



**Penn Avenue Corridor
Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC)
Thursday, October 1, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.
BGC Activity Center**

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Aggie Brose (AgB)/BGC; Paula Martinac (PM)/The Bulletin; Elaine Zelmanov (EZ)/Councilman Dowd's Office; Matt Galluzzo (MG)/PAAI & FDA; Ryan Sheran (RS)/Kimball; Patrick Hassett (PH)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Zaga Shaun/City of Pittsburgh Intern; Grady Roberts Jr. (GR)/BGC Board

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

- II. **Motion to Approve the August Meeting Minutes**
 - AgB: Will anyone motion to approve the August Meeting Minutes?
 - PH: I have no corrections.
 - PH motioned to approve, MG seconded.

- III. **Streetscape Design**
 - MG: The Streetscape Design Plans are finished and I will get copies out to whoever needs one.
 - PH: Ryan, can we also get that posted to the website?
 - MG: Yes, I will forward a digital copy over to Ryan at Kimball for uploading onto the website.
 - MG: I would also like to mention that I have been in contact with two private foundations regarding L+K's Streetscape Design. They were both very impressed with what they saw and would like to team up with L+K on some of the things in their catalogue.
 - PH: On the topic of L+K, after talking with Brian we need to negotiate their proposal before finalizing the overall engineering scope.
 - MG: I plan to take the applied and inserted sections from L+K's plans and use this as my main selling point to these private foundations in order to get them on board. The light poles are an example of something that they are interested in adding art onto, but in order to do that we need an inventory of how many light poles we are talking about in order for them to get a price. It's my understanding the city doesn't have them just lying around.
 - PH: We have a small inventory but rely on the manufacturer for timely delivery.
 - PH: L+K and Kimball will need to work together in order to get items from the catalogue onto the final plans. The stormwater pits will probably be the most challenging.
 - RS: Will we need to design the stormwater system to handle the full amount of runoff not including the pits?
 - PH: Yes, that's my understanding.
 - MG: I will meet with the Surdna Foundation, Arts and Economic divisions next week. I will keep everyone informed. They may want to see unit prices for say, benches.

- PH: L+K should be able to come up with a number for that.

IV. **Letter to Officials**

- PH: I brought copies for everyone's files; there are letters for every public official. They are all identical except for the name and one paragraph which is personalized.
- MG: Have we received any feedback yet?
- PH: No, but I think that's a good thing. There were two emails from Jim Ferlo before the letter was sent out. He doesn't agree with the money being used on Penn Avenue. He thinks it should be used on Liberty Avenue or in East Liberty.
- RS: If we add the letter to public officials as an appendix in the final report do we want to include all of them or just one?
- PH: I think we should just include one but it should not be addressed to anyone in particular.
- RS: I will need to get a copy of it from you in Microsoft Word format then.
- PH: I will get that over to you.
- PH: So, with no outstanding objections or reactions to the letters thus far, we are moving forward.
- AgB: On to the final report status, Ryan.
- RS: We just received our final comments back from PH this week and we are putting the final touches on it now. It should be ready by next week. We will post it on the website.
- PH: We want to get it up on the website as well as get a hardcopy out to all the PACPPC members. Get it over to me and I will take care of that.
- PH: We have also submitted this project for the Best Practice Award with the American Planning Association.

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

- PH: We are in the final stages of the getting the scope and price together and Brian Krul has been in contact with people from my office and PennDOT. Once it is approved by everyone then it goes to PennDOT for approval. It will then come back with comments that need addressed or no comments, then we get it all signed. I am hopeful all of this happens by January 1, 2010 so we can get preliminary engineering started then.

VI. **Old/New Business**

PWSA

- PH: No updates from PWSA, and that's an issue. We need to have a meeting with them to get more specific with them regarding our scope. Let's have a one-on-one with Mickey Kenney and get this on the to do list.

Other

- MG: I recommend looking at plans on a project similar to ours. I was just in Cleveland a few weeks ago and saw the Detroit Shoreway project in Gordon Square. Maybe some of us could take a field trip up there, it's only two hours and it may be good to compare ideas.
- PH: Do they have a website?
- MG: I'll look, I'll be up there again in two weeks and I am going to try and set up a meeting with Matt Zone the councilman involved with the project.

- AgB: A doctor I know saw a streetscape model similar to ours in Denver. She mentioned there were colored meters for handicapped spaces which were painted blue and ones that were painted red which were designated as donations to the homeless. I just thought it was an interesting idea I'd like to share.
- PH: Matt, has anything come of the street tree opportunity?
- MG: That is still in the works, we had a meeting with Lisa Ceoffe and we need to follow up with that.
- AgB: The public is concerned about corridor needs being addressed now.
- MG: Some businesses don't want trees in front of their property.
- PH: The city owns and maintains the trees and we have the Tree Tender Program in place to maintain trees and maintenance is what concerns most businesses.
- MG: They are also concerned about blocking of their signs and the sidewalks getting torn up.
- PH: We will have a discussion on a case-by-case basis and see if we can get them comfortable with trees. L+K has put together a fairly compelling case for street trees and their benefits.

VII. **Future PACPPC Plans**

- As the corridor phasing plan comes to an end, it's implementation begins and beyond the federally funded phases, implementation will depend mostly on opportunity.
- AgB: Let's continue on a quarterly basis then?
- PH: Maybe an as needed basis.
- AgB: I think we can't wait around or we may miss opportunities that come about.
- PH: I agree, we need to keep the agendas going in order to keep the group focused.
- AgB: I think we should schedule quarterly meetings.
- MG: You make a good point; we need to see who will be the steward for the other phases. Someone has to put together a plan for Phases other than Phase 1 and 2.
- PH: One option is to fold these meetings into East End Partnership meetings.
- MG: It's a matter of delegating a position in that structure to be the steward as well as generating funding and sufficient staff.
- PH: This is the final wrap up meeting; we need to decide how the project will move along. Phase 1 will spin off and will continue to have the BGC and the Friendship Development as the steward. We can form the Penn Avenue Corridor Reconstruction Committee. There is no reason to meet before the contract is executed, but then we can meet bi-monthly. This committee will outreach to the users and business owners of Phase 1. Anyone who is a stakeholder in the corridor is welcome to join the reconstruction committee.
- AgB: When's the next meeting?
- PH: I propose first thing in January
- PH: We will mail the final report out to the stakeholders once Kimball gets it finalized.

VIII. **Adjourn**

- **Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2010 @ 9:00 A.M. (at the BGC Activity Center)