

Senate Community Relations Committee meeting

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes: 16 September 2014

Attendees: Marissa Arlet, IACUC; Germán Barrionuevo, Neuroscience; Laurie Cohen, ULS; Heidi Donovan, Nursing; Maggie Folan, Pharmacy, CRC Co-Chair; Diamond Gordon, SGB; Linda Hartman, HSLs; Holly Hickling, Honors College; Hanson Kappelman, Oakwatch; Andrea Kriska, GSPH; Marty Levine, University Times; Michael Lovorn, Education; Misti McKeen, PittServes; Penelope Morel, Immunology; Georgia Petropoulos, Oakland Business Improvement District; Kannu Sahni, Community Relations; Eli Shorak, Associate Vice Chancellor for Business; Tracy Soska, Social Work, CRC Co-Chair; Andrea Tempalski, Peoples Oakland; John Wilds, Community Relations; Wanda Wilson, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation.

Co-Chairs welcomed all to meeting and invited those in attendance to introduce themselves and new members were welcomed.

Minutes from the meeting of 15 April 2014 were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

Community Partners Reports and Updates.

Wanda Wilson used a slide presentation to report for the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC). After a brief overview of the purpose and history of the corporation the committee discussed ways in which the CRC can become involved with the OPDC: support Oakland 2025 implementation, help with landlord/homeowner issues, development and promotion of affordable housing. The committee were encouraged to sign up for the newsletter. Also mentioned: Keep it Clean Oakland (36 student groups are participating), Oakland 25 Master Plan (vision for sustainable housing and mobility), Rehab for Resale (stem rentals while increasing affordable housing and maintaining home ownership), School2Career (academic support and mentoring with 100% work placements) and Joblinks (>600 job seekers/year).

Oakland Business Improvement District and Oakland Transportation and Management Association

Georgia Petropoulos gave report for both. Discussed the Oakland's Farmer's Market, Restaurant week, the desire to partner with landowners. Innovation Oakland Digital District: convert a traditional parklet into a dynamic outdoor digital gallery. Find more at igg.me/at/io-digital-gallery Forbes Plaza project, 2 years late but will soon be breaking ground, Pitt gave access to the land, also received grant from PA. A weekly e-blast is available.

October 10 and 11 - 175th anniversary event: Oakland Forever. Live entertainment, free access to Carnegie Museum/Soldiers & Sailors/Nationality Rooms. Pitt has provided staff support for the event.

Community Human Services

The Oakland Food Pantry currently serves approximately 1600 people/month which includes folks from beyond Oakland. A huge increase in the number of people served in the

first week of operation. Hours are Thursday 3-6p and Friday 11-2. Nursing School from Pitt students attend and lead a health activity at the pantry.

Peoples Oakland

Andrea Tempalski reported on this non-profit mental health service. Located on Bates street it services approximately 30 adults/day with mental illness and/or addiction problems. This is supplementary to their medical and psychological treatment plans in an effort to help them get back out into the community. Health and wellness holistic approach. There is a fitness center with exercise classes available along with volunteer opportunities.

Oakwatch

Hanson Kappelman reported. Oakwatch grew out of 2025 planning effort. They look at code issues. The monthly meetings attract residents, some landlords, people who work in Oakland. Some problems include disruptive parties, over-occupancy and other housing code violations. A new initiative was started last year. On weekends when heavy partying is suspected volunteers drive around the neighborhoods between 11p and 1am to help police identify the problems. This was due to residents' hesitation to call 911 due to fear of retaliation. There is a reporting system where people can call 311 with issues. Other issues included underage drinking, charging money for entry, and locking bathrooms forcing folks to use the outdoors.

Government Relations Meeting Report

Laurie Cohen This was the Commonwealth Relations Committee that changed its name to a broader scope; changed language in mission statement. They still have lunches with representatives of PA legislature. Dan Frankel from District 23 schedule for this month. Paul Supowitz talked about the PA budget. It's a difficult budget year for state - county and city better scenario. Pitt Advocates - need more people to participate and be advocates. Important to have a good showing at the Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

University Community Relations

Kannu reported on the upcoming Day of Caring, 28 projects scheduled. The hope is that the folks who go to the projects will develop a relationship and not just do this one day out of the year. In the summer of 2014 Kannu met with incoming freshman on a 1:1 basis to discuss living in in a neighborhood and becoming engaged and what this means. Within 2 years he will have met with the entire undergrad population. The Student Guide has been updated and includes sections on Education, Engagement and Enforcement. Teaching students that parties impact the neighborhood and there could be both school and city judicial issues. It's important to build collaborations between school and departments, to get out into the community. Gave an example of School of Information Science (iSchool), CMU, OBID have working on a prototype - tool for those with mobility challenges to help them navigate through Oakland. Two block parties have been held, one in North Oakland and one in South Oakland. A third for central Oakland is scheduled for next week.

Chancellor Office Reports

Eli Shorak gave update on construction and renovation. Asked the committee to spread the word about the University Store and Bakery which are a great community asset. David Lawrence auditorium to become class rooms. The old Allegheny County Health Bldg is being converted into 365 units. Renovation under discussion for both the Old Children's hospital (due to be demolished in Spring) and Schenley High School. The chilled water line is being expanded and soon Heinz Chapel will be air-conditioned.

Student Government

Pitt Make a Diff Day scheduled for Saturday 10/18 from 9a-3p. Goal is to have participation by approximately 4 thousand students. A fundraiser scheduled for 9.24 at '5 Guys' restaurant. 25% of profit to go to Pitt Make a Diff Day.

Further discussions included:

How can our committee grow service and engagement?

How do we support 2025 plan?

What about students with disabilities: housing, transportation for the hearing, visually, and mobility impaired. Maybe invite these students to future meeting?

Involvement and promotion of the Service Learning Network Event to be held on either Nov. 10 or 17. We need faculty involvement and to encourage faculty to increase service learning courses.

The meeting schedule was distributed:

October 21, 2014

November 18, 2014

January 20, 2015

February 17, 2015

March 17, 2015

April 21, 2015

May 19 of June 16, 2015

Minutes submitted by Maggie Folan 20 October 2014