

CASGED Community Meeting Minutes Feb 2016

Tuesday February 9th, 2016 at St. Michaels All Angels Lutheran Church

Board Members Present-Chris Rosselot (President), Dennis Lynch (VP), Bob Herbert, Raphael Walton, Brenda Kay Dailey, Joe Valorie, John Klinger **Board Members Absent**-Kyle Winkler (Treasurer), Jeff Wuerthele

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by C. Rosselot followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

C. Rosselot introduced invited guests.

1. Jeff Martin, representing Councilwoman Harris office announced Councilwoman will be sponsoring a financial education seminar. Topics will include resources and guides to opening checking/savings account and budgeting tips. Location will be at the Allegheny Carnegie Library on Federal Street. Councilwoman looking for community feedback and input on the Wigle Whiskey expansion that was announced last week. C. Rosselot mentioned that Wigle is planning to brief community at March meeting. Bob Herbert inquired about the missing trash cans on Spring Garden. Jeff will request information from Public Works and follow-up. Joe Valorie inquired about the status of the water fountain at Catalano Park. Jeff will request status report from Public Works. Questions regarding housing demolitions and if there are holds. 1025 High Street, 1222 High Street, 824 and 826 Concord Street have gone out to bid. Jeff will follow-up regarding the status of High Street properties.

2. Kryn Whitfield from the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Mark Shaw from KU Engineering Resources discussed the Redevelopment Area Certification. This certification designation will have no negative impacts on the property values of your home. It will enable community access to several federal, state and private funding sources. The process for the neighborhood designation is public notification of all residents. Examples of neighborhoods that have gone through the process are East Liberty and the South Side, which helped support projects like Bakery Square and the South Side Works. Kryn explained the process in which letters will be sent to neighborhood households informing residents of the program and information regarding the public comment period offered by City Planning. Ultimately City Planning will take vote whether to authorize certification. Members of community will have opportunity for public comment. Question from resident regarding programs for home ownership/renovations. C Rosselot mentioned the idea for a developer's forum that would bring in representatives from organizations and institutions that help foster development-including the URA. A handout was provided by Kryn and Mark and will be included as an exhibit to minutes.

3. Leah Esser provided an update on artist Oreen Cohen "Building Bridges" project. Building Bridges project is an art instillation planned for the pedestrian bridges on the perimeter of Madison Ave., East St., East Ohio St and the Tripli Street bridges. The artwork will be installed on the chain-link fence portion of the bridges and will be a photographic timeline of the neighborhoods past that will be collaged into panels of brightly colored aluminum. The project received a neighbor to neighbor grant from the Sprout Fund last year that was used for the prototype of the instillation. Displays were passed around. The project team made up of community volunteers has met with PennDot, City Councilwoman Harris and the City Planning Department. Leah requested additional support from the Board and the community. Also circulated was a survey postcard. The Board offered support will continue to stay engaged with the project team.

4. Officer Crawford, Community Affairs Officer, Pittsburgh Police Zone One introduced himself. Presented criminal statistical information for CASGED from January 1-February 9th, 2016. Crime generally going down. Question was asked about gunshots heard in the Troy Hill area, specific

information was not provided. Officer Crawford reminded that the police and other law enforcement officials do their best to respond as quickly as possible. Question was asked about the audio sensors for gun shots. Office Crawford briefly describe ShotSpotter technology, which are essentially audio cameras that pick up sounds of guns shots and immediately notify the police on location, making response times quicker. City of Pittsburgh has authorized spending for this technology, unsure of which neighborhoods and zones will receive first.

5. Lee Parker, Director of Neu Kirche Contemporary Art Center, announced Neu Kirche will be hosting an Urban Gardening Forum on Wednesday February 24, 2016 at 6:30. This will provide residents an opportunity to network with urban gardening experts and organizations. Flyers with event information were handed out.

6. Corey Buckner, Community Affairs, Mayors Office, made announcements regarding ServePGH programs that include-Snow Angels-program to help with snow removal for elderly residents and neighbors, Love your Block program, and Sustainable Home Improvement Partnership. Lots of community comments and questions regarding state of neighborhood infrastructure, specifically the deplorable sidewalks. Any programs that are offered to assist residents with the cost of repairs. Also questions on City owned properties and the maintenance of sidewalks. Corey will be following up with Tom Pierce, Economic Development Committee Chair with information on programs.

C.Rosselot inquired about plans for City of Pittsburgh 200 year anniversary and what the neighborhood can do to participate. Mayor has requested that when neighborhoods celebrate events throughout the year, they acknowledge the anniversary. Corey will be connecting CASGED with point of contact in Mayors office that is coordinating efforts and events, including a large parade later this spring and summer.

Committee Reports

Public Safety-Raphael provided overview of crime reports, updated camera installations. Urged residents that are need of smoke detectors, to call 311. The City is offering free fire detectors and installation. Announced next Northside Public Safety Council meeting is March 3rd at the M.C.C. building.

G3-Joe V. discussed plans for a community wide clean-up day in April (Earth Day). This clean-up day is in conjunction volunteer students from the University of Pittsburgh. Plans will be in place by then for the remaining large planters that still need to be strategically located through-out the neighborhood.

Economic Development

C.Rosselot provided an overview of the Workingmen's Square project. City Zoning Board requested a 20 day extension on one of developers requests for variances as it relates to the building height. A decision should be made in a week or so. Final design and development drawing should be completed by the end of February and the project team will review with members of the Committee. C. Rosselot announced that members of the project team will be guests at the March community meeting to provide a general update to the community and answer any specific questions.

Wigle Whiskey-C.Rosselot briefed community on the previously announced Wigle Whisky expansion plans that include the acquisition of Kisseel moving Storage on Spring Garden. Expansion plans include meadry and cider house, as well as additional storage for whiskey barrels. Additional parking opportunities are available on site. C. Rosselot announced that Wigle owners and staff will be guests at the March community meeting to discuss specifics and plans moving forward.

Residential update-C.Rosselot announced the closing of 829 Suismon Street to James Chen. Chen has already begun the demolition process and plans to renovate property into a multi-family residence, which will be his primary residence. CASGED also closed on 1007 High Street, and will commission an appraisal to begin the marketing/sales process.

C.Rosselot asked Chris Waraks, owner of Mr. Renovation to briefly describe plans for his recently acquired property on Chestnut Street. The "Red Barber Shop" will be renovated into a coffee/tea place that will also serve sandwiches. The 900 Chestnut Street property will be turned into a soon to be announced commercial space that will offer second hand home/building materials.

C.Rosselot announced plans for upcoming standalone meeting regarding the Chestnut Street Improvement Plan, funded by the Sprout Fund/Buhl Foundation. Priorities on Chestnut Street need to be determined by the community. Meeting date/time TBD but needs to be late February or early March.

New Business Announcements

C.Rosselot announced new CASGED office space at Penn Brewery. Office use for Board meetings, Committee meetings. Open house planned for spring time.

CASGED Board elections to be held in April, nominations at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50PM.