



Sixth Task Force Meeting – Summary 15 March 2018

The meeting commenced with Julie Donofrio, Managing Director of Penn PRAXIS presenting a new citizen’s engagement tool kit process that will enhance outreach to Philadelphia neighborhood residents through an interactive process, funded by the William Penn Foundation. The process will run concurrent with the Historic Preservation Task Force’s activities and help to bolster the Task Force’s Outreach and Education subcommittee’s work.

The second item on the agenda was the introduction of Elizabeth Okeke-Von Batten, Founder and Principal of Context Ventures and new consultant for the Historic Preservation Task Force initiative. Okeke-Von Batten’s deliverables to the Task Force will include the Best Practices and Implementation reports in addition to facilitation of monthly Task Force activities.

Next, Dominique Hawkins kicked-off a prioritization exercise with all Task Force members that assessed 30 Issues to Consider; challenges that Task Force members have identified during this process that need further exploration. (Prior to this Task Force meeting, members of the Task Force and public audience received dot sticker and were asked to place them on large poster boards that listed the 30 Issues. During this 15 minute pre-meeting exercise, over 40 individuals participated in the exercise).

As Ms. Hawkins assessed the 30 Issues categories relative to the dot votes, discussion of the full Task Force ensued and members categorized the Issues most frequently picked into four subcommittee categories for further assessment and evaluation; Incentives, Regulatory, Outreach, Survey. In some cases, Issues were assigned to multiple subcommittees as their subjects are cross-cutting.

To conclude the Task Force participation portion of the meeting, Ms. Hawkins asked all Task Force members present to provide personal definitions of “preservation,” especially as they reflected upon their 11-months participation in the Task Force process, to-date.

Answers were wide-ranging, but common themes included:

- Enhancing the quality of life and the feeling of a sense of place;
- Retaining buildings, structures, streets, and sites that cannot be easily replace, due to craftsmanship, materials, and setting;
- Bolstering neighborhood pride in their historic place and the reuse of their resources;
- Differentiating Philadelphia from other cities and showcasing its unique place in the nation's and region's histories; and
- A process managing change over time.

The meeting concluded with public comment from the audience. Ms. Hawkins explained that the public would have the opportunity to pose questions to the Task Force and responses would be posted to the phlpreservation.org website. For a full list of the questions posed and the answers associated, please visit the phlpreservation.org website during April.

The next Task Force meeting will be held May 17, 2018 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Northeast High School (1601 Cottman Avenue, entrance at Cottman and Algon Avenues). Please join us.