



**Penn Avenue Corridor
Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC)
Thursday, May 7, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.
BGC Activity Center**

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Aggie Brose (AgB)/BGC; Deadra Keener (DK)/BGC; Brian Krul (BK)/Kimball; Keith Halas (KH)/Kimball; Maureen Ford (MF)/LC; Sidney Kaikai (SK)/Kimball; Sara Ralich (SR)/LU; Ken Stiles (KS)/FDA & FPG; Eric Hess (EH)/Children's Hospital; Lindsay Myers (LM)/City of Pgh., DPW; Amanda Broadwater (AmB)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Patrick Hassett (PH)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Sean Capperis (SC)/Councilman Dowd's Office; Shelly Martz (SM)/DCP; Katherine Camp (KC)/ELDI; Grady Roberts Jr. (GR)/BGC Board; Matt Galluzzo (MG)/PAAI & FDA; John Clark (JC)/john j. Clark & Associates

I. AgB called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

II. Motion to Approve the April Meeting Minutes

- PH: Two comments: 1) the Action item for him and Aggie to meet with Michael Kenney, PWSA's Executive Director, before the public meeting did not happen because he agreed on the phone to attend the public meeting; 2) Emailed corrections to the conversation on pages 2 and 3 about who approves the proposed phasing. This is a very important piece, so we need to make sure it is correct in the minutes.
- PH: Are the stakeholders listed correctly?
- AgB: Yes.
- PH: Please make a note I emailed the corrections to DK yesterday.
- **ACTION:** DK will make the corrections and email the final version to BK and PH.
- PH motioned to approve, MG seconded, none opposed.

III. Updated Timeline & Monthly Status report

Monthly Status Report

- BK passed out handout with updates and went through the updates and PP presentation. Handout will be posted to the website.
- The following reports are finalized: Accident Report, Neighborhood Assets Report, Pavement and Sidewalk Condition Survey Report, Streetscaping and Street Tree Report, Lighting Report, Bicycle Report.
- The Existing Condition Plans and Signing and Pavement Marking Plans are done and posted on the website.
- The Transit Report final draft is done and is ready for the City's final review.
- Final comments were received from the City on the Traffic and Pedestrian Report, and revisions are underway.
- Waiting on the City to complete the Needs Analysis.
- Public Meeting #2 took place on April 16, 2009.
- The Public Meeting #2 Feedback Report final draft will be completed in May.

- The Project Identification & Prioritization draft report will be done in May.
- The Corridor Phasing Plan Approvals process will take place in May and June.
- The PACPPC will have their final recommendation for Phase 1 of the Corridor Phasing Plan in June.
- Kimball's Technical and Price Proposal for preliminary engineering and final design projected to go to the City in June.
- Preliminary Engineering Scoping Meeting scheduled for May 12.
- BK: As far as next steps, we are moving forward on Phase 1.
- PH: And we will start pulling everything together to define Phase 1.

IV. **Public Meeting**

Feedback from the Public & PACPPC

- BK: Currently putting together notes from the meeting. John Clark and Sidney Kaikai are taking the lead on putting the report together.
- SK: Asked for a show of hands of those who attended the public meeting. Most of those present raised their hands. Advised that the April 16 meeting attendance was good but not great, as compared to the first public meeting. Thinks partly because of other meetings that were scheduled that night. The format was similar to the first meeting. 57 total people signed in, including some PACPPC members, 7 business owners, 2 commuters, 16 residents, 8 walkers and 19 "other".
- AgB: What poor attendance.
- BK: It was a successful turnout as compared with a recent Moon Township public meeting for a major project, which only 3 people from the public attended.
- SK: Read some of the attendees' questions aloud and the answers that were given and reviewed the comments sheets that were turned in.
- AgB: Asked about if the funding appropriations application was signed and sent out to Congressman Doyle's office?
- PH: Yes, it was sent to Doyle's office. ***Subsequently included on Doyle's submissions.
- AgB: Did any community groups receive any calls from the community about the meeting?
- MG: Jen Quinio and Loysen + Kreuthmeier both contacted me to request that Phase 1 extend to Millvale.
- AgB: Yes, Freddie Croce also called the BGC about the same issue.
- BK: I got a call from Lloyd Wright in Senator Ferlo's office following up.
- AgB: He also came into our office to ask how the news was received from the public and to get a copy of the meeting materials.
- PH: **ACTION:** I should call him to follow up and sit down with him and the staff. ***Follow up: PH and Lloyd Wright have been playing phone tag.
- BK: Any feedback on how it was received by Council and the Mayor?
- AgB: Kim Graziani from the Mayor's Office was there and seemed supportive.
- SC: Councilman Dowd was there for more information.
- SK: Who is our other Council member?
- AgB: Rev. Ricky Burgess.
- SK: Does he know that we are engaging in this project?
- SC: Shawn Carter, from Burgess' office, was at the last public meeting.
- AgB: He is aware but not engaged.
- PH (to SC): Let me know if Councilman Dowd would like to meet for more info.

- PH: We will need approval from Council to receive funds.
- AgB: Maybe we should present to all of Council?
- PH: Now would be the time to do that.
- AgB: We can talk about this at the next meeting.
- PH: **ACTION:** We need to bring Councilman Burgess into the fold.
- AgB: Should we go through Councilman Shields to request to be put on the agenda?
- SC: You can go through our office.

Future Public Involvement

- PH: Future public involvement consists of: 1) This committee and our meetings; 2) Web presence (City's site, community group's site and Kimball's site); 3) we're available to present and discuss at community group meetings; 4) Another public meeting or two once we get into final design.
- BK (to PH): Do you foresee public meetings for Phases 2 and 3?
- PH: Don't know at this time, but it is very likely.
- AmB: So there will be a meeting before construction begins on Phase 1 and then possibly for other phases, too?
- PH: Yes.
- BK: There is an environmental document that needs to be put together that will need to have a community meeting; but that could be this meeting.
- AgB: So we can say we will have meetings as needed.
- PH: Yes.
- GR: Can this project be stopped?
- AgB: No.
- PH: No, but delays and down scoping are always a possibility.

Conclusions

- JC: There were a number of factors that impacted attendance. Feel the meeting info should be disseminated as widely and publicly as possible to make sure that the public is aware and can't come back later saying they didn't know.
- KS: How many hits on the website?
- BK: We are not counting hits. Should we do counts?
- PH: Sure, we could; but we may be disappointed. There is also the discussion blog.
- JC: We should also keep using the newspaper for those who do not have internet access.
- PH: We could do a press release. We can take JC's recommendation under consideration. Maybe we can do this as part of a larger expose on the area.
- AgB: Maybe Diana Nelson Jones can do a feature.
- PH: We want the public to know how they can stay engaged.
- BK: Will these monthly meetings continue or will they become bi-monthly or quarterly meetings?
- PH: There will be a respite during the summer while we get contracts together. Think at most we can have bi-monthly meetings during that time, maybe quarterly.
- AmB: When would that start?
- PH: Let's say bi-monthly meetings, starting in September.

V. Phase 1 Discussion

- PH passed out three handouts.
- PH: If we move the start up to Millvale, it will increase the cost by about \$750,000, which are the hard and soft costs combined. So it would take the project from 5 to 5 and ¾ million dollars. There are two ways to deal with this: 1) successful fundraising, and 2) economizing/right-sizing.
- MG: Any thought given to moving the other border back from Atlantic to Pacific?
- PH asked what is on that block and AB described.
- PH: The main concern with that is that the Penn/Atlantic intersection is the highest need intersection, and there are no public comments on cutting back like there are comments to extend to Millvale.
- GR voiced opinion to keep the Atlantic to Pacific block.
- JC: Do not see what is wrong with stopping at Gross.
- MG: Aesthetically it makes sense to extend to Millvale.
- AgB: What is the possibility of getting more funding?
- PH: Hard to say, maybe 50/50.
- KC: What elements would be lost with right-sizing?
- PH: Anything not related to safety, like benches and decorative pavement. Might also look at alternative ways of achieving the project.
- BK: Without the Millvale intersection, the cost would be \$5,476,000. Including the intersection, the cost would be \$5,949,600. That is hard and soft costs combined. None of those costs include burying utilities.
- PH: Right now it is a \$4.9 million project.
- MF: Could different funding sources be tacked on to the same contract?
- PH & AmB: Yes.
- MG: There is the argument that Mathilda and Penn is the gateway to the district, and that Mathilda to Evaline is the main business district.
- DK: This could open a can of worms, as the project would then not be based on the greatest need.
- MG: But it does still include some of the greatest need blocks. Do we have to decide today?
- BK: The quicker you decide, the quicker this can move forward.
- AgB asked the community groups when their next board meetings were in order for each group to discuss with their board and gain approval.
- PH: We could go back and parse out what 5 million can get us if we go from Atlantic to Gross.
- BK: The 5 million isn't even guaranteed, is it?
- PH: No, as streetscape projects are becoming less of a priority than infrastructure projects.
- BK: But this is really more of an infrastructure project than a streetscape one.
- PH: Yes. And a lot of the streetscape elements could be fundraise-able.
- KS: How much money is in the budget for streetscaping?
- BK: About ½ million.
- PH: So the recommendation of the committee is to extend to Millvale, including the intersection?
- PH (to BK): Can we do a right-sizing exercise?
- BK: Yes.

- **ACTION:** PH and BK will do a right-sizing exercise and report back to the committee any major problems with extending to Millvale. ***Follow up: Instead a subcommittee convened to further consider secondary options, such as shifting boundaries.
- AgB: The committee will then make a decision next month.
- AgB (to PH): So you'll have the letter to sign off on with the final decision?
ACTION: This month the groups can take this information back to the individual boards saying definitely to Gross and maybe to Millvale. All of the groups will have to sign the letter.
- AgB (to PH): Do we need a working group meeting to draft the letter before the next meeting?
- PH: Sure.
- The committee members checked their calendars. **ACTION:** A working group meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18 at 1:30 p.m. at Kimball's office, in the Frick Building (across from the City-County Bldg.) on the 8th Floor. Report to the mezzanine level. BK will have pizza. *** Follow up: No pizza present!
- SR: Tony Ceoffe is on vacation until May 20, so he will probably not be able to attend the meeting.
- AgB: As long as someone is there from LU to speak on Tony's behalf that is fine.
- **ACTION:** At the meeting, BK will have the right-sizing info and BK/PH will have a general draft of the support letter. ***Follow up: The meeting focused on boundary options and not rightsizing. The letter was drafted post meeting.

VI. **Old/New Business**

- SM: Was at a meeting with the Bloomfield Dev. Corp. the other day, and they are going to be doing a study which will include Millvale and Liberty intersection. They are interested in talking to us about what we're doing.
- PH: No, as the projects do not mesh and worried where that will take us. There will be some coordination because of AmB's and my involvement with that study.
PWSA
- AgB: Noted that Melissa Rubin not present and that she and PH need to stay in regular touch with the Exec. Director, Michael Kenney.
Streetscape Design
- MG: There is a meeting today at 11:00 a.m. at Loysen + Kreuthmeier's office. Met with them yesterday and think that they are making incredible progress. Looking at Avenue in three ways: Implied, Integrated and Inserted. It is an interesting way to look at it, including from a funding viewpoint. There is a meeting today and then the next meeting is scheduled for May 28 at 9:00 a.m. The final presentation will be at 11:00 a.m. on June 4.
- BK: How does the Phase 1 defined area impact K+K's scope and finished project?
- MG: They are advocating a Millvale Avenue start for Phase 1. What is good about the phasing approach is that it gives a chance to see how the ideas work in the first area before starting on the next phase.
- AmB: Keep in mind when looking at ideas from Seattle and the Northwest that they do not have the snow and ice that we have.
- MG: Getting calls from folks interested the project. Have a meeting with the county next Thursday at 2:00 p.m., per their request, to discuss bond financing.

VII. Adjourn

- AgB moved to adjourn, PH seconded.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 4 @ 9:00 a.m.