

**Uptown Action Plan Community Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

**Minutes**

- **The next Uptown Action Plan community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at Fisher Hall, Room 324.**

Welcome

Maureen Hogan, Planning Consultant, facilitated the meeting. (Note: 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.) Maureen reviewed the agenda with the attendees.

Committee Reports

*Sustainable Organization:* Since the completion of the action plan, the committee has been attempting to resolve the relationship of this planning effort with the Uptown Community Action Group. Since Tonya Payne is no longer the head of the organization, it has been unclear how or if UCAG will continue. Participants in the action planning process do not want to lose momentum and have decided to follow-up with four specific actions with a prescribed deadline. They are:

- Two representatives will meet with Denise Boozer to ascertain if UCAG will be moving forward as an organization.
- Two representatives will seek assistance in resolving the organizational issue with Jake Wheatley's office.
- Steve Schillo will contact CTAC for follow-up advice.
- All participants should email Tonya Payne and Denise Boozer directly.

A week before the June meeting, the committee will meet and come up with a recommendation.

*Neighbors and Economy:* The committee met with Jason Vrable of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh concerning his input on a vision process for development and design guidelines for the neighborhood. A development update was given. Oakland Planning and Development Corporation are rehabbing four residential properties in the neighborhood. They are also in discussions with Mercy Hospital on additional properties. The new owner of the linen plant is interested in making improvements and increasing employment opportunities. The mural committee has identified an artist.

Marimba Milliones, Chair of the Hill CDC and co-chair of the Hill District Gaming Task Force, gave an update on gaming. The Hill District Gaming Task Force has held a number of educational and informational meetings. Impact analysis was drafted and ten key principles were drafted. From this, information was solicited from each applicant on impacts on parking, crime etc. On May 8, 2006 a community forum was held and each applicant was asked to respond to the concerns. Additionally a survey was undertaken and PITG received the highest vote (79%) for being acceptable/exceptional.

The official public input phase ends on June 2, 2006. The license will be granted in December. Marimba encouraged attendees to write letters to the Gaming Control Board. Questions may be directed to Marimba at 412-681-7812 or [marimba@milestonenewmedia.com](mailto:marimba@milestonenewmedia.com) or Evan Frazier at Hill House Association at 412-392-4404 or [efrazier@hillhouse.org](mailto:efrazier@hillhouse.org) Marimba and Evan are co-chairs.

*Clean/Safe/Green:* The community clean up/celebration was held on April 22, 2006. Overall 400 Duquesne University students participated in clean ups in Uptown and South Side. 40 Uptown residents/business people participated. A taste of the neighborhood celebration followed. Another clean up may occur in October.

Code enforcement complaints should be directed to 412-255-4155.

Officer Davis reviewed crime stats from April 19<sup>th</sup> to the day of the meeting. She encouraged attendees to use the silent complaint forms.

#### National Student Partnerships

This organization is located in the neighborhood in the Life Works Building. There are 15 offices nationwide. The office is staffed by students and one-on-one assistance is provided in a wide ranging number of areas. For more information, contact [lsuveges@nspnet.org](mailto:lsuveges@nspnet.org)

#### Map Pittsburgh

Staff from the Department of City Planning discussed the status of the Map Pittsburgh process in Uptown. A preliminary recommendation was made on new zoning for the Uptown neighborhood. Questions and answers followed on zoning in general and specific lots in particular. The proposed zoning recommendation will go to the City Planning Commission on May 3, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. This is a public hearing. An additional public hearing before City Council will follow.