

Oakland Code Enforcement Task Force Action Group

Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2011

- I. **Introductions:** In attendance Geof Becker, Hanson Kappelman, Ethel Deluliis, Dorothy Wysoczewski, Hope Golden, Kathy Boykowycz, Nickolas Solic, Kate Malekoff, Henry Cianciosi, Dan Reiley, Florence Schwartz, Rebekkah Belferman, Blair Kossis, Wanda Wilson, Eric Forsythe.
- II. **Mission Statement:**
 - a. The group reviewed the action ideas from the Action Forum and decided on the final mission statement for the group to be: *Reactivate the Oakland Code enforcement Task Force and engage more community members to participate in enforcing codes on negligent landlords, housing violations, parking violations, disruptive behavior, excessive noise and underage drinking.*
 - b. Items omitted from the posters at the Action Forum include “encourage residents to actively use 311” and “community walking tours.” The group agreed that these two items are not part of the mission, but instead tactics that they hope to utilize in the future to accomplish the mission.
 - c. Specific wording about litter/trash were also omitted from the mission statement because the group agreed that these items fall generally under enforcing codes.
- III. **Establishing a structure for the action team:**
 - a. The group agreed to elect two chairs to run the group. Hanson Kappelman was elected chair and Geof Becker was elected co-chair. OPDC representatives will also participate in every meeting and assist where needed with advocacy, administrative work, etc. They will help the group include City of Pittsburgh and University (Pitt, CMU, Carlow and Point Park) representatives, as well as police in the meetings.
 - b. OPDC will post all meeting minutes on their website and facebook pages. To access the minutes via the website, go to <http://www.opdc.org/programs-services/plan-partner/2011-community-plan/>. If you’d like to engage in online dialogues with other community members, go to www.facebook.com/OPDC.org and click “Discussions” on the left. We will also post all minutes and announcements there.
 - c. The group decided to meet once a month, for now.
- IV. **Creating Better Communications Systems/Strategies:** The group would like to create materials to distribute throughout the neighborhood to educate residents on who to communicate with about different problems. This would include contact information for city and university police departments, elected officials, the 311 line, and other institutional figures. The materials should also clarify who handles each issue. The group would eventually like to establish a system where city councilman are alerted each time residents

- of their district have to call incidents in to the police, and would like to speak with the City police and university police about improving their communications. They'd also like to establish a basic communication plan for the community in terms of noise/property complaints.
- V. **Requests for Next Meeting:** OPDC will make a brief presentation on how the former Code Enforcement Task Force operated, what successes/challenges it had, and what data may still exist from their work. OPDC will also start contacting elected officials, city officials, and institutional representatives to invite them to future meetings. Finally, OPDC will contact Councilman Councilman Kraus' office for an update on the effectiveness of legislation passed a couple of years ago where action can be taken on a landlord if the police are called three times to a property due to disruptive behavior.
- VI. **Miscellaneous Goals for Future:** Different group members shared a variety of experiences and stories. Goals to discuss in the future include: Monitor advertisements for student housing (example, one resident saw an ad for a 10bedroom house), Work with University of Pittsburgh to build more student housing, look to other universities for successful models of university engagement in neighborhood stabilization, specifically University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
- VII. **Next Meeting:** 12pm, Wednesday, July 20th, 2011. Location to be announced. The group is hoping a lunchtime meeting will be more accessible to those who work during the day, and will also try to alternate between day and evening meetings to ensure all interested community members are engaged.