

## Route 9 Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes

4/17/2018

An audio recording of this meeting is available at <http://www.wilmapco.org/Route9/>.

### Attendees

- Carlos Dipres, First State Community Action Agency
- Lauren Devore, DNREC
- Ken Dryden, DCR4EJ, NAACP
- Penny Dryden, DCR4EJ
- Hester Fuller, Oakmont Civic Association
- Kenneth Fuller, Oakmont Civic Association
- Mike Hahn, DeIDOT
- Renae Held, DNREC
- Caleb Jervay, Terminal Ave. Resident
- Patti Miller, Nemours
- Philip McBride, New Castle County Land Use
- Pastor Louis McDuffy, Eden-Hamilton Park Civic Association
- Jakim Mohammed, Chairman of the 16<sup>th</sup> RD Democratic Committee
- Randi Novakoff, WILMAPCO
- Steve Ottinger, Delaware Transit Corporation
- James Parker, Oakmont Civic Association
- Josie Roy, Resident
- Sandra Smithers, New Castle Prevention Coalition
- Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
- Jake Thompson, WILMAPCO

### Minutes

- **[0:01:23 in recording]** The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.
  - Ken Dryden referenced page 3 of the meeting packet where it says, “Ken Dryden asked if Patti Miller works with Karyl Rattay.” He clarified that we should make sure to pay close attention to Karyl Rattay’s comments relating lifestyle to health issues, considering that we are adding a health measure to the prioritization.
    - Bill Swiatek said that that discussion is reflected in the sub-bullets below the referenced quote, and the committee will be discussing the social determinants of health measure later in the meeting.
  - Ken Dryden referenced near the top of page 4, where it says, “Ken Dryden said that the agreement was created using a tool.” He clarified that the tool was developed based on input from the community, and lawyers just designed it.
    - Bill Swiatek said that additional clarification will be added to the minutes.
  - The committee had no further comments on the minutes.
- **[0:10:15 in recording]** Bill Swiatek gave an update on the Hamilton Park/Eden Park Survey. He said that the survey is still under development, and Victor Perez is working with Pastor McDuffy and Penny Dryden on some of the questions.

- Pastor McDuffy said that the way the questions are phrased will determine the results. He also said the EPA came to a meeting he held a few weeks ago, and they were unable to share information about a cleanup they did 21 years ago.
    - Jakim Mohammed said you can go to Delaware Info Now to see the update on the more recent cleanup.
  - Bill Swiatek said that the survey was called for in the plan to gauge opinion based on the recommendation in the plan for relocation, and that recommendation is based on soil contamination, noise, and health impacts Eden and Hamilton Park experience, as well as previous efforts to relocate. The survey is under development and we hope that it will be out in the field as soon as possible.
  - Ken Dryden said that part of the population wants to go, and part wants to stay. He asked if there is anyone in the room or in the community who has been part of the development of the survey.
    - Pastor McDuffy said that they had everyone in the church working with the University of Delaware on the survey.
    - Caleb Jervay said he joined with Victor Perez as an advisor. He said that there are at least two others from the community who have been working on the survey.
    - Bill Swiatek said that the idea is to get community members to conduct the survey.
    - Caleb Jervay said that at least two others have been part of the group.
  - James Parker said that there is space available for development in the community, and asked if that space had been offered to homeowners.
    - Bill Swiatek said that in the survey, respondents will have the opportunity to say where they would like to move, if they were to leave.
    - James Parker said that giving them the option to say where they would like to move would be better, such as being part of the new development proposed in the plan around the library.
    - Bill Swiatek said that would be up to the County, but he does not think they are there yet to say that this development will even happen. It's just a concept at this stage.
  - Caleb Jervay said that he got involved in this committee because it came to his attention that many members of the community, including himself, were not familiar with the relocation survey.
  - Committee members expressed concern that the survey questions were being changed without the group's knowledge. The committee agreed to request that a final version of the survey, after all questions and wording have been worked out, will be presented to the survey committee. According to Victor Perez, this agreement was already in the plan for the development of the survey.
- **[1:04:35 in recording]** Bill Swiatek began a discussion about planning a community outreach event. He said that two public workshops were held during the development of the Master Plan. Since it has been a year since the study has been approved, it is a good time to hold another workshop to discuss the implementation of the plan. Randi Novakoff will be managing the outreach event.
    - Randi Novakoff said that the date could potentially be in June, likely in the evening. The workshop would start off with presentations, including talking about the prioritization, the survey, the Master Plan in general, and other issues, such as the port expansion, the port community benefits agreement, and DNREC updates related to their dust and soil

studies. This will let folks know what is happening with the process. In the second part of the event, participants will break up into discussion groups. Each table will have a different topic and will need a facilitator and a note-taker. She said that we will need help from the committee to get the word out to the community about the workshop.

- James Parker said that the workshop could be held during a scheduled dinner. That will encourage more people to come out.
  - Committee members suggested having the meeting on a Thursday evening or Saturday at lunch time. After discussion, the final direction was to have the workshop on a Wednesday after the scheduled community dinner. They also suggested keeping presentations short and promoting the event on Facebook.
  - Mike Hahn said that it is a good idea. He said that people go to events to try to get as much information as possible, and getting other components that are related to the Master Plan is a good idea.
  - Carlos Dipres said that there is a large population of Spanish-speaking homeowners in the area. He suggested to be mindful of that population. If it is a weekday, he would volunteer to be an interpreter. He also said that he could get a Spanish newspaper to write an article about the event.
    - Bill Swiatek said that getting the Spanish-speaking population to the past workshops was a struggle despite having flyers in Spanish, having an interpreter on site, and reaching out to local Spanish associations such as the Latin American Community Center for support. He said that he would work together with Carlos to discuss this issue.
  - Bill Swiatek said that he will work with Rose Hill Community Center to try to schedule a date in June. He said that if any committee members have events in May, they should let him know so they can help get the word out about the workshop. The committee will have the opportunity to work out final details at the next meeting.
- **[1:23:25 in recording]** Bill Swiatek shared an update on the transportation project prioritization. He said that DeIDOT has earmarked money starting in 2023 towards implementing some of the major projects. The committee has been working on a prioritization process to help give DeIDOT direction in implementation. He shared a poster of an example project that was scored using this process. The prioritization subcommittee met yesterday and reviewed this in detail. He shared a handout that includes suggestions the subcommittee came up with for each of the measures.
    - Caleb Jervay asked if the potential for crashes with roundabouts compared to signalized intersections was analyzed.
      - Bill Swiatek said that with roundabouts, the frequency of crashes increases slightly overall, but fatalities and serious crashes decrease dramatically. This is because roundabouts eliminate the possibility of a T-crash.
    - Bill Swiatek shared the Social Determinants of Health map. Jake Thompson shared a handout showing the data that was used to develop this map. Patti Miller shared a handout containing information about social determinants of health.
    - Caleb Jervay asked if the age of the community was considered. He said, for example, that a community with a larger retired population would have a lower income, and different demographic groups may have different education levels.
      - Patti Miller said that the data does not get into very specific details, but looking at different factors together should take into account those variations.
      - Sandra Smithers said that Caleb Jervay made a good point, because data may often be skewed by these more specific factors.

- Patti Miller said that employment rates only include people who are actively looking for work, which does not include retired people.
  - Sandra Smithers said that the general Census data does not always reflect what needs to be reflected.
  - Bill Swiatek said that the analysis will be flawed whether you look at the high-level data or low-level data. The idea is that a project that is located in an area that has some of these public health indicators should be prioritized, as it may be in greater need of improvement.
- Mike Hahn suggested looking at the health factors in relation to the Census data. He asked if there are any factors that could be added.
  - Sandra Smithers suggested adding homeownership.
  - Patti Miller said homeownership is an economic indicator and is therefore related to health impacts.
  - James Parker suggested adding a column to the SDOH data chart to identify the location of neighborhoods within the block groups.
- Steve Ottinger asked about college graduation rate. He said that because it is a non-transient community and there are a lot of workers in trades, high school graduation may be a more relevant factor.
  - Bill Swiatek said that the factor is used to show that as education levels improve, health improves. He said that we could try using that measure, but the results will likely be the same.
  - Sandra Smithers said that in the data, college graduation rate and income are not correlated. She said this might be due to trades, which tend to increase income but often do not require a college degree.
- Ken Dryden said that it is important not to just look at data and research, but also to partner with community members to develop these measures. He said that agency representatives in the committee should be honest about what their plans are for the community.
  - Bill Swiatek said that we are here to listen to committee members about their concerns. Everything that is being shared is a draft, and we are here to discuss any changes or improvements. He said that it is a collaborative process, and the plan has changed and evolved throughout the process in response to feedback. It is the community's plan, not a plan given to them.
- Josie Roy asked what percentage of the community's input was received.
  - Bill Swiatek said that there is a chapter in the Master Plan that covers the public outreach process. Civic leaders and faith leaders were engaged, and there were public meetings and workshops. Throughout this process, while not everyone was reached or chose to participate, we made sure that several people from every neighborhood were represented.
  - Bill Swiatek said that we all agreed to the mission of the Monitoring Committee, including Ken. The mission statement is on the front page of the agenda, which reads as follows: "The mission of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan Monitoring Committee is to help guide and fulfill the recommendations of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan, which established a shared vision for the transportation and land use redevelopment of the corridor. This work will be accomplished through a collaborative dialogue between its membership, which includes implementing agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent." The mission and vision statements were accepted

unanimously by the Monitoring Committee at the January 2018 meeting.

- **[2:24:30 in recording]** Bill Swiatek said that there will be another transportation prioritization subcommittee meeting ahead of the next monitoring committee meeting. They will dig into the recommended changes and bring them back to the monitoring committee as draft. He said that he will share the meeting details, and committee members will be invited to attend. He also said that on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am, there will be an OJT subcommittee meeting. It will be held at the café in the Route 9 Library. He asked for anyone interested in joining either subcommittee to indicate so on the sign in sheet.
- The next Monitoring Committee meeting will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. The meeting location is to be determined.