

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE POINT BREEZE ORGANIZATION (PBO)

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
Sterrett School, 7113 Reynolds St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Attending (approx. 60 in total):

Board Members:

- Officers: Larry Gerson (President); Jen Mico (VP); Alina Keebler (Secretary)
- At-Large: Maggi Cook, Bea Doheny, Don Gross, Amy Oriss
- Not attending: Mary Anne Crecelius (Treasurer)

Committee Chairs:

- Lola Hopper (Communications/Marathon/Light-Up Pt. Breeze)
- Fred Kraybill (Solarize Point Breeze)

Guests: ~57

- Grant Gittlen, Pittsburgh Community Affairs Officer
- Dan Gilman, District 8 Councilman
- Erika Strassburger, Council District 8 Chief of Staff
- Ricky Burgess, District 9 Councilman
- Shawn Carter, Council District 9 Chief of Staff
- Lynda Wrenn, Pittsburgh Public Schools District 4 candidate
- Presenters (see below)
- Residents (see separate sign-in list)

Point Breeze Organization's Update

Non-Profit Status

- Board is working on changing from 501(c)4 to 501(c)3 which will allow donations to be tax deductible but prohibit political activities

Board Retreat

- Board members will meet on March 7th for a day-long retreat to discuss long-term planning for the organization

Speakers

History of Point Breeze - Sarah L. Law, Author

- Presentation on the development of Point Breeze neighborhood
- Recap of some of Point Breeze's more famous residents and their grand homes (e.g., Frick's *Clayton*, Thaw's *Lyndhurst*, Wilkins' *Homewood* and Westinghouse's *Solitude*)
- Point Breeze's claim to literary fame is due to Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Dillard's popular memoir, *An American Childhood*, set in Point Breeze in the 1950s.

New Developments at Frick Historical Center- Phil Nichols, Director of Operations & Visitor Services

- A museum planning architecture firm from Boston and a local architecture firm were hired to create a multi-facility museum campus and to design environmentally sensitive (LEED) buildings and additions
- Phase 1: Orientation Center completed July 2014 – construction of a new visitors center and museum shop; will allow Children's Playhouse (where shop is now) to be restored

- Phase 2: Education Center and Carriage Gallery by fall 2015 – renovation of and addition to the current Car and Carriage Museum to provide additional educational spaces and better exhibit its important collection of Frick family carriages.
- Phase 3: Community Center – construction of a new building to provide additional education and program space and create a venue for rental events.
- Community residents are encouraged to support the Frick by becoming Members and take advantage of Membership Benefits

Evolution of Eastside Development - Mark Minnerly, Mosites Co. Director of Real Estate

- Mosites Co. hasn't been involved in all of the projects in the neighborhood, but has been a key player in the revitalization effort.
- East Liberty was selected because of its key location since it could draw from both low- and high-income neighborhoods
- Bringing Home Depot to build a new store was the first step in developing the area
- This was followed by assembling (with the help of the Mayor's Office, the Urban Redevelopment Authority and East Liberty Development, Inc.) 65 contiguous acres for development along the Center Ave. (then Penn Circle South) and Penn Ave. corridors
- First development was Whole Foods, followed by the adjacent commercial complex
- Target encouraged Google to move into Bakery Square and now expand to Bakery Square II
- East Liberty Transit Center is next, in partnership with Port Authority Transit and with the help of a \$15 million TIGER grant; the Station should open this spring.
- The goal has been to create a mixture of commercial and residential spaces that are mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian oriented.

Point Breeze Solar Energy Initiative - Sharon Pillar, Solarize Allegheny

- Point Breeze is the only City of Pittsburgh neighborhood (and one of four in the county) to participate in this, the first phase of an educational outreach and marketing effort to encourage solar power usage
- Project is funded by the Heinz Endowments and managed by non-profit SmartPower
- Currently there are 210 solar installations in county; the goal of this effort is to double the number
- A brief Power Point presentation explained how solar energy is collected and used and how residents can take advantage of the Solarize initiative.
- *Solarize Point Breeze's* Kickoff Event: Sun., Feb. 8th at 7 p.m. at Pino's Restaurant; snacks and cash bar will be available.
- *Solarize Point Breeze's* Workshop: Wed., Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Bede School Cafeteria, workshop with details.
- Tour of nearby solar installations– being organized by Fred Kraybill, chair of Solarize Committee; date to be determined

Other

Council District 9 - Ricky Burgess, Councilman

- Has been involved in developing mixed income housing in Larimer with low, affordable, and market rate units
- Hopes to add more housing in Homewood (120 units in near future)

- Is looking into better access to Busway & mixed use development along Homewood Ave.

Council District 8 - Erika Strassburger, Councilman Dan Gilman's Chief of Staff

- Reports that Councilman Gilman has proposed legislation to extend the deadline to submit discounted city property taxes in response to bills having been mailed out late
- Encourages residents to follow snow plows online through the new GPS tracking system and to call the Councilman's office if one's street is not plowed on a timely basis.

City of Pittsburgh Community Affairs Office - Grant Gittlen

- Encourages Point Breeze Organization to apply for *Love Your Block Grant*:
 - For small neighborhood improvements: \$700 reimbursement & \$300 to spend at Home Depot
 - Deadline Feb. 13th
- Encourages residents to participate in upcoming *Civic Leadership Academy*:
 - Will accept 30 students twice a year
 - Participants will learn about city departments and authorities
 - Deadline Feb. 20th

Lynda Wrenn

- Is a Point Breeze resident who is running for Bill Isler's Pittsburgh Public Schools District 4 board seat
- Has a Masters in teaching from Chatham University
- Has served on various PPS task forces
- Primary will take place on May 19th

Next Meetings/Events:

- Board Retreat: Sat., March 7, 2015; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Community/Board Meeting: Tue., June 2, 2015; 7 p.m.
- Board Meeting: Tue., August 4, 2015; 7 p.m.
- Community/Board Meeting: Tue., October 6, 2015; 7 p.m.
- Board Meeting: Tue., December 1, 2015; 7 p.m.