

HDCG Minutes for March 9, 2012

Planning Forum,

Renee Aldrich explained the Planning forum is a meeting that is held once a month it involves 9 to 12 members from all over the community who come and make sure that the master plan is followed. Developers in the area who want some kind of support from the local government must run their plans by the forum before any resources are given out by the city council. That is the ideal situation that planning forum is here to promote.

Image and Identity

Bonnie Young Laing shared information about current HDCG activities. The HDCG is working with the Clean Green Hill, publicizing their activities and help to engage in advocacy. We are supporting a member and beautifying our neighbor. Carlos Richardson, who is a Landscape Architect helping with that.

The issue of comprehensive vacant property plan. We have selected a consultant. This is a part of the Master plan. We will develop a comprehensive vacancy plan that developers and others can use to reclaim and use those lands. With the information gathered a searchable database will be developed.

Irene Mclaughlin is working on the issue of tangled titles, allowing people to figure out who owns the land they are living on and fixing the issue for them. There is a piece on open space which will look at open lots.

Continuing efforts to work on the transportation issue. Looking at where there are needs for bus transportation through surveys. We are working with the Hill House and Uptown Partnership to figure out how to service people living in the upper parts of the community, either through a shuttle or a jitney service.

Jobs Report and SEA (Sports and Exhibition Authority)

Clarence Curry announced that Hill Resident, Sala Udin has been appointed to the SEA Board. Another roof panel on the Civic arena is down. The goal for minority employment is 35% we are currently at 32%. There was an approval for a contract reward of 1.9 million dollars for Michael Baker engineers to do the design work for the Lower Hill site. The work will include road work, sidewalks, utilities, and sewers. Of the \$1.9 million \$505 million to minorities one of the minority business' to benefit is John J. Clark and Associates. The biggest share is going to Cosmos Technology, for sewer work. There are also three women owned business. Most of the minorities employed have been involved in the asbestos abatement work.

Demolition should wrap up late May early June. SEA is responsible for the demolition and the clearing of the site. They determine the street grid, the Pens decide what goes on the street grid. There is a public involvement component with open meetings being held for community input.

When construction begins parking spaces will be lost, they will work to find other locations for new parking spaces. All the consensus demands are in the master plan. April 12th the HDCG needs to be at the Zoning meeting, at least fifty people. An email will be sent.

First Source

Going forward they are about to begin the hiring process for the new season at the CONSOL Arena. Anyone seeking retention numbers can visit the First Source Center for information. This information will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Thelma Lovett YMCA

Four and a half years and there are less than thirty days till the Y is opened. The Gym floor and track are done. The water will be going into the pool next. Always remember the history of the Centre Ave. YMCA. More Membership is needed.

New program involving camps. Opportunity to send 200 kids to camp for a week at the low cost of fifty dollars. Sleeping bags, flashlights and hygiene products come free. 25 Kids are needed to fill these spots.

Soft opening for the Y is April 2nd. On the 21st there is a community event at the Y. To purchase a membership you can go online or call the YMCA on Centre Ave.

Grocery Store

The Huffington Post came to learn about the Hill District resulting in the Post publishing a thirteen page piece on the Hill.

The grocery store is on track to getting done. Leslie Ainsley is the artist that will do the murals for the store. They will be images etched into the building. . By the end of the summer, the building will be done. Still there will be more interior work that needs to be done. The Hill House EDC has made a change in leadership; Rob Farmer is stepping up his role to make sure that the entire project continues to move forward.

The Hill House welcomes SPUR

Southwestern Pennsylvania Urban Revitalization is government funded for two years. They offer free training in the Healthcare and Energy fields. It is collaboration with CCAC and the Hill CDC. There is no race or age requirement. They are trying to help people who have been laid off of their jobs. There will be an informational session on April 21st in the Hill House Auditorium. 10am to Noon, then 1pm to 3pm. There will be info on SPUR, plus the opportunity to fill out an application and set up an appointment.

PHRESH Project Update

The research project has been going on since last May, gathering data about the eating, shopping habits in the Hill and Homewood. The goal was to interview 1000 Hill residents and 600 in Homewood. They were able to interview 900 hill residents and 400 in Homewood. The participants were randomly selected. The long term research question is if an urban grocery store will make residents eat healthier. A second part was to go to every food venue in the Hill District and Homewood. They will present the data on that at the next meeting.

Habitat for Humanity

Barry Martin habitat coordinator in Pittsburgh shared information on their proposed programs in the Hill to benefit homeowners. The first program is new construction. Habitat built five houses on Wylie Ave. Sweat equity pays for the down payment on a habitat house. Then the family enters into a mortgage with habitat not a bank. The mortgage is 30 years and interest free. The second program is rehab. Rehabbing houses that families currently live in, and rehabbing houses that a family will move into. This is on a zero percent interest loan that is worked out. The third program is called Brush with Kindness; it is an exterior home repair program. Fixes porches and siding and installing new windows. They offer a zero percent interest loan. The last program is called Weatherization. Offer different repairs on the home so that your utility bill is cut down. There are potential projects in the Hill. First off they are looking to do some things with Macedonia Church and Duquesne University. The Habitat runs a store in Edgewood. They take donations of bricks, lumber and furniture. They sell it at 30% of the price.