Pat Hassett – Public Works

- Gave an overview of the City’s Joncaire Steps project and their goal of making the city more user friendly for pedestrians as well as bikers. These steps are used heavily by students as well as bikers to reach other trail connections.

- Will be a complete tear down for two reasons: their deplorable condition and they must be widened to accommodate runnels. Engineering will be done by the newest member of the Public Works staff. Steps must be 8-10 ft. wide to accommodate up/down runnels.

- Since these steps are part of Schenley Park, they will be a park asset and must have both a geo tech study as well as an environmental impact.

- Budget for the project will be: $30k Design, 384k TAP, 96k Local Match. The BID will be handled through the PennDOT process. Some concern was raised that the budget may be light.

- Pat will be returning to the OTF meetings on a more regular basis to give updates on the Greenfield Bridge (February, 2015), Euler Way, Greenfield & Bartlett Street traffic light.

Todd Reeves – WPA School for Blind Children

- Todd explained the board’s reasoning on ordering a feasibility study for a sky bridge across N. Bellefield Avenue. Many of the School’s students are not only blind – 80% are non-ambulatory and severely disabled and a full 60% are medically fragile. Currently, these students must be dressed and escorted by multiple staff to make the crossing safe. A sky bridge would be safer for students medically and would not require the level of staffing the current crossings do.

- Mr. Goettel and Mr. Irvin explained the process that would be followed to gain input of all interested/impacted residents, businesses, schools.

- First, input will be sought from all interested parties, until approximately March, and then the two best options would be developed and re-presented to the interested parties before the final design was submitted to the
City. One the two options developed will return to the Task Force for another presentation. OTF member comments were supportive of the project. Hoping construction will begin in 2016.

Task Force Reports:

**Trevor Smith – CHS**

- Currently busy support families in crisis.
- In November and December 14-1500 people utilized the Food Pantry. Planning a trip to Toronto (“The Stop”) to study how they incorporate comprehensive services and referrals with their food pantry.

**Sandy Phillips – People’s Oakland**

- Supports WPA School for Blind Children project.
- Explained the Center’s weather policy – closures due to snow, cold, ice.
- Would like OTF’s assistance in asking the City to improve the lighting on Bates Street. Currently very dangerous for students to cross streets as well as drivers. Will bring up at the next Pitt/Community meeting.

**Wanda Wilson – OPDC**

- First of three meetings on the Joncaire Steps project will be at the Community Center on 1/15/14. Wanda will let the Task Force know about the other two meetings as soon as possible.
- Oakwatch will pick up again on January 21, 2015 at noon.
- Thanks to everyone who wrote a letter of support for the housing project. Zoning meeting on 1/15/15 so if you would still like to write one, please let Wanda know.

**Anna Siefken – GBA**

- Pgh2030 currently has 253 buildings which represent an 81% participation rate. The next partner meeting is on 2/19/15 where two new partners will be introduced.
- GBA will be partnering with WWF to host an Earth Hour on March 28, 2015. Encouraging GBA partners to turn out lights for one hour. It will be held in conjunction with a downtown event, probably in Market Square. More information to come.

**Kannu Sahni – Pitt**

- 9th Annual Christmas Day at Pitt went well with over 2300 guests served.
- Pitt has once again been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizing Pitt’s service in their communities.
- The Spring Day of Caring will be on March 21, 2015 and this year we will be joining forces with PittServes to incorporate students into this traditionally Faculty/Staff volunteer opportunity. More information to follow.
Ellen Mazo – CHP

- Meg Nowak will be representing CHP on the Task Force Meetings since she is located in the Rangos Building.
- Meg has been working with Mavis Rainey on Euler Way issues. Should have more information to share at the February meeting.

Zoe Feinstein – Dan Frankel’s Office

- Currently working with the Women’s Caucus reviewing a package of bills coming out on health care issues impacting women and families.
- Please contact Zoe if your organization needs assistance with any community development projects.

Hanson Kappelman – Oakwatch

- Maya Henry is working on biking/pedestrian issues and will be conducting a signage survey in the next week or so.
- The Rental Registry will not be active this year.
- Landlord has asked for a variance for four unrelated residents for a property on Bieler Street which Oakwatch will be fighting.

Georgia Petropoulos – OBID

- Thank you to everyone who assisted and attended the Oakland Leadership event. Currently discussing “what’s next.”
- The week of January 26 will be Oakland Restaurant Week. This year it will be 6 for $6.00 and 19 restaurants will be participating.

Todd Reeves – WPA School for Blind Children

- School is currently evaluating school bus issues. Should the school offer bus service to cut down on congestion; there are currently 70 small buses parking to unload students from 7:15-8:30 a.m. and from 2:00 – 2:45 every day.

Maureen Rolla – Carnegie Museums

- Museum currently working on an installation that includes the Carnegie, Pitt and CMU to encourage collaboration, transparency and innovation. The committee is made up of 20 representatives from these institutions and will be holding a charrette in late February/early March with larger group. Would like to have a White Paper ready by end of spring.

Mavis Rainey – OTMA

- A project website is being developed for the Greenfield Bridge project; demolition will be in December of 2015.
- The Birmingham Bridge Phase 1 – total closure of the inbound lanes – will begin in April of 2015. A website for the project can be found at:
- Closure will affect the 2015 Marathon and routes are being studied.
Fred Mergner – Port Authority

- Currently developing the March 15 Service changes.
- The new GPS service “True Time” is up and running and seems to be working well.