

Community Relations Committee

Minutes – September 20, 2016

Welcome and Introductions

Went around the room and introduced ourselves. Linda thanked John and Kannu for reserving the meeting space.

Brief Updates/Announcements

Linda forwarded information from the September 13th Faculty Assembly meeting and other sources.

- The UTimes is now online only. Comments or questions contact the editor Nancy Brown, njbrown@pitt.edu.
- This is the Year of Diversity at the University of Pittsburgh. Kannu said he is on the planning/steering committee.
- The search for a Senior Vice Chancellor of Research will be taking place soon. This is a new position.
- Faculty evaluations and tenured faculty salary reductions are on the plate for the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee.
- OTMA is looking for comments through September 26th on the Forbes PennDOT project
- There is a phone app PulsePoint designed to assist with cardiac arrests. It notifies app subscribers and gives you an opportunity to respond and perform CPR. Can also register AEDs so their location is available to subscribers.
- University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown is home of The Heroes Memorial

Community Representatives gave updates

OBID – [Oakland Business Improvement District](#) Georgia Petropoulos

- Friday, September 30 (5-11pm) and Saturday, October 1 (7-11:30pm) is Oakland Forever. Friday is the night market with live music and the outdoor fashion show. Saturday is movies and popcorn.

OPDC – [Oakland Planning and Development Corporation](#) Wanda Wilson

- During student move-in there were dumpsters throughout the neighborhood in an effort to keep area clean.
- 1500 Good Neighbor packets are being distributed at the neighborhood block parties
- In the works is a community land trust to work on maintaining single family housing stock and affordable housing. They are working with [Policy Link's All-In Pittsburgh](#), [The Pittsburgh Foundation's 100% Pittsburgh](#), and [The City of Pittsburgh's Affordable Housing Task Force](#).

- The [Oakland Affordable Living development](#) will begin next year. It will rehab 24 apartments and construct a building with new ones. Funding is coming through low income tax credits.
- Linda asked about employee assisted housing. Wanda said they are encouraging employers to get behind this initiative.

[Peoples Oakland](#) Andrea Tempalski

- Thank you to Pitt for the large number of participants who helped on the Day of Caring
- Student interns from several departments at Pitt and other schools work with clients

CHS – [Community Human Services](#) Jon Hoffman and Lauren

- The demand for the food pantry hit an all time high of 2000/month. The School of Nursing is still involved as is the School of Social Work. The Pitt police had a move out food drive.
- The food pantry can use volunteers, especially those who can do heavy lifting and help patrons pick food. The hours to help are Wednesday 9-12, Thursday 2-6, and Friday 10-2.
- The Big Share is October 1st. This is a farm to table dinner to raise money for the food bank, in particular fresh produce.
- The annual Community Ally Dinner is October 27 at the LeMont. Tracy Soska and John Wilds have been past winners.

Other attendees gave updates

Robert Kaufman –

- The School of Nursing is going through some restructuring. There is new faculty leadership working on community initiatives, such as those with CHS.
- There is activity in the school related to interprofessional education. An update can be given at a future meeting.

Honors College - Holly Hickling

- Nothing new at this time. Holly will share deadlines for upcoming activities with us when appropriate.

Community and Governmental Relations

Paul Supowitz

- At its June meeting the Board of Trustees approved the formation of Community Engagement Centers in local neighborhoods. This is an extension of the COPC (Community Outreach

Partnership Center) created by John and Tracy. The idea of the Community Engagement Centers is to coordinate the academic and service functions of university personnel working in the community. The first neighborhoods will be the Hill District, Homewood, and Larrimer.

- Request For Partnerships are out now. The idea is to find a partner who has space that can be used by the Center so the university does not need to spend resources on this. University departments can then use the space to connect with the organizations and people they are working with.

Kannu Sahni

- August and September are busy with events and activities geared toward helping the students be good neighbors in the local neighborhoods.
- The Pitt Day of Caring was on Friday, September 16. There were 200 people working at 16 sites on 23 projects.
- On September 27 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pedro A. Cortes, is coming to the Connolly Ballroom in Alumni Hall to launch “Everyone votesPA”, a toolkit for the Pennsylvania voter. The event is sponsored by various Pitt organizations, the Pennsylvania Department of State, and PCHE ([Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education](#)). In the Pittsburgh area there are 100,000 students eligible to vote.

[Oakland for All](#)

- This is a collaboration of Oakland stakeholders, nonprofits, government offices and community advocates. The mission is to advocate for a more accessibility-friendly business district.
- Some accomplishments: make it permissible for people with disabilities to block the city bike lanes while being discharged and picked up; blue curb markings
- OBID received a grant from the URA and state to help with storefront renovations, including ADA requirements, to help eliminate barriers
- They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00. Georgia welcomed all to attend.
- It was suggested that the Community Relations Committee think about ways to connect with Oakland for All.

Review of Mission Statement

- Attendees looked over the committee’s mission statement. It was suggested that the word ‘external’ in the first sentence be replaced. The terms ‘broader’ was suggested. The sentence would read: The Senate Community Relations Committee observes, engages in, and promotes relationships between the University of Pittsburgh and its many broader communities.
- This suggestion will be sent to the committee and discussed at a future meeting.

Outline year's activities

- Ideas for spring field trip: Lawrenceville – they have a land trust; revisit uptown
- Possible in-person visit to branch campus (have met via teleconferencing); possibly Johnstown to see the Heroes Memorial
- May 1-3, 2017 – Main Street Now, a conference of the national main street center will take place in Pittsburgh
- Housing initiatives – OPDC has programs they can present

Attendees: Marissa Arnet, Kim Barlow, Lauren W., Linda Hartman, Holly Hickling, Jessica Jankowski, Robert Kaufman, Andrea Kriska, Georgia Petropoulos, Kannu Sahni, Fiona Seels, Tracy Soska, Paul Supowitz, Andrea Tempalski, John Wilds, Wanda Wilson, Franzisha Hannemeyer-Weber, Jon Hoffmann, Zach Grewe