Oakland Task Force Meeting
March 10, 2015
UPMC

In Attendance:

Botts, Rita, Carnegie Library
Caldwell, Stan, CMU
Drew Wilson, Carlow
Feinstein, Zoe, Dan Frankel’s Office
Gilman, Dan, City Councilman
Hassett, Pat, Public Works
Irwin, Jan, PWWG
Krolicki, John, UPMC
Leibow, Ron, Pitt
Loy, Paul, Public Works
Masciotra, Breen, PAT
Matway, Lora, City Planning
Mergner, Fred, PAT
Miller, Justin, City Planning
Moore, Annie, People’s Oakland
Nowak, Meg, CHP

Petropoulos, Georgia, OBID
Phillips, Sandra, Peoples Oakland
Rainey, Mavis, OTMA
Reeves, Todd, WPASBC
Rolla, Maureen, Carnegie Museums
Sahni, Kannu, Pitt
Saunders, Kristin, City Planning
Sedlack, Peg, COR/SONG
Siefken, Anna, Green Building Alliance
Smith, Trevor, CHS
Strassberger, Erika, City Council
Supowitz, Paul, Pitt
Tempalski, Andrea, Peoples Oakland
Wilds, John, Pitt
Wilson, Wanda, OPDC
Winkle, Jonathan, OBID

Presentation:

Todd Reeves – Western PA School for Blind Children
Skybridge

- Have held meetings with community groups and have received positive feedback. Now ready to take back to Board to discuss funding and city process.

- One side will be elevated 24 feet above street with a 135 foot span at the other end; will be 20 feet above road surface. For interest, a green roof will be planted. Will be constructed as a “truss system.” Support piers will be on school property. Rainwater will be collected and brought down at piers and dumped into storm drain.

Pat Hassett – Public Works
Bike Share

- April 21 will be the official launch with a 30 day beta test. Oakland coming a little later. Public Works would like an in depth discussion with Oakland stakeholders on the station infrastructure. Ten stations set for Oakland. Would like to set up a meeting with Oakland institutions/organizations to discuss exact locations (meeting was held on 3/27)

- Membership will be similar to Zip Car with the City procuring then signing over to Bike share. Bikes and stations can be a smart system or dumb system. The City is leaning towards the smart system for both bikes and stations. 90 degree angle with a single row of bikes is the proposed system set up. These bikes cannot be loaded onto the racks on PAT buses.

- Mavis Rainey will coordinate the stakeholders meeting and the educational component. Additional signage will have to be installed.
Lucinda Beatty – Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Pittsburgh Rail Service

- Came to seek support from the OTF and its member organizations to approach the state to add 2 additional trains between Pittsburgh and New York.
- Currently two trains serve Western PA: one stops in Pittsburgh and continues West with the other providing service between Pittsburgh and New York.
- Adding two trips would enable improved mobility for seniors, students and businessmen. The cost of $10-$12 million over 30 years would be more than paid for with the increased ridership.
- Sticking points are: competing with freight lines and political will.

Breen Masciotra – Port Authority
Atwood Street Stop

- Between now and end of June PAT plans to finalize design with completion of the project in mid-2016. 2013 design was a “smart stop.” Budget is now set at $1 million. Each station can be designed to fit environment.
- Designs not final for 2 more months and Oakland organizations want time to present to their constituencies.
- Must coordinate construction/design with UPMC since they have donated the land and UPMC has a demolition schedule in place for the old Children’s Hospital.

OTF Announcements

Anna Siefkin – GBA

- Announced viewing party for Earth Hour on March 28, 2015 at the Carnegie Science Center; please contact her if you would like to attend.
- Check the GBA website for their inspired speakers’ series.

Maureen Rolla – Carnegie Museum

- Free admission on Thursday nights in March

Drew Wilson – Carlow University

- Students currently participating in Alternative Spring Break.
- University Commons on schedule to be opened in August
- Zipcar station will be located on Carlow campus.

John Krolicki – UPMC

- Demolition of old Children’s Hospital moving forward. Demolition will start in May/June; 18 month project.
- Master Plan completed and approved.

Fred Mergner – PAT

- Working on March 15 service changes. Routes in Oakland that will be affected are: 61, 71, 75, 93 and 53L.
Justin Miller – City Planning

- Eco Innovation District will be hiring a consultant in June to take a look at the entire corridor holistically.

Georgia Petropoulos – OBID

- Has contract with GAI consulting to conduct a retail market study. Will share with OTF when completed.
- ARUP will be working with the wayfinding group and will present to OTF in April

Zoe Feinstein – Rep. Frankel’s Office

- The Representative and his staff are preparing for a Town Hall meeting on the budget. Contact Zoe if you have any questions.

Kannu Sahni – Pitt

- March 28, CGR & PittServes will be holding their Spring Day of Service. Please get in touch with Kannu if you have a project in mind.

- Will be attending and passing out student guides at the PittStart spring events.

Wanda Wilson – OPDC

- PAA Hotel will go before the HRC around April 1 and the Planning Commission later in April.
- Senator Costa will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Career Center on March 11.

Meg Nowalk – CHP

- Has been fighting a two year battle over traffic concerns on Euler Way. Clinic entrance on Euler has led to many near accidents with patients coming and going. Had learned that speed signs were to have been ordered in December, if OTF can do anything to expedite, it would be appreciated.

Mavis Rainey – OTMA

- The Birmingham Bridge north bound lane will close through mid-November on March 13. OTMA will be sending out an email blast giving detours.