

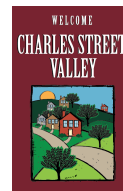
CHARLES STREET AREA COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETING

AGENDA – April 28, 2022 @ 6pm via Zoom

Called to order by: Angela Williams @6:07pm

Attendance: Angela Williams, Rebekkah Ranallo, David Hutchinson, Patrick Cornell, LaRita Alson, Shalace Moore, Louann Louis, Amy Cotten, Marilyn Iddris

Excused: Ericka Wingfield, Maggie Conner



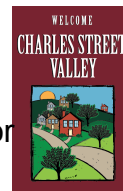
I) Introductions & Check-in: PLS TYPE NAME IN THE CHAT & ANNOUNCE YOURSELF

II) Guest Speaker Presentations: City Budget Office (David Hutchinson & Patrick Cornell of Capital Budget and Asset Management)

- The **Office of Management and Budget** has 2 divisions; in the Management division, there is a Procurement Team, and in the Budget division, there are teams for Capital, Fleet, and Asset Management, Community Development, and Operations & Grants.
- **Capital Budgets:** funds projects that are used to design, build, restore, retain, or purchase any City-owned asset. These projects have a minimum value of \$50,000, a minimum usefulness of 5 years, and are primarily funded via Municipal Bonds. They typically include the construction and major upgrades of things like roads, bridges, and recreation centers.
- **Operating Budgets:** funds expenditures that pay for most day-to-day governmental activities, like employee salaries, leases, utilities, and ongoing building maintenance.
- **City Jurisdiction:** Sometimes it's confusing what the city has legal jurisdiction over... The City does **not** have legal authority over...
 - County, state, or federal roads and bridges
 - East Carson Street, for example, is a state asset.
 - The Roberto Clemente Bridge is owned by Allegheny County.
 - Schools (Pittsburgh Public Schools)
 - Oliver High School is owned by Pittsburgh Public Schools.
 - Public transportation
 - The Duquesne Incline is privately owned.
 - Health services
 - Most human services
 - The Allegheny County Jail
- **Operating Revenue and Expenditures:**
 - 41.3% of the budget is spent on Public Safety
 - 28.2% is spent on Finance (including pensions)
 - 10.3% is spent on Public Works (like park maintenance)
 - 12.9% is spent on General Government (like the City Budget Office)
- Budget Cycles [input later]
- **Capital Sources:**
 - PAYGO: \$9,000,000 (6%) (pay-as-you-go)
 - BOND: \$60,000,000 (38%) (long term investments, usually 15-20 years)
 - CDBG: \$14,000,000 (9%) (includes other block grants)
 - OTHER: \$75,619,521 (47%) (grants from the County, PennDot, etc.)
- **Capital Improvement Planning:**
 - Each capital budget is actually a 6 year capital improvement plan, even though the budget is produced annually. These long term plans inform future budgets.

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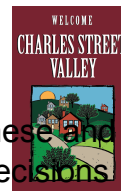
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- There are CPFC Ranking Criteria used to evaluate projects. These ask for information about whether the project...
 - Resolves an imminent threat to public or employee safety or health
 - Achieves compliance with federal or state statutory mandates
 - Leverages additional non-city funds
 - [continue]
- **Engage Pittsburgh** website will be launching soon, so you can see updates about projects, watch recorded meetings and presentations, and view survey results and mapping tools: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/>
- There is also a gamified **city budget simulation**:
<https://pittsburgh.abalancingact.com/city-of-pittsburgh-2022-operating-budget>
- **Capital Budget Survey** is a way to express your priorities about projects
- **Operating Budget Survey** is a way to share your thoughts about the budgets for each City department. For example, allocations for departments, changes to taxes, etc.
- **Contact Information:**
 - Operating Team: OMBoperating@pittsburghpa.gov
 - Capital Team: CIP@pittsburghpa.gov
- **Questions:**
 - Louann Louis asked: Where can we access the surveys?
 - These will be email sent to all who sign-up at City's Engage Page to receive community-related emails
 - Angela Williams asked: Can you explain if and how the budget is revisited when mayoral administration changes, and what that will look like under Ed Gainey?
 - The transition teams are reviewing documents including the current budget and public comment, and will share their official recommendations. City Council would review these recommendations for approval.
 - Louann Louis asked: Is the Cross-Strauss parklet project submitted and approved?
 - There is a commitment of \$30,000 of non-city money, and Councilman Lavelle has publicly stated a commitment of \$10,000; Angela hopes to bring in \$10,000-20,000 of foundation money to reach about \$60,000.
 - David Hutchinson recommends asking for a **proposal from DPW**. This means asking the council member and DPW to submit a proposal to CPFC. This will get both parties on site to generate assessments and inform what the construction asks will be in 2023 / 2024.
 - Because this is under Choice Neighborhoods, Angela stated that the renovations for half of the court are supposed to be completed by 2022.
 - David wondered about whether Choice Neighborhood Early Action money could be spent on design costs; Angela said that she doesn't believe so.
 - Angela plans to reach out to Angela Ketzel for her insight.
 - LaRita Alston asked: What is the process to get [tertiary] side streets cleaned – for both trash and snow removal? Is there a place Propel can put their plowed snow? This has disrupted traffic, mail delivery, and other daily living operations.

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- Street sweeping and snow removal: Patrick Cornell will look into these and share information back with us. These are moreso management decisions than budgetary.
- Rebekkah Ranallo will look into the tertiary streets in the community, specifically Strauss (~89 residents), Irwin, Kenn, and Snyder. Equipment and staffing were cited as issues in recent years.
- David Hutchinson mentioned that equipment was purchased this year and will be available in the coming year. He also shared that there are plans to utilize the same staff in different roles seasonally, alternating between trash cleanup and snow removal.
- Angela Williams raised the lack of trash cans in the community, and asked whether we should ask for an increase in the operating budget to accommodate this, and how we can make sure those funds go toward trash cans.
 - Patrick Cornell suggested using the survey tool and clearly stating in the comments that the suggested increase in budget is for trash cans (and trash removal and snow plowing) in the Charles Street Valley.
- Angela asked: Is there a date yet for the mayor's walkthrough of California-Kirkbride and the Charles Street Valley?
 - Rebekkah emailed Joanna Demming an update, will share with Angela.

III) Safety Health & Wellness Committee

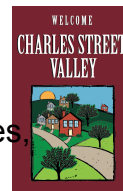
- i) Community Concerns – any 311 or Safety & H&W Items?
No concerns stated on the call.
- ii) N Side Public Safety Updates
 - (1) LIVE SAFE meeting @ Northside Partnership- Fri, 4/29 @ 6p
 - (2) PEACE WALK: Zone 2 Bedford EnVision Cntr (2305 Bedford Ave) Sat. 4/30 @10am
- iii) CSAC Food Program: Always Bringing Smiles: Food Bucks \$\$\$ available
The summer food program will not be running this year; instead, Food Bucks will be made available to community members. Name, address, and number of people in the household is the only information needed to receive these.

IV) Housing & Real Estate Committee (Angela Williams)

- i) Choice Neighborhoods
 - (1) Director of Meetings: Walk-Through of the Charles Street Valley was held on 3/30 with the Director of City Planning (Abrahms)
Discussed greenways, the Fowler Park pool,
 - (2) Walk-through Mayor- The proposed 2-hour walk through will take place during the day, likely sometime in June (schedule pending).
 - (3) Community Meeting: Allegheny Dwellings 5/15 4-7pm
This will be connected to Choice Neighborhoods. The Housing Authority will also do a bus tour of Larimer to demonstrate types of housing development options.
- ii) CSAC Infill Housing
We received a hold from market agreement with the URA for 6 months; the caveat is that they asked us to pay \$1,000 per lot in case we do not go through with development. This is a point of contention, so we have not entered that portion of the agreement. We plan to submit the loan application for the first phase of development by May 15th.

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- iii) Northside Associates held 4/14- plant flowers, new resident, parking along N Charles, traffic calming
Flower beds have been constructed on the sidewalks, and CSAC will fill them. Bob Mistick has agreed to give new residents information about our community group. There will also be new parking along North Charles Street. This will decrease the width of the street, and the hope is that this will be a traffic calming measure in terms of speed. Rebekkah mentioned that DOMI has a disproportionate number of requests for traffic calming activities relative to their current staff. Rebekkah will follow up on the status of the request that CSAC had submitted. DOMI should also be adding some information onto the Engage Pittsburgh website, like construction timelines. Rebekkah also mentioned speaking to the Zone 1 police captain or at their public meetings to address the issue from a police enforcement perspective.
- iv) Flocker Street Collaborative- rental units almost completed & ready for occupancy
Reach out to Maggie Conner and Sean Pippi if interested.
- v) URA Residential Façade Program – \$8k total project
Unclear if any residents have taken advantage of the project yet, but CSAC is aware of a couple of families who were interested, and is willing to offer help with applications.
- vi) Strauss Cross Playground Renovation
- vii) Vacant Lot Purchases- interested?
 - (1) Side Lot Purchase
 - (2) Adopt-a-Lot programAngela shared that she's interested in connecting with any residents who are having issues with these programs. LaRita mentioned that Mr. Armstrong was interested in procuring a side lot and had difficulty doing so. Rebekkah mentioned that CSAC and our residents should feel free to reach out to her team to check on application statuses. The process is complicated by state laws and title processes, and can take some time. Angela raised that specifically, she was approved to purchase a side lot, and then was later not approved due to the lot having been designated as a greenway in the meantime. Also, mentioned that there have been several "greenways" meetings which included a representative from the department of finance, who indicated that any lot with a 70% slope is deemed unsuitable for building.

Now, conversation with the city has shifted toward how to activate these greenways. CSAC is following the city's recommendations and looking into stewardship. Applications are still under review by City.

V) Resident Engagement (Vice President- absent)

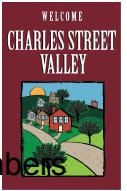
- i) Call for New Board Members- RCO
We have 5 new potential board members who are looking forward to being formally onboarded. Interested parties can send an email to charlesstreetareacouncil@gmail.com
- ii) Resident Interest: Committee: Safety, Litter, Housing & RE, Education, Health & Wellness
No updates.
- iii) The Commons Survey
Looking for 80% participation from residents.

VI) Events Committee (Committee Chair?)

- i) Propel Gateway Community Clean-Up Day: held April 20 & quarterly TBD

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- ii) Bright-Chuck Point Garden Weed & Seed Day (Sat May 7th or 14th)
Proposal to schedule on May 14th at 10:00 am, will confirm with other team members
- iii) Litter League- Clean-up Day (every Saturday until June 21)
We will meet at a designated spot at about 10:00 am, and collect and weigh the trash in a central location. Free flowers will also be delivered to anyone who participates! To confirm your participation, send a photo to charlesstreetareacouncil@gmail.com.
- iv) Greenways Party - July 18th with Grounded
Will take place at Starr Mediation Garden (time?)

VII) Marketing Committee

- i) **CSAC Website** (Rebecca McDonough)
The site is scheduled to go live on May 15th at csacpa.org
- ii) **CSAC Instagram & Facebook**

VIII) Open Discussion & Announcements

CSAC will plan to hold our next community meeting on the 4th Thursday in May. Bring a friend!

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm