

Dear Committee,

We had a productive meeting on Friday morning, February 3.

Thanks to all who attended:

Mike Bonato, Chip Fetrow, John Fleenor, Tom Link, Jeanne McNutt, Steven Paul, Rick Schweikert, George Short

**We determined that:**

- A strategic vision and plan for Uptown is needed.
- In the meantime, and concurrently, we need to select housing/commercial projects in which we can be successful, that will lead to more buzz and more development,
- Some key decisions regarding sustainable economic development will require the support and advantages of a newly-structured community-based organization.
- It is critical that we develop regular, ongoing dialogue with City Planning and Zoning, to be on top of such things as demolition permits, applications for zoning variances, new building permits, etc.
- We need to pursue Map Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development's (PPND) VP2 databases for comprehensive inventory of land/property.
- A presentation by City Zoning would be useful to committee and larger group.
- The owners of Fifth Avenue High School are keen on preserving the architectural integrity of their building (a national registered landmark) and are very interested in attracting exciting, viable business and/or cultural activities to the building's upper floors. We are interested in their vision, and will explore the potential for helping. (Also, there are funding sources for 'white elephant' and anchor buildings, which we could look into.)

**TASKS:**

**George** and **Steven** will research properties owned by Uptown Community Development Group. Steve will call David Blenk of Oakland Planning Development Corp. to assess the status of UCAG's financial arrangement with OPDC for specific rehab housing projects.

**Mike** will arrange a tour of Fifth Avenue High School for our next meeting

**John, Tom** and **Rick** will contact City Planning. Tom will bring City Council meeting and committee schedules to next meeting.

**Chip** will call Neha Gabhawala of City Planning to give 15-minute presentation at next committee meeting for update on Map Pittsburgh and primer on zoning.

**Jeanne** will contact PPND to establish relationship and request VP2 databases, call PNC's Community Development Banking dept., and Allegheny County economic development depts..

Please contact Jeanne for corrections or omissions.

**Next Meeting: Friday, Feb. 17 at 8AM at Fifth Avenue High School (Excel Kitchen)**