

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH/ALLEGHENY COUNTY
TASK FORCE ON DISABILITIES
July 19, 2010
MINUTES**

Location: First Floor Conference Room
Civic Building, 200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA

Members Present: Paul O’Hanlon, Chairperson, Janet Evans, Sarah Goldstein, Milton Henderson, Rich McGann, James C. Noschese

Members Absent: Aurelia Carter, Linda Dickerson, Liz Healey, Jeff Parker, Katherine D. Seelman, John Tague

Others Present: Judy Baricella, Ed Buran, Dianne Gallagher, Chuck Keenan, James Kindler, Richard Meritzer, Justin Miller, Georgette Powell, Asia Pruden, Tamara Siegert, Joseph Wassermann, Emily Wilcox

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Noschese at 1:00 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

ACTION ITEMS

Review and Approval of June’s Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review and approval of financial report

Tabled the Financial Report until the next meeting.

Paul O’Hanlon joins meeting and resumes chair.

PRESENTATION – SNAP by Justin Miller

Miller: PGHSNAP is a program that takes data and maps. All the information is in one place. Data is available publically but this is the first attempt—a beta—to consolidate the information online. PGHSNAP stands for the Pittsburgh Sector Neighborhood Asset Profile/Action Planning.

Asset Profile—organized geographically into 16 sectors. While there are many neighborhoods, we can group them into a larger sector. For example, Oakland is made up of 4 neighborhoods that are combined into one sector.

Action Planning—takes data sets and combines them into strategic ways to get a better look at the interventions in the City in the aggregate. This information is used in development for first Comprehensive Plan. There’s a user guide to help use SNAP.

In the document there is also a link to launch PGHGIS which is like Google maps but just for Pittsburgh and with more information on it.

(Justin then goes through the program)

This is a beta version—we will be updating it for more data and accessibility partially readable by Adobe Screen Reader.

Contents- population and density, building conditions and investment: transportation: open space parks and recreation: Education: Health and Safety: Historic Assets: Public Art: each of the specific neighborhoods w/in sector.

O'Hanlon: Where do you get the data?

Miller: Most of the data is publically available and comes from Labor and statistics and the Census.

McGann: Is this in PDF? And is it in an accessible format?

Miller: We are working on it for the next release. If you know anything to help make charts more accessible, please let me know.

Wasserman: Who do we contact for information?

Miller: Richard Meritzer

McGann: Could there be names of stores and restaurants that are accessible?

Miller: That is beyond the scope of the project. PGHSNAP is aggregate information that the City can provide and that are in its purview.

In PGHSNAP there is neighborhood ranking, which is popular, by population, oldest/youngest residents and other information. And now I'd like to open it up to anyone with questions.

O'Hanlon: How do you decide what to track? Can we suggest them? For example: most neighborhoods with barriers, and intersection with or without curb cuts.

Miller: We can update the program as needed. As long as we can get data consistently, we would be happy to add.

McGann: Well, it would be nice knowing which restaurants and other stuff would help.

Meritzer: PGHGIS would be more useful in looking at sidewalk information.

Miller: We are limited by things that we can aggregate and that are publicly available. While PGHSNAP is a useful tool, it is not the answer for everything. But it does help individuals think strategically and to ask the right questions.

Noschese: Is this available to those who do not use a computer?

Miller: We can make specific requests available but it is not cost effective or environmentally friendly since the document comes to almost 800 pages. We are going to work with local libraries about training their staff to help people use their resources to view and research with PGHSNAP.

McGann: This question is for Joe: How many libraries have accessible technologies?

Wasserman: About 5 or 6.

McGann: Where are they?

Wasserman: I will email them to you.

Audience Member: Do you have the ability to have locations that offer community services on PGHSNAP?

Miller: We try to stay away from things that change. The city does not want to endorse or give the perception of endorsement and we do not want to duplicate the county's effort.

Meritzer: There is information on our webpage and we are always open to add services.

O'Hanlon: I think that it would be useful if not critical to show neighborhoods with barriers and include bus service to see which neighborhoods are being served to help with housing and job searches.

DISCUSSION – ADA Anniversary Celebration by Judy Baricella

Baricella: The 20th Anniversary of the ADA will be held July 26, 2010. Several organizations came together and planned a celebration at Sheraton Station Square. There will be a forum showing where we've come and where we are going. Panelists will be commenting and giving impressions. The Mayor is confirmed to give opening remarks and the County Executive has been invited. At 5pm in Bessemer court where will be live music, caricatures, food and fun. This is a celebration and not a rally and we hope everyone comes.

O'Hanlon: What's the power of 32? Do you need any help from us in planning or anything else?

Baricella: No, we just want everyone to come down to help celebrate.

Noschese: Will there be interpreters?

Baricella: Yes, interpreters and CART.

STAFF REPORTS

Update from Interns

Meritzer: We have several interns leaving this next month.

One Step Program – Daniel Stiker

Currently we are recruiting architects to provide their services either pro-bono or at greatly reduced rates for inclusion in the packet. Sarah Anderson is working to streamline the process of One Step to make it as easy as possible for businesses to help make Pittsburgh a barrier free city.

O'Hanlon: It's not unusual to find an entire block with 1 step. Have we decided how to address the one step? Perhaps the answer is to raise the level of the sidewalk? Look at other ways to addressing the situation.

Meritzer: The sidewalk is under the responsibility of the owner so it would be tricky when the block has different owners, but we can look at it with the URA.

McGann: Question is for Paul. What if there are many steps going down? Maybe there should be an investigation on places where you are going down too.

O'Hanlon: In some instances, that will only help that one business.

Henderson: Is HUD involved?

Meritzer: HUD only funds projects, so the money would have to go through the URA or Community Development Block Grants. I work with the CDBG staff and we are meeting with URA to discuss how funding is used.

Evans: HUD only worried about housing.

O'Hanlon: They could do business district revitalization in CD areas.

Evans: In Hazelwood, have someone check to see which businesses have one step to send it to them.

Meritzer: One Step is a voluntary. Make it easy for business to comply with Federal law. The plan is to send it out to everyone because we do not know which businesses are accessible.

O'Hanlon: Why can't we survey the businesses?

Meritzer: We can but it may not be the best use of resources.

Goldstein: If you send a letter in the mail, they may just throw it out.

McGann: Beyond the one step, there are many barriers inside like elbow room is also a problem.

O'Hanlon: The one step is the first barrier to get inside.

Audible Traffic Signals – Justin Lamorella

Lamorella: Progress has been made with the audible traffic signals. By replacing 57 traffic signals per year, we will be on track to have all traffic signals be audible in 10 years. Bates streets

Meritzer: While there have not been any requirements for Audible traffic signals, Pittsburgh's choice may end up being even better than the requirements. The newest signals also vibrate on the directional arrow.

Suggestion to talk to traffic department of all county

Baricella: The Allegheny County Department of Economic Development may be the right contact.

McGann: Would a tactile map help?

Wasserman: Maps can be baffling for anybody. Street names would help. Oakland is updating its development of accessible intersections with the help of CMU. They should include Braille names and voice.

Wheelchair Transport - Giuseppe Scalamogna

Scalamogna: Bloomfield-Garfield sent proposals to 6 organizations and was in the mail last week. EMS and police will share a vehicle to properly transport wheelchairs. We are requesting \$40,000 for vehicle and there will be less outsourcing because of this vehicle. We will hear in December /January if we have the funding for the project.

O'Hanlon: That seems like a lot of money for a vehicle. Is there any data on frequency of requests?

Scalamogna: EMS report at least 2-3 calls a week, I do not have information from the Police.

Goldstein: Just to clarify, are there people in the transport or just the wheelchairs and how is the time split?

Scalamogna: It is only conveyances and the vehicle is shared on whoever needs it.

McGann: Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) might have additional information on statistics.

Meetings Scheduled

Meritzer: We had a city ADA strategic team meeting and as part of the comprehensive plan have been doing an evaluation of the city's facilities.

I've been meeting with Market Square staff to review and we had a punch list meeting to make sure they were on track. Rich McGann was invited to try out the Square and had several issues.

McGann: I had problems with the green areas and suggested to them to add strips to define what area should be the path of travel.

Meritzer: The 2011 National Veteran's Wheelchair Games next general meeting is August 18th. The biggest problem with the Denver games that just took place is that the community wasn't that much involved. I went to the Active Allegheny meeting and the next meetings for that group are August 4—which is for the core group—and then August 5th for their advisory committee. Active Allegheny is to encourage non-motorized transportation in Allegheny County. On August 12, we are filming AccessiblePGH with Dr. Seelman where we will discuss the Hospital Compliance Guidelines.

Noschese: What is happening with the Convention Center?

Lamorella: I will resend the email.

McGann: If 10 people who are deaf-blind go to the Convention Center will it be possible to have 20 interpreters?

Meritzer: Anything is possible; we will need to talk to them.

Vox Pop

O'Hanlon: I'm speaking as the Disability Voters Coalition- for the MHMR community, 22 people have signed up to vote through them. School districts have received 14 people. We are asking the auditor general to do audit of PA. If all MHMR agencies offered voter registration, would the Task-Force want to be included?

Evans: What about people who get ID from State.

O'Hanlon: PennDOT does a good job with voter registration

All approve motion.

Noschese: I'm headed to the 2010 DeafNation World Expo in Las Vegas where there will be 60,000 attendees.

Motion to adjourn made by Janet Evans.
Seconded by Sarah Goldstein.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:

DATE: August 16, 2010
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Large Conference Room
200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219