WHAT’S HAPPENING IN UPTOWN TO ADVANCE THE ECOINNOVATION DISTRICT PLAN?

The Uptown EcolInnovation District is collaboratively managed by the Uptown Task Force (UTF), a coalition of neighborhood leaders and organizations who work together to implement the Uptown EcolInnovation District Plan. The Uptown Task Force includes four committees focused on Community, Infrastructure, Mobility, and Development. These topics correspond with the focus areas of the Uptown EcolInnovation District Plan. Monthly meetings are convened by Duquesne University Chief Staff Mary Ellen Solomon.

As the neighborhood’s community organization, Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh plays a key role in the Uptown Task Force. Uptown Partners manages four additional committees to address quality of life and development in Uptown. These committees are: Safe Streets Uptown, Breathe Uptown, UptownARTS, and Real Estate Design (RED).
In December, the Mobility subcommittee discussed conducting a sidewalk inventory, what data should be collected, and indicators to help prioritize those areas with the greatest need for improvement. Data collected may include, (1) the presence of tree pits, curbs, ADA ramps, crosswalks and crosswalk condition, (2) 311 reports regarding sidewalk condition, and (3) lawsuits specific to sidewalk condition. A methodology will be established to standardize data collection so that the exercise can be replicated in the future and to identify an approach for prioritizing those areas with the greatest need for improvement. The inventory will be prepared by the City’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI). Prioritization indicators will be informed by the subcommittee. Some initial indicators were discussed at the December meeting; however, and this likely will be revisited at a subsequent subcommittee meeting.

It should be noted that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner and sidewalk investment in Uptown outside of the BRT corridor (beside what is undertaken by the property owner) is not planned at this time. New sidewalk can cost an average of $100-150 / square yard and sometimes higher depending on a number of factors. Given that improvements may be outside the financial capacity of some property owners, the Mobility subcommittee will work to identify potential funding sources to assist with remediation.

December’s meeting addressed two items of new business:

(1) There was a second discussion regarding the Uptown Task Force’s role in development review. No consensus was reached in the discussion and the topic will be evaluated further in the first quarter of 2020.

(2) An update was given on Uptown Partners’ pursuit as a Registered Community Organization (RCO). As of January 17, 2020 Uptown Partners was officially designated an RCO for the Uptown Community. In this role, Uptown Partners will ensure Uptown residents, businesses, and non-profits can review and comment on all development projects in the community before they are reviewed and approved by the City.
The RED Committee reviewed the designs of 304 Jumonville St. (old Clarus Laundry). The project will likely require several conditions before being approved by the RED Committee.

The committee also requested that developer Mike Sell present at a future RED Committee additional renderings and designs for new construction before approving any desired demolition.

Top 2020 Priorities:

- **Energy** - Expand the district energy goals of the EID and advance opportunities for renewables.
- **Green Connections** - Advance key portions of the planned connections in the neighborhood.
- **BRT Alignment with EID** - The design will be finalized in 2020 and it will be important to ensure that the final design is in alignment with the EID.

The focus of the work plan was to determine if the committee’s role would be more advocacy than leadership in advancing the broader EID goals.

The Community Committee did not meet in December. The January meeting will include a 2019 year-in-review along with prioritizing projects for 2020.

The November meeting focused on attaining additional feedback from the committee members to explore a potential community land trust in Uptown. Uptown Partners anticipates applying for the City’s Love Your Block (LYB) grant of $1,500 to enhance the Tustin Community Garden.

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BREATHE UPTOWN
Chair - Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners)

The Fall Breathe Uptown committee met at HackPGH on Nov. 11. The agenda included: (1) an outreach strategy to promote Clean Air Initiative activities; and (2) ways to take social action to improve air quality locally and regionally.

The Feb. 11 meeting will include: (1) a presentation on inversion smog; (2) a lesson on how to use CMU’s SMELL APP; (3) and a talk by UPMC Dr. Ned Keyter on the common sources and effects of air pollution in our community and how to protect ourselves.

UPTOWN ARTS COMMITTEE
Chair - Jeanne McNutt (Uptown Partners)

The last UptownARTS Committee met on Nov. 14. Members met with Tisha Germany of KBK Enterprise to discuss the feasibility of incorporating public art into future renovation of the Burrell Building at Fifth and Kirkpatrick Sts. The beginning of renovation is still one year out, but KBK is open to ideas.

Uptown Partners applied to Duquesne Light Co. for $15,000 to fund an art installation on the side of the Duquesne Light substation at Boyd and Forbes Sts. Members shared several ideas for the art installation (i.e. Uptown “lettering”, tree branching from the ground to the top of the building, and light integration to highlight substation structure).

UptownARTS meets on an “as needed” basis to attract and review potential public art projects in Uptown.

SAFE STREETS UPTOWN (SSU)
Chair - Marlene Williams (Uptown Partners)

SSU meets every other month. At the November meeting Uptown Partners discussed safety (real or perceived), how to address littering, loitering, panhandling, and drug activity in Uptown. Service providers shared resources and other relevant information to understand and assist with these challenging issues.

The January SSU meeting will focus on (1) citations and arrests; (2) the fall walkthrough that addressed 311 code violations; and (3) BigBurgh presentation on social services.
If interested in attending, please call Uptown Partners at 412.325.2723 for meeting location.

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<td>6-7:30pm 5th &amp; Dinwiddie Presentation (Today or Mar. 2)</td>
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