

**Senate Community Relations Committee meeting**  
**12:00 – 1:30 pm; Room 272 Hillman Library**  
**September 18, 2012**

**Attendees:** Kim Barlow, *University Times*; Renny Clark, Office of the Chancellor; Maggie Folan, Pharmacy; Lovie Jackson Foster, SSW; Linda Hartman, HSL; Britteny Johnson, The Corner; Andrea Kriska, Pitt Public Health; Pat Laughlin, SSOE; Kannu Sahni, University Community Relations; Gale Schwartz, Community Human Services; Trevor Smith, Community Human Services; Tracy Soska, SSW; Martha Ann Terry, Pitt Public Health, co-chair; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Relations.

**Co-Chair Remarks:** Those in attendance introduced themselves; new members included Lovie Foster and Andrea Kriska, new community partners included Britteny Johnson, Gale Schwartz and Kannu Sahni. Martha Terry reviewed the Committee's Mission Statement and briefly addressed the role that the Committee plays in establishing and maintaining relationships with our community partners as well as the larger community. The group went over the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year, and all were reminded that because we do not have a December meeting, members are asked to volunteer in an organization or agency of their choice.

**University Update:** John Wilds updated us on three major construction projects, the 5780-bed dorm on University Place slated to be ready for occupancy in August 2013 -- brick work on that building is underway; the Graduate School of Public Health Lab Pavilion, which is proceeding as planned; and the Salk Hall addition, delayed because of land subsidence, which has been resolved with the erection of a retaining wall.

New parking meters have been installed in Oakland as a University/Pittsburgh Parking Authority initiative, which will allow drivers to use credit cards. One challenge the University faces is how to reserve metered parking spaces for University events.

The University has been meeting with community organizations and students over the last 12 months, to address responsible partying, in response to complaints from community residents. One result is a series of "Be a Good Neighbor" parties to introduce students and community residents to each other. The first was held on Sept. 6 in the Bates/Dawson/Parkview area; about 100 people attended. A second gathering is scheduled for Sept. 20, for the Dithridge/Bellefield area. A third party is planned for later in South Oakland at Kennet Square.

Another response has been night-time walk-throughs in areas of Oakland known to host parties. John Wilds and Kannu Sahni toured parts of Oakland last Friday night. A

challenge is the jurisdictional boundaries for Pitt Police and City of Pittsburgh Police. When students are cited by Pitt Police, the case goes to the University's Judicial Board and into the students' records; however, many parties happen in areas where the Pitt Police cannot go, by state law.

Renny Clark spoke about the upcoming United Way effort; the University hopes to exceed the \$610,000 it raised last year. He also gave us some details about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) initiative, which specify "express" routes, boarding stations, prepaid fares, and only selected stops. PAT will be holding hearings about BRT over the next few months.

Renny Clark noted that October 19 is the United Way Day of Caring – the University has 22 projects identified for this effort and is asking for volunteers; in conjunction with this, October 20 is Pitt Makes a Difference Day (PMADD), connected with Homecoming. The University is hoping to involve returning alumni in some of the activities connected with these two days, the culmination of the University's 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

**Field Trip to Hazelwood:** Tracy Soska noted COPC's involvement in Hazelwood and development of the former J&L plant. CRC will be traveling to Hazelwood next month to explore the results of initiatives that the community has undertaken. Tracy Soska and John Wilds will be arranging van transport to Hazelwood; the location of the lunchtime meeting in Hazelwood has yet to be determined.

**Student Government Updates:** There were no student representatives present.

**Upcoming Community Service Events:** In addition to United Way Day of Caring activities, John Wilds noted the University's monthly blood drives and Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank food distributions. Attendees were encouraged to consider serving at the University's holiday dinner on December 25.

**Community Partners:** Britteny Johnson reported that The Corner is holding football parties on Sundays, not only to support the Steelers but to create community spirit. They are also organizing an "art market."

Trevor Smith reported on the upcoming Sleep-In for the Homeless, on October 19. This year the initiative will organize activities on Market Square downtown, and participants will spend the night in the Severe Weather Shelter, rather than outside. Amy Adams is the new coordinator for the Food Pantry, housed at CHS. Trevor also noted the Plant-to-Plate effort, started by Pitt Students; and CHS will host a meet and greet block party next week. CHS is working to make itself more relevant to Pitt students. Linda noted that she could put CHS in touch with nutritionists through her contacts.

Britteny Johnson asked that the Town Center development be clarified. John Wilds provided some history related to tension between residents in the Oak Hill area, UPMC and Pitt. The particular initiative she inquired about has to do with a University building in the area, which will house a research initiative; the University has donated 3000 sq. ft to the community for a convenience store that will have healthy food offerings. Housing opportunities related to the development have been dropped; Oak Hill Residents Council is working with the University around some of these issues.

Next Meeting: October 16, Field Trip to Hazelwood; van transportation to be arranged, meeting location in the community to be announced.

Submitted by Martha Ann Terry

October 3, 2012