



**Penn Avenue Corridor
Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC)
Thursday, July 9, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.
BGC Activity Center**

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Brian Krul (BK)/Kimball; Keith Halas (KH)/Kimball; Ryan Sheran (RS) Kimball; Patrick Hassett (PH)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Grady Roberts Jr. (GR)/BGC Board; Lindsay Myers (LM)/City of Pgh., DPW; Patrick Roberts (PR)/City of Pittsburgh; Ken Stiles (KS)/FDA & FPG; Sean Capperis (SC)/Councilman Dowd's Office; Melissa Rubin (MR)/PWSA; Shelly Martz (SM)/DCP; Karen Loysen (KL)/L+K Architects; Dave Green/L+K Architects; Maria Riley/Klavon Design Associates; Aggie Brose (AB)/BGC; Deadra Keener (DK)/BGC; Matt Galluzzo (MG)/PAAI & FDA; Maureen Ford (MF)/LC

- I. **AB called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.**
- II. **Motion to Approve the June Meeting Minutes**
 - PH: Had some clarifications on the highlighted areas. Approve contingent upon those clarifications.
 - BK: Kimball did try to fill in some of those blanks before putting the draft on the website.
 - SM moved to approve, SC seconded.
- III. **Updated Timeline & Monthly Status report**

Monthly Status Report

 - BK passed out and went through monthly status report handout (via PP).
 - BK: Down to a couple tasks that need to be completed. The newsletter is done. Copies are available and it is also posted on the website.
 - PH: The recommendation is also on the website (had KH click on the link to show the group).
 - BK: Looking to finalize the Traffic & Pedestrian Report by the end of next week. Then Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan will actually be a comprehensive document that includes all of the reports along with the plan.
 - PH: 80% of the plan is drafted. Kimball needs to provide a lot of the info. Focus is on the Needs Analysis, how the needs were quantified, the needs table, how selected from that table. Then gets into the project identifications costs and how the committee then came to the official recommendation. The last section will describe Phase 1 and 2 scope. At least a dozen appendices will be packaged into the one document. Hope to have a draft by next meeting.
 - BK: Are we moving to bi-monthly meetings after next month?
 - PH: **ACTION:** On next month's agenda, we need to talk about transitioning from who we are now to what we need to be, rethinking the role of this group. Want to make sure that we are structured appropriately to move forward.
 - AB: Yes, we always need to be focused on how best to keep moving forward.
 - BK: Are meetings still going to include the entire corridor?

- PH: No, the focus for the bi-monthly meetings should be Phase 1. Some of us may still meeting monthly regarding the entire corridor.

IV. Streetscape Design

- MG: Will defer mostly to Loysen + Kreuthmeier representatives in presenting. L+K have been making incredible strides and we encourage you all to visit their office and see the visuals and progress themselves.
- KL: Will do an overview of where we are at. We're trying to create a consistency in design from Doughboy Square to Negley, but still allow to bob and weave and change as needed.
- KL passed out packet of design plan to date for the group to refer to. Pointed out that the document is set up area by area in the beginning.
- KL: Have components that are integrated, inserted and then add-ons (such as public art), which could be funded separately from construction but would become a part of the streetscape. Know that fixtures have to be easily installed and replaceable.
- PH: And biddable. The City has about a dozen types of light fixtures in inventory. **ACTION:** You should talk to Ben Carlise regarding the kit of parts that the City has.
- KL: We're looking to do something other than the community standard.
- PH: This will require substantial conversation. The City manages a kit of parts so that they can attend to issues within 24 hours. Would need to know what kits to keep on the shelf.
- KL: As far as we know, no current kit exists that has everything we envision. So what we're trying to do is make a body of parts that look good and work together.
- MG: What we heard from the Mayor's Office is agreement that there is currently too much sidewalk clutter, so we are trying to consolidate coherently.
- KL: Our inclination is for a simple clean design. Instead of being a figural piece of the streetscape, the fixtures would be understated and background.
- PH: It's bucking the trend.
- PR: But we can try.
- PH: In concept this could work. **ACTION (to KL):** You need to come in and we can sit down with Ben Carlise and we'll see what is possible.
- KL: On the fixtures with lower lights, the lower lights could be more for enhancement rather than just functionality, but the rest would be standard.
- PH: I notice that parking meters are not included in here.
- KL: It would be great if those could also be in the kit of parts.
- PR: The feedback is that parking kiosks are what the City is moving towards.
- A brief parking meter versus kiosks discussion occurred. PH advised that the current issue with kiosks is the cost of \$10,000 and that the Federal Highway will not reimburse for the kiosks because they are revenue generating.
- MG: Can we assert local control over parking? Enforcement of parking and meters in the East End is currently lacking. Nationally, the trend is moving towards neighborhood organizations taking over local parking enforcement.
- PH: My concern right now is that we have an engineer at the table that needs to draw something up for the final plan. Should pay stations also be on the list of kit of parts?

- MG: Should we then do two sets of plans, one with meters and the other with kiosks?
- PH: No, just label parking meters/pay stations. **ACTION:** BK and I will have a meeting with the Parking Authority to see what they recommend, meters or pay stations.
- PH (to KL and MG): Have you met with the Parking Authority?
- MG: No, but that is a good idea to have a conversation with them.
- KL: Anyone notice anything that we may have missed?
- PH: Bollards?
- KL: We thought about bollards, but are not sure where any would be located. Maybe at Penn & Main if that building goes away. But if there is not a space for them, then it is a moot point. They, and other options, could be added to the set if needed.
- PR: What about bike stands?
- LK: Could be the City standard.
- PR: Just trying to think of other items that may need to be on the sidewalks, like benches. Does the list need to be exhaustive?
- KL: Benches could vary according to the districts. They will be part of the placemaking items listed at the side of the district-by-district maps. (Pointed out in the packet how it will appear.)
- RS: How about the bus stops?
- LK: That is part of another section.
- PH: Think that you are on the right track regarding distinguishing integrated, inserted and add-on features.
- PH: **ACTION:** Let's set up a meeting to discuss further in my office.
- MG (to KL): We should meet beforehand.
- PH: **ACTION** (to LK): Call Jeannie, my secretary, to set up the meeting. Let's also include PR, BK, AB and Ben Carlise in the meeting.
- AB: Perhaps we should move on and then maybe come back to this, as some folks need to leave early.
- KL: Just quickly regarding the transit streetscape. Though we want to use a different style of bus shelter, there would still be the same amount of ad space and also space for a local tidbit and bus route info. Our thought is to take the pylon on the end and separate it out so that it is a separate element.
- SC: Not sure who is taking the lead, but there is some buzz in Council regarding moving from the standard to more stylized bus shelters.
- PR (to SC): We need to discuss further outside of this meeting.
- KL: It is mostly bus stops in our corridor. There are not many bus shelters.
- KS: How many shelters will we have?
- BK: That is to be determined through further discussions with PAT.
- PR: There is also a push to do indoor transit stops.
- PH (to KL): How far away are you from finalizing?
- KL: Possibly by the end of July.
- BK: We need the finalized Streetscape Design Plan to include in the final document.
- MG (to PH): We should have a working product by August. Let's have a timeline conversations offline and then come back to the group.

- BK (to KL): If you could have a draft final by the August meeting, we will have our draft final and then we can wrap up by the end of August.
- Group discussion to determine the August meeting date, as several folks have vacations planned. Decided on Thursday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m. for the next meeting date. Location will be back at the usual location, the BGC Activity Center at 113 N. Pacific Ave.
- BK: I'll be on vacation that week, but other Kimball representatives will fill in.
- RS: The first Thursday in September is Labor Day weekend, so we may want to move that meeting day back a week as well.
- **ACTION:** Draft final reports due by August meeting.
- **ACTION:** BK requested that DK finish the July meeting minutes draft early, as he will be out of the office the week of the next meeting.
- Discussion occurred to set up a smaller group meeting to discuss the Streetscape Design Plan further. **ACTION:** A meeting focusing on the Streetscape Design Plan is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15 at 1:30 p.m. at PH's office.

V. **Phasing Plan Recommendations**

- PH: Heard from some public officials. Met with the Mayor and with Councilman Dowd and have their support. Need to contact Rev. Burgess. Next we will issue a letter to all stakeholders, public and private. Anyone who would have an interest or hand in this project. The purpose of the letter is to get out there who we are and what we're doing. Will include the recommendation and newsletter. Ready to issue now that we have the Mayor on board. Originally AB and I were going to sign the letter, but now the Mayor is willing to sign. So the letter will be drafted as a mayoral letter. After sending the letter, we'll then meet personally with those interested in meeting and talk with the Federal Highway, as they are key in advancing this project. May talk to them next week because they are in town. (Referencing approval pyramid chart) By the next meeting, all of those in the hierarchy should be informed of the project.
- PH (to KL): What we need from L+K to announce the project is a schematic plan of Phase 1 showing how it will be transformed, illustrating the five block area. Will include that in the final report.
- AB: We also need to meet with Mike Doyle.
- PH: And Preston and Burgess
- MG: And Dom Costa?
- **ACTION:** AB will set up the meetings for her and PH to meet with the above.
- PH: The other big challenge is funding. Don't have all of the funding in place, which will stop us dead in the water. We have another year to line up funding. AB and I have an application into Doyle for an earmark, which we are counting on for the \$3.3 million shortfall.

VI. **Preliminary Engineering/ Final Design Progress**

Environmental Documentation – Scoping Field View

- BK: A meeting will be held with PennDOT District 11. We are working to set up a date in August for a field view.

Scope and Price Update

- BK: Has been submitted to the City. In two weeks we will sit down with Steve. Trying to move as quickly as possible.

Schedule

- BK handed out copies of the best guess for the construction schedule.
- BK: Take a look and if you have any questions, we can talk about them at the next meeting.

VII. Old/New Business

PWSA

- MR: There are no PWSA updates.
- PH: We need to figure out how to get PWSA plugged into the preliminary engineering design process. Let's get a meeting set up with Michael Kenney.
- **ACTION:** AB will set up the meeting with her, PH and Michael Kenney.
- MR: **ACTION:** You should also ask for Don Waldorf to be there.

Website

- BK: We started tracking the website hits.
- KH: Since tracking started, there have been 53 separate hits.
- Brief discussion followed about how folks can find the site and who is visiting. That information cannot be determined, only number of hits.

Engaging Penn Avenue Businesses

- AB: The Mayor asked if we are engaging businessmen along the corridor, so we should set up a meeting specifically with the businesses. Hopefully the community groups at the table can assist with organizing and turnout.
- MG: An idea I've been thinking about is to talk to other communities that have experienced disruption due to construction. If construction is not for three more years, though, businesses could be in a very different place by then. Is this something that we need to do right now?
- SC: This is one of Ferlo's concerns as well, not to disrupt the businesses.
- PH: I'm thinking mainly of the businesses in that first five-block area. Then they and other businesses can be a part of the process if they want to be. Would an August meeting date work?
- SC: Councilman Dowd's office would like to be involved in that meeting, too.
- MG: The PAAI has a "State of the Avenue" annual meeting scheduled for September, so we could certainly make this a part of that meeting's agenda.
- Discussion ensued debating having a standalone meeting versus combining with PAAI's meeting. Points made included: 1) having two business-related meetings so close together could negatively affect attendance at one or both meetings, and 2) that the PACPP portion of the meeting was so important that some feared it could be minimized if just part of the meeting agenda. MG assured the committee that the PAAI meeting agenda could consist exclusively of the PACPP. This helped convince the committee to hold just one meeting.
- MG asked whether the date of Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. would work for the PAAI meeting. The committee agreed upon that date and time.
- AB: Where would the meeting be held?
- MG: Likely either Most Wanted Fine Arts or Modern Formations, but we can make a decision on that later.

Other

- DK: Please note that AB's new email address is aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org.
- SC: I'd like to announce that I will be stepping down to attend graduate school in NYC to obtain a Masters in Public Administration. They will have a replacement by then, who will attend these meetings.

- The committee expressed congratulations and gratitude for his commitment to the PACPPC.

VIII. **Adjourn**

- **Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, August 13 @ 9:00 a.m. (at BGC Activity Center)