

Meeting Minutes

Client:	City of Pittsburgh
Project Name:	Lincoln Lemington Belmar & East Hills Community Visioning Study
Project Number:	10-20296
Date:	1-21-2021
Location:	Virtual
Meeting Purpose:	Workshop #2 with East Hills Collaborative and public
Prepared By:	Amy Wiles

In Attendance	
Name	Company
Janai Williams Smith	E. Holdings
Alexis Strothman Meier	E. Holdings
Amy Wiles	E. Holdings
Ben Levinger	E. Holdings
Janette Williams	E. Holdings
Paige Nealer	E. Holdings
Christopher Corbett	City of Pittsburgh

Summary

- 16 Attendees (excluding City and Consultant Staff)
- Two breakout room facilitations
- Participation in open ended and fact-finding questions
- 2000+ flyers informational mailed to the neighborhood prior to the meeting date

Christopher opened the workshop/meeting by welcoming and thanking all participants for coming and participating.

Amy W presented the attendees with a brief overview of the 1st workshop and highlighted the key take aways from that meeting and how this second workshop would piggy back of that and build on what members of the EH community would like to see in a vision for the East Hills community. The goal is that by the end of the study to provide the Collaborative with some Short/Long Term Goals & Projects and Action items that will help the community in the successful undertaking of their community Visioning Plan.

Amy stressed to the participants that this is about their vision of their neighborhood, not EHoldings, not the City of Pittsburgh.

Following is What We Have Heard So Far:

Use One Word to describe East Hills:

- Traumatized
- Struggling
- Resilient
- Family
- Disparities
- Forgotten
- Lacking
- Separated
- Un-unified

Favorite Things:

- Community Pride
- Community Events/Community Days
- Rural feel
- Entrepreneurs
- Parks

Needed Improvements:

- Safety
 - Lighting
 - Speed Control
 - Traffic signs/Enforcement
- Signage/Branding
- Streetscape Beautification
- Park Maintenance
- Football/Baseball Field(s) Maintenance

Amenities needed:

- Stores
 - Retail/Professional services
 - Restaurants
 - Grocery
- Basketball Court
- New Parks/Existing Parks Upgraded
- Employment Opportunities
- Senior Center
- Youth Recreational Center
- Home Ownership Programs

Following is the discussion/questions and chat comments that took place just before the Visioning Exercise. Amy asked participants after seeing the key themes from Visioning Meeting #1 if there some things that may not have been discussed or thought of.

White Board & Mapping out a Strategy:

A two-part exercise, which consisted of a white board and an interactive map, was done with participants to engage them on where they felt their community could use the most focus and attention. The goal of this exercise was to identify targeted locations within the East Hills Community that needed improvements based on categories created by residents and community partners during Workshop #1. Participants were asked to collaborate on where they thought some projects could begin to take shape. Participants were asked to think BIG & SMALL picture and to consider what projects are "low hanging fruit" and also, what will take time to plan, mobilize and fundraise for.

Question: (From a resident who is on the border line of Homewood and East Hills but is considered East Hills). Is this visioning study part of Rev. Burgess visioning study? It seems that Homewood is always left out of these types of community improvement projects? Or the community is asked for their input, but nothing ever gets done.

Answer: East Hills will be included in the overall plan. This project is being undertaken and managed by the City of Pittsburgh Planning Department, and this will be implemented

Discussion: There is a 24-hour babysitting service in Park Hill that has been helping the community for 30-years, they could use some resources to upgrade and assist with their facility.

Discussion: There are a few existing/local businesses (a landscaping business and barbershop) that could use some assistance. The community would like to see them thrive and they too should be at the table during this

Visioning Study. They should be contacted about their ideas on growth and opportunities. The community would also like help to go to up and coming entrepreneurs and businesses.

Discussion: A participant who lived in East Hills up until 10 years ago sees a lot of discouragement because of the blight in the community. He recalls that he even tool local government officials on a walkthrough of the community and promises were made for improvements and help, but were never kept. He would like to know what's going to be now to ensure that community will not be forgotten again.

Answer: This process is in place to pull all priorities previous and current together under on plan, and build community consensus and participation. We are here as consultants, but once we are gone it will be up to the community to stay involved.

Following is a list of locations (where signage and beautification needs to take place) in which the meeting participates provided within the Chat. These locations will be incorporated into the map.

Beautification/cleaning:

- Tokay and Robinson could use a major overhaul of weeds and rubbish.
- Nimick is an eyesore as it connects up to Singer Place
- The top of East Hills Drive leading to PETRA there is trash and debris that gets thrown over the hill.

Gateway/Signage:

- Sunrise @ Robinson
- Frankstown Road toward Oakwood (beginning)
- End of Oakwood & Tioga
- Mooseheart (right)/Homewood (left)
- Signage at the top of East Hills Drive leading to PETRA to get into Penn Hills (This may be a Penn Hills task; the plan will address external factors that may be the responsibility of neighboring communities such as Penn Hills, working with Penn Hills is an option. (This is a common problem with bordering Municipalities who are not vested in helping other communities). We will need to identify some of these priorities and collaborate.

Infrastructure/Safety:

- Remington & Sunrise could use some speed bumps ASAP
- Main thorough fares of Bennett & Oakwood (very busy intersection on the border of EH & Homewood)
- There are pot holes and speed bumps all along East Hills & Wilner Drives; the section after the Shopping Center and near the park as well.
 - Are there any Pedestrian Right of Way Signage (NO!)
- The speed bumps and roads that extend out into the streets on East Hills and Wilner Drives are dangerous.
- Residents who are confined to scooters feel like the sidewalks are hazardous and in deplorable condition. The sidewalks need to be flattened. All along Robinson is not safe.
- The Community Center path leading to the City Park is not flat enough and scooters need to go into the street to get there.
- Property Manager from East Hills is concerned about the Street on Robinson off of Frankstown Road, that there is no stops sign or lighting. This is a dangerous blind spot due to trees and shrubbery. Lighting is a major need for this reason. (Diane pointed out that Robinson is a State owned street; however the 3 communities that surround it have to deal with the maintenance of the road(s). This is another partnership in which the neighborhood should pursue with Penn Dot.
- Ease of consecutiveness of neighborhood: (sidewalks, crosswalks, access to public transportation to include handicapped accessibility at the intersections of Sunrise & Robinson and Frankstown & Wilksburg Ave; riders are practically getting off in the street!
- Corner of Bracey & Wilner-youth center and/or small grocery store or convenient store would be beneficial
- Housing behind Park Hill drive has lots of debris and a bad parking lot

Resources for trades and project works for rehabbing housing (Park Hill & East Drive) utilize time better (jobs & beautification)

Discussion: Ms Wright-garbage piling up before garbage day-need garbage bins. Ms Diane suggested she reach out to the HOA on that issue as some parts are private and its weird how its broken up (Study can work towards what types of partnerships can be made and what role each plays in the overall goal) Bottom of Oakwood and up (near Barber School) everyone else for the most part are on the same page. Madonna & Frankstown /Wilkinsburg

Discussion: Kendall Pelling works with HOA; he has some information to share and goals for improvements (Pittsburgh Trash pick-up is responsible for the trash) Bricelynn & Enyard-Simmies on down mix of residential meeting commercial-visioning and zoning & land use for the corridor. Collaboration and Visioning-most streets cross boundaries Collaborate with Wilkinsburg CDC- have to deal with Penn Hill on the other end.

Upcoming Meetings:

Christopher C. thanked everyone for sharing their visions and stories today. I'll see you on February 18th @ 6PM Please register and pass the invite on.

Community Input Survey:

Paige N. posted information to register for February meeting: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/east-hills-visioning-study/events>

Follow-up Amy posted the link for participant to take a survey <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/east-hills-visioning-study>