. They noted that staffing needs may change overtime as well. (Note: Steve Schillo suggested that it would be easier to secure funding if this information is provided.)

### Plan Outline

Attendees agreed to the following action plan outline:

- Action Plan
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Implementation Schedule
- Neighborhood Description
- Planning Process
- Appendix (Prior Plans, Focus Groups, Community Meetings, etc.)

### Schedule

The next Planning Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. The location will be announced but the likely site is a room in the Student Union. At this meeting, the Committee will review a draft of the action plan.

The action plan will be presented at a community celebration during the weeks of October 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Michele Cooper will identify a date during that time frame on which the Mercy Hospital auditorium is available. Both Mercy Hospital and Duquesne University will assist in supplying refreshments. Duquesne University will assist in the printing and mailing of the invitations. All community attendees and focus group attendees will be invited.