

Uptown Partners Organizing Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2006
6:30 PM Miryam's

Present: Evan Stoddard, Christopher Roach, Sr. Carolyn Schallenberger, Michele Cooper, Sr. M. Placidus McDonald, Harry Orlando, Dale McNutt, Renee Aldrich, John Fleenor, Peter Smerd, James Simon, Sr. Therese Frankowski, Joel Shapiro, Rajah Flewellen, Mary Broddie, Lucy Jo Dimaggio, Jeanne McNutt Guests: Eric Stoddard, Catherine Fink, David Blenk, Mavis Rainey

Evan Stoddard gave an update on the status of the UP Articles of Incorporation, currently being prepared by Eric Chir of the Duquesne Law Clinic. The papers will be ready for incorporators' signatures shortly after the school holiday break, for submission.

David Bleck, Executive Director of Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC) reviewed a plan in negotiation with Mercy Hospital for OPDC to purchase 10 properties along Van Bramm and Edna Sts, with the help of the URA and National City. The properties include 4 houses and 6 empty lots. The four homes are deemed rehabbable; new modular homes would be built on the empty lots.

A question was raised concerning how new construction would fit with surrounding architecture. David assured that the aesthetics would be complementary.

OPDC and the URA requested UP's opinion on rehab vs. new build for the four brick homes. MOTION by Peter Smerd that UP support rehabbing; seconded and passed.

An agreement of sale should be in place by February, the project approved by July, with a start date in September, 07. OPDC will keep UP posted.

OPDC also passed out flyers on Uptown properties they are rehabbing for sale. OPDC will send electronic files to Mercy and Duquesne to post for employees and students.

James Simon reported trash in front of OPDC properties. OPDC will remedy problem.

Peter Smerd raised issue of possible revolving fund for UP to purchase properties for future rehabbing and sale.

Evan reviewed by-law edits and lead the committee discussion through to completion of the by-law draft. He will send the most current update to the committee and law student Eric Chir for review, with a request that Eric make comments before our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24 6:30PM Miryams