

Consensus Monthly Meeting Minutes

For December 9, 2011

Planning Forum/Master Plan - Renee Aldrich gave an update on the purpose of the Planning forum. Ms. Aldrich shared information that was presented in regard to a project in Uptown to convert the historic Shanahan building to residential units. Renee reported that at least 15 residents have attended consistently and encouraged all community residents to attend and participate in Planning Forum Meetings. Bonnie Young Liang spoke about the Hill District Master Plan and the need for broad community input to move the Master Plan forward in a way that best serves the community. For more information about the Planning forum contact Renee Aldrich at 412 697-4692 for dates and locations.

First Source Center—SEA Staff reported on the progress of demolition of the arena. Planning meeting for the lower Hill will begin January. Some discussion was held in regard to the sale of ornaments made from the metal roof. Proceeds go to the Mario Lemieux Foundation. Scott spoke about meetings to begin community input for lower Hill development. Please contact Vicki Pittrell at 412 281-8488 for information about First Source hiring.

NPP –No report

Grocery Store –Jason Matthews, Max Starks III and Renee gave an update on the project progress. They shared that the Section 3 participation has exceeded the projected goals for minority employment; they are working with Garfield Jubilee and First Source Center and Divine Intervention Ministries to hire for the grocery store, both on the construction phase and the store itself. In regard to the date for the store opening being pushed back, it is now scheduled to open in Oct. 2012. Contact Renee Robinson at Garfield Jubilee 412 665-5200

YMCA No report

Discussion Items

Casino Fund –Growth Development Fund

Rep. Wheatley shared that the group has brought on a chair and consultants to set up a growth fund. It had been requested to assist NPP with a bridge loan. The rep. shared that the direction and process for interaction with entities wanting to take advantage of the Hill Growth Fund is still being developed. He anticipates the fund will be ready to accept proposals by next spring. Rep Wheatley clarified that the Growth Fund for the Hill District is a stand-alone, separate entity which will make decisions that the Board of the fund deem necessary. The fund he shared, notwithstanding funds already allocated to bolster the Hill CDC, will be for development purposes only. The Board of the fund will make decisions amongst themselves. For more information or clarification, call the People's Office at 412 471-7760

Propel School-Community Conversation

Derric Heck and Jeremy Reznick came to present the Propel School Model to the HDCG, he spoke about his observation of the Consensus Group as a table at which people can come together to work for the good of the community as a whole. He referenced the reasons for coming to speak to us as follows. Propel is concerned about quality education, the school has students from the Hill District the school has had visitors with inquiries about Propel from Hill residents. They gave a brief history of Propel and description of the student body and experience at Propel.

The school is seeking input as to improve education overall in the city and wants to specifically come into the Hill District to serve our children. A presentation was shown to support the claims that Propel's higher student expectations have resulted in higher gains in achievement. The community was invited to come into the school to see what is going on there. Propel staff were encouraged to work with the Hill District Education Council to address the needs of our school age children and youth. For more information please contact Mr. Heck at Propel School 412 325-7305

Presentation:

Next Green Leaders-Seed Grants for Green Initiatives-Proceeds from the 1st Uphill 5k were given to Hill District initiatives that promote greening of the community. The 5k proceeds were utilized to give seed grants of \$1000.00 to: Ujamaa Collective, Dwayne Cooper Garden, Tustin St. Garden and Pittsburgh Youth for Green Entrepreneurship. For more information contact NEXT Green Leaders at 412 258-6672

Elected Officials Report

Tom Sumpter encouraged residents to sign up to speak at the next School Board meeting, He announced Dr. Regina Holly's coming on to the Board and is looking forward to the "breath of fresh air". Please visit the PBOE website to stay informed of issues that affect our children.

Harry Johnson from Councilman Lavelle's office spoke about meetings beginning this month to begin community input for Lower Hill Development. Please call Harry at 412 255-2134 for more information.

Announcements – Angel Gober from Northside Coalition for Fair Housing spoke about the Women's Walk for Peace for 2012. The group desires to make the Walk a citywide event. To get involved in the planning for next year please contact Northside Coalition For Fair Housing at 412 321-5527

Mr. Redwood announced the existence of Occupy the Hood which is organizing to address issues that affect African Americans in Pittsburgh. Visit the Occupy Pgh POC working group page on FB to learn more and get meeting dates and times.

Eric Ewell requested on behalf of University Prep Academy for residents to volunteer at the school to serve as hallway and lunchroom monitors. Please call Eric at 412 481-9808

Tamanika Howze urged the community as a whole to advocate for the education of our children and to support Ujamaa collective for cultural gifts this holiday season.

Thom Sumpter from Friends of the MLK Library shared that the Library is hosting a Sweet Potato Pie contest in Feb, 2012, those wishing to participate should call the Library at 412 622-6270

The Hill Consensus Group would like to congratulate Mr. Lloyd Wright on his commitment to Hill District Issues as he retires from Senator Jim Ferlo's Office. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

The Mission of the Hill District Consensus Group

Is to work together through the differences, and with the commonalities, so to establish and enforce standards and processes in all aspects of community life: economic, political, spiritual and social for the on-going health and prosperity of the community.