



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

1310 Arch Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: 412-231-7742 * Fax: 412-322-3386

Website: www.cncn-pgh.org

CNNC February 2009 Membership Meeting
February 9, 2009 @ Allegheny Traditional Academy, 7:00p.m.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Welcome & Announcements | 5 minutes |
| 2. 1/12/09 meeting minutes | 5 minutes |
| 3. Treasurer's report | 5 minutes |
| 4. Literary Ventures/Henry Reese Monterey St. project update
<i>Motion: to reaffirm support for the project for Zoning purposes</i> | 20 minutes |
| 5. Community Plan meeting schedule overview | 10 minutes |
| a. 2/11 – Education and Youth/Arts & Culture | |
| b. 2/18 – Public Safety and Transportation | |
| c. 2/25 – Architecture & Urban Design | |
| d. 3/4 – Residential Development | |
| e. 3/11 – Economy and Market/Jobs and Retail | |
| f. 3/16 – Garden Theater Block | |
| g. 3/25 – 1 st Large Community Meeting | |
| 6. Bylaws Amendment questions & answers | 60 minutes |
| 7. New business | 10 minutes |
| 8. Adjournment at 9:00p.m. | |

NEXT CNNC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS MARCH 9, 2009.

"The Central Northside Neighborhood Council is dedicated to sustaining a diverse community, enhancing the lives for all residents and ensuring a sense of community cohesiveness by developing affordable housing, advocating for our neighbor's needs, promoting quality of life and providing a public forum."



Central Northside Community Plan

Come help us
create it!

Education and Youth/Arts and Culture ...

February 11, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC *

Public Safety and Transportation ...

February 18, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC

Architecture and Urban Design ...

February 25, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC

Houses and Housing ...

March 4, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC

Jobs and Retail ...

March 11, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC

Garden Theater Block ...

March 16, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ Children's Museum

Summary Community Meeting (report on previous meetings)

March 25, 2009 ~ 6:30pm ~ AUUC

CNNC

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Meetings facilitated by Urban Designers from Pfaffmann and Associates.

* Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church ~ Corner of West North Avenue and Resaca Place.

Sponsored by Central Northside Neighborhood Council.

Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.

Working Group Goals and Description:

1.26.09 Working Document

Education and Youth / Arts and Culture

Team:

Lydia Wade, CNCP Steering
Christine Brill, Studio for Spatial Practice
P+A Support
Julie Peterson, CNNC Board

Introduction

Because the future of a neighborhood is very much connected to the opportunities available to a neighborhood's youth, the Education and Youth / Arts and Culture working group seeks to create a dialogue about the opportunities for youth to play and plan for adulthood. The Central Northside is fortunate to have several arts institutions and many working artists, that present opportunities for youth development and urban planning. The working group also seeks to think comprehensively about the role of the Arts in creating a strong, vibrant community.

Possible Education and Youth Discussion Topics:

- What do spaces for youth look like?
- Are existing spaces currently serving the Central Northside's youth adequate, are they located in the right place?
- The role of youth in the community planning process; Models for youth involvement in community based design.
- Opportunities to cultivate young people in the areas of painting, sculpture, and design
- Educational and jobs programs
- After school programs
- Mentoring / tutoring / work study
- Spaces for youth growth and recreation
- Youth and open space/parks/green space
- Location, design, and programming of existing youth facilities
- Identify spaces and opportunities for new youth facilities
- Youth and social services
- Greening youth activities

Possible Arts and Culture Discussion Topics:

- How can art be used as tool for community design and neighborhood improvement?
- The role of art in making positive improvements to the mind, body and spirit / creating a plan for human development
- The role of the arts in education
- Art and open space/parks/green space
- Greening the arts



Central Northside Community Plan

Working Group Goals and Description:

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Public Safety and Transportation

Team:

Randall Burns, CNCP Steering
Jonathan Kline, Studio for Spatial Practice
P+A Support
Chris D'Addario, CNNC Board

Introduction

The Transportation and Public Safety Working Group will examine issues of public safety and transportation as a pairing of issues. Community input will be used to identify and prioritize those initiatives for the community plan.

Public Safety

Recent surveys about neighborhood quality of life identified crime and public safety as one of the most important issues impacting residential quality of life in the Central Northside. Our vision for our community is one where our residents and guests feel comfortable walking the streets day or night, where our children and families can work and play in a safe environment, and where we live in our homes without fear. To that end we will identify and prioritize those initiatives which will turn this vision into a reality.

Possible Public Safety Discussion Topics

- Crime prevention
- Drug trafficking
- Continued use of video surveillance
- Community communications
- Continuation of the Safe Streets Block Captain program
- Prostitution
- Lighting
- Speeding
- Traffic patterns
- Traffic signs
- Crosswalks
- Vacant and overgrown properties

Transportation

The Central Northside Community Plan seeks to address the topic of transportation comprehensively: Walking, biking, traffic, parking, public transit and the impact of events will be considered as part of our assessment of the neighborhood's transportation needs. These issues affect the residential quality of life and the success of the neighborhood's commercial districts.

Possible Transportation Discussion Topics

- Parking/game day events
- Traffic flow and one-way streets
- Biking and bike infrastructure
- Improving walking connections within the neighborhood
- Crosswalks (pedestrian access within and out of the neighborhood)
- Access to public transportation
- Placement of bus stops
- Frequency of bus service
- Availability of taxi service / jitney service
- Green transportation strategies



Central Northside Community Plan

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Architecture and Urban Design

Team:

Dave McMunn, CNCP Steering
Carl Bergamini / Jeff Slack, Pfaffmann + Associates
SfSP Support
John Augustine, CNNC Board

Introduction

While architecture and urban design are themes that will be explored in all six working groups, the Architecture and Urban Design Working Group will examine specific issues regarding the built environment. Topics will include: architecture, urban design, landscape, streetscapes, preservation/conservation and sustainable design. Community input will be used to identify and prioritize initiatives for the community plan.

Architecture

The Northside shares a wonderful legacy of significant architectural styles and uses. This working group will examine principal aspects of the existing architectural resources and create guidelines for ongoing construction projects throughout the Central Northside, whether the use is residential, commercial or institutional.

Possible Architecture Discussion Topics:

- Creating a survey of residential and commercial architecture in our neighborhood
- Identifying historic and cultural building resources within the neighborhood
- Planning for new buildings and uses in a historic neighborhood, infill construction
- Integrating art in new architectural design

Urban Design

The Northside, too, shares a mixed legacy of good, mediocre and unsuccessful urban design. This working group will examine the urban design rationales applied historically over the Northside and Central Northside grids. Best practices and inferior practices will be discussed and better outcomes will be sought in our design proposals.

Possible Urban Design Discussion Topics:

- Streetscape Design Standards and guidelines
- Improving Green Spaces, Community Gardens, Parks and Playgrounds
- Lighting
- Front yards, stoops, and side yards
- Vacant Lots
- Street Trees / Hillsides
- Strategies for integrating public art into urban design
- Sustainable standards and guidelines, green streets, LEED ND Checklist review

Historic Preservation

Preserving the historic architectural resources offers value and sense of place to a community. The Central Northside neighborhood contains a rich heritage of very significant architecture. The Mexican War Streets area is listed as both a city designated and national-register historic district.

Possible Historic Preservation Discussion Topics:

- Identify ways to adapt historic structures to new, contemporary uses
- Create guidelines that provide for sensitivity and inclusion of historic resources in an urban design plan
- Identify safe, threatened, and unstable historic resources and address actions that the neighborhood should take with the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Clarify and implement the Historic Review Commission Historic District Guidelines.
- How to integrate new technologies into a historic context



Central Northside Community Plan

Working Group Goals and Description:

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Residential Development (Houses and Housing)

Team:

Randy Zotter, CNCP Steering
Rob Pfaffmann, Pfaffmann + Associates
Jackson Clark, Support, SFSP Support
Kirk Burkley, CNNC Board

Introduction

The Residential Development working group will work to create a housing plan that respects and anticipates the diverse demographics of the Central Northside. The plan will be based on a study of accumulated information gathered from multiple resources. The information will be used to develop an integrated approach to urban living.

The Housing Working Group will work closely with the market analysis work of Jackson Clark, whose scope of work is to undertake a market assessment of the Central Northside's housing resources to assist the community and the organization in making informed, market-based decisions in the neighborhood as a part of the development of the community plan.

Possible Residential Development Themes

Home Ownership Opportunity

Home ownership opportunities to current residents and emerging markets

Vitality and Livability

Encourage investments in the neighborhood by developing or preserving housing that support commercial corridors and neighborhood connections

Rental Housing Supply

How to maintain a blend of rental units that are affordable and suitable to current residents, while developing housing for mixed markets

Displacement Prevention

Supporting housing development scenarios that limit displacement of existing residents

Job and Housing Balance

Support job growth by providing housing opportunities for employees working within the area

Possible Residential Development Topics:

- What is existing urban context regarding housing?
- What is the true demographic profile of Central Northside? Who is moving in? Who is moving out? Why?
- What should a multicultural neighborhood look like and how does it function?
- What are the markers of success for a successful housing plan?
- Is there an ideal balance of renter occupied and owner occupied housing?
- What types of houses / housing are not being provided in the Central Northside?
- What does the market have to say about housing in the Central Northside?
- Who do we want to attract?
- What is the role of Public and Private Sector Partnerships in new housing development?
- How do zoning and transportation affect housing development?
- How can housing development strengthen business in the community and vice versa?
- Green Housing Strategies



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Economy and Market / Jobs and Retail

Team:

Gwen Moorer, CNCP Steering
Pat Clark, Jackson Clark
P+A Support, Sfsp Support
Bill Buettin, CNNC Board

Introduction

Healthy communities provide commercial services and economic opportunities for their residents. With four commercial streets running through the neighborhood and many historic commercial storefronts, the Central Northside's commercial cores present opportunities to strengthen adjacent residential areas.

The Economy and Market Working Group will work closely with the market analysis work of Jackson Clark, whose scope of work is to undertake a market assessment to assist the community and the organization in making informed, market-based decisions in the neighborhood as a part of the development of the community plan.

Possible Economy and Market Discussion Topics

Using Jackson Clark's market analysis, the Economic & Market portion of the community plan seeks to identify and prioritize:

Possible Physical Planning Topics

- Large development sites that might attract jobs (Biotech, Medical, Other)
- The neighborhood's commercial corridors in the neighborhood: What services are provided, needed, desired and feasible from a market perspective
- Potential economic development initiatives for commercial districts
- Benchmarks of other successful neighborhood commercial projects
- Commercial District Streetscape and Branding
- Commercial Hours of Operation
- Parking and infrastructure to support commercial development
- Live / Work development opportunities
- Opportunities for vacant parcels / vacant building re-use (e.g Columbus Middle School, others)

Possible Non-Physical / Human Development Topics

- Jobs creation/retention strategies
- Youth programs/jobs development strategies
- Institutional partnerships
- Technology and economic development
- Human service providers and their impact on the marketplace
- Tourism and the the Central Northside market
- Social equity and the market
- Sustainability and the market
- Small business development
- Second chance programs for felons



Central Northside Community Plan

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Team:

Rob Pfaffmann, Pfaffmann + Associates

Tom Hardy, CNNC

Kirk Burkley, CNNC Board

Garden Theater Block

Background:

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh currently owns or controls all the parcels in the block bounded North Avenue, Federal, Reddour and Eloise Streets. This block (called the Garden Block) contains historically significant buildings such as the Garden Theater, Masonic Hall and Bradbury Apartment Building, and anchors a major entry corridor into Pittsburgh's northern neighborhoods. When combined with new residential construction just north of the site and a new Library across Federal St, a critical mass of development will mark positive change for the Central Northside Community.

The Central Northside Neighborhood Council (CNNC) and the Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC) have created a new entity named "Northside Tomorrow" and are in a 6-month exclusive negotiation period with the URA for properties including The Garden Theater and The Masonic Hall. As part of this negotiation period, the CNNC and NSLC will be overseeing feasibility studies to determine end uses for the structures. They have hired two architectural firms to examine redevelopment opportunities for these properties, and they will be hiring a market consultant by the end of January to provide market analysis input to the physical planning effort.

Introduction

The Garden Theater working group, will work with key members from "Northside Tomorrow" to assess and provide community input on these redevelopment proposals.

Possible Discussion Topics

- Preserving the character defining features of the historic structures on the block
- Sustainable and appropriate reuse strategies for each of the buildings
- Compatibility review with adjacent residential neighborhoods
- Economic impact and cost models for the projects that are being developed
- Scope of renovation for exterior and interior of structures based on master planning recommendations
- Integration of the Garden Block strategies with larger Central Northside master planning activities
- Test fit scenarios for the Garden Theater
- Green development scenarios for the Garden Block



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