



## Ninth Task Force Meeting – Summary

### 19 July 2018

Julie Donofrio, Managing Director of Penn PRAXIS, presented an update on the Historic Preservation Citizen Engagement Project and Toolkit creation. This research and development project has engaged 20 community liaisons who are Citizen Planning Institute alumni from neighborhoods across the city to assist Penn PRAXIS in creating content, identifying resources that already exist, and bridge citizen interest and engagement at the neighborhood scale and citywide preservation activities. During the September 20th public meeting, Penn PRAXIS will have a draft of the toolkit to share with meeting attendees for feedback.

Task Force chair Harris Steinberg opened up the Task Force discussion portion of the meeting and began by reorienting attendees to the Best Practice Matrix that was created with Task Force input over June and July 2018 to help explain the challenges Philadelphia faces and associated best practices from other U.S. cities that Philadelphia might learn from as the Task Force considers recommendations to the Mayor and City Council at the close of 2018. Some minor revisions to the language in the matrix were proposed, and the Task Force agreed that once those changes were made, the document could be approved.

Next, the Task Force subcommittee co-chairs provided updates on their groups' work, as July is the final month that the subcommittees will meet before reconvening as a full Task Force to develop a complete list of recommendations. The following updates were provided:

- Regulatory Subcommittee: Co-Chairs Dominique Hawkins and Matt McClure shared that the group continues to discuss differentiation between current and potential designated districts including the current historic district and conservation district classifications, in addition to a community-based historic district / preservation district classification that would include the design review for new construction present for conservation districts as well as the demolition oversight that is allowed for in historic districts.
- Survey / Inventory Subcommittee: Co-Chair Nan Gutterman shared that the group has concluded that the City needs to do a comprehensive, citywide survey, and that the survey is necessary to understand the resources outside of Center City. The group's review of other U.S. cities' survey, inventory, and data management systems has been helpful in identifying ways that Philadelphia

- could conduct similar work and ensure that data is maintained and integrated across city databases and platforms. The City received a \$25,000 matching grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to support survey work and the PHC staff are waiting for the Task Force recommendations to consider how best to approach this citywide survey activity.
- Incentives Subcommittee: Co-Chair James Wright and subcommittee member Cathy Califano shared that the group has developed a matrix of 60-70 potential incentives that they are not working to streamline and prioritize. They provided a series of criteria that they are evaluating each incentive that includes; how best the incentive can help to reduce regulatory requirements for projects and encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings and if it is a current incentive offered by the City of Philadelphia, but not expressly for a preservation-related purpose, how can the current incentive be modified to accomplish dual purposes.
  - Outreach / Education Subcommittee: Co-Chairs Laura Spina and Trapeta Mayson shared that their group has been working to identify how best to work with different audiences around the City and thinking through engagement strategies throughout the course of the Task Force and after this group's work is done and the City is working to implement recommendations. They identified modes by which they have considered engagement, both online and in-person, and are currently working to prepare for the September 20 public Task Force meeting that will include a highly participatory Open House format.

Task Force Chair Steinberg then opened up the floor for discussion and comment on subcommittee updates from Task Force members. Questions included further information about the differentiated district classifications, where to start surveying based on neighborhoods that might be facing significant development pressures that involve demolition, the consideration of financial and regulatory incentives to help homeowners of historic properties, and how best to incentivize investment in vacant historic buildings and adjacent lots.

The meeting concluded with moderated comments and questions from the public. For a full list of comments and questions, see the July Task Force Minutes document.

The next Task Force meeting will be held Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Rodeph Shalom, 615 North Broad Street.