

AWCC General Membership Meeting Agenda

February 12, 2013

I. READING OF JANUARY 2012 MINUTES

II. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Treasurer's Report

III. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Housing & Planning Committee

1. North Avenue Project
 - a. Stables Building
 - b. Value Added Foods Building
 - c. Galveston Lots
2. Western Avenue Project
 - a. Electrical Moves
 - b. Gateway Project
3. Light of Life Relocation/Expansion
4. North Shore Event Parking

B. Membership

1. AW Neighborhood Mixer -1/11
2. Bowling Resumes at the Elks

C. Property

1. Realtor report

D. Ways & Means

1. Christmas House Tour Wrap Up

E. Friends of Allegheny West

F. Communications

IV. NORTH SIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Problem Properties
- B. Councilman Burgess legislation seeking limits to historic preservation and nomination of properties to City Historic District/Landmark status

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF ANYONE'S GOING TO LOSE SLEEP, IT'LL BE US.



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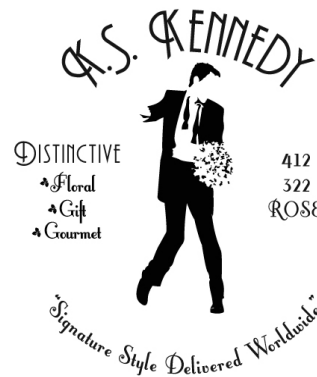
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ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2013

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
And that has twenty-eight days clear
And twenty-nine in each leap-year.*
Punxsatawny Phil Unknown

Well, we get no Leap Day this year, so we'll just have to make do with the February days that we have. It's going to be tough going, though, because we have a lot to cram into this month. To whit:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - This is becoming an Allegheny West tradition. This year, it will be held on February 12th, starting at 5:00 PM, at Calvary United Methodist Church. I've attended the last two of these, and the food and camaraderie were both excellent.

Bowling - Yes, bowling continues every Wednesday night at 6:00 PM. Tim Zinn, our Membership Chair, runs this event every week at the Elks' Lodge on Cedar Avenue. Come on down to bowl or just socialize with your neighbors. The past four weeks have been great fun, and we haven't had a single fatality!

Recycling - Recycling isn't restricted to February, but I want to remind folks of the City's new policy on electronics disposal. You can no longer put computer equipment, peripherals and accessories out at the curb for pickup. If you need to dispose of any of these items, you can call 800-346-4242 for a drop-off location. My understanding is that most Best Buy stores will accept these items, but be sure to call ahead. You should also be sure to securely wipe the hard drives and memories of any recycled electronics, to avoid the theft of any of your personal data.

February is _____ Month - Let's not forget that February is the month when we raise our awareness of many important things. For instance, February is:

1. Age-Related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month
2. An Affair to Remember Month
3. Black History Month
4. Body Awareness Month
5. Canned Food Month
6. Creative Romance Month
7. Electrical Safety Awareness Month
8. Great American Pie Month
9. Heart Disease Awareness Month
10. Heartworm Awareness Month
11. National Cancer Prevention Month
12. National Cherry Month
13. National Children's Dental Health Month
14. National Grapefruit Month
15. National "National Awareness Month" Awareness Month
16. National Pet Dental Health Awareness Month
17. National Weddings Month
18. School-Based Health Center Awareness Month
19. Sinus Pain Awareness Month
20. Termite Awareness Month

I guess #15 pretty much says it all.
With that, I'll sign off. Stay aware! Spring is coming!

Bob Griewahn, Jr., President

AWCC February/March Calendar

AWCC General Membership Meeting
Calvary United Methodist Church
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, February 12 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 12 @ 7:30 pm

Combined Housing & Planning and
North Avenue Committees Meeting
857 Western Avenue

Tuesday, February 19 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 14 @ 7:30pm (NOTE DATE
CHANGE!)

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
835 Western Avenue

Tuesday, February 26 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 26 @ 7:30 pm

There will be no February AW Mixer because of the Pancake Dinner. Mixers will resume in March.

THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council

Editor: *Gloria Rayman*

Letters, Submissions, Advertising, and other notices: GAZETTE@ALLEGHENYWEST.NET
or call 412-323-8884. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Ad rates: \$10 - 1/8 page, \$20 - 1/4 page, \$40 - 1/2 page



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Email Newsletter:

Would you like to receive our free, monthly CLP-Allegheny email newsletter?

Stop into CLP-Allegheny and let a staff member know that you'd like to join our monthly newsletter mailing list, or email: allegheny@carnegielibrary.org with the subject **Newsletter Sign Up**.

You'll receive a monthly update on all the great events going on at CLP-Allegheny! (Unsubscribe anytime.)

Homework Club Mondays / 4:30 pm

Please join us in the library for weekly FREE homework help and tutoring. Adult tutors will be available to help your child complete their homework. Recommended for children in grade K-6.

Game Day! Saturday, February 16 / 1 pm

Stop into the Library for traditional board games and new video games! Fun for the family! Recommended for children grade K-5.

Teens (for students in grades 6-12):

The Labs @ CLP Allegheny

**Mondays, February 4 & 18/ 4-7 pm
Photography Workshop!**

Teens will get a chance to work with a professional digital camera and learn how to edit photos on the iMacs. Teens are welcome to bring their own cameras, too.

**Monday, February 11 & 25/ 4-7 pm
Take pART Series**

The LABS joins forces with the folks from Hear Me! Together, we'll share experiences and observations from our local communities and translate them to audio recordings and digital film.

**Tuesday, February 12/ 4-5 pm
Love is in the Air/ Valentine's Day Party**

Join your friends at CLP Allegheny for our Valentine's Day Party. A chocolate fountain will be the centerpiece, as you gather with your friends listening to music and making candy grams for that special someone!

**Tuesday, February 19/ 4-5 pm
You Can Eat!! Marshmallow Art** **Art**

Did you know marshmallows serve another purpose than simply eating? Join us as we use everyone's favorite camp fire companion to make some delectable art.

**Tuesday, February 26/ 4-5 pm
in the Dark Bowling @ the Library** **Glow**

Bowling at the Library? Yes, and glow in the dark bowling to make things even more interesting! Who amongst you is worthy to call themselves, The Greatest Library Bowler in the History of.....Something!?

**Teen Reading Lounge: Book Club Kick Off!
Wednesday, February 20 / 6 pm**

Registration required.
Join us to kick off this exciting, new, non-traditional book club featuring three graphic novels. Teens who sign up will receive copies of the books to take home. Meet back at the Library two evenings a month with other northside teens for a discussion session and a hands-on exploration of the book's themes. This special series is supported by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and will run from February through May. Contact the Library for more details.

**Help keep track
neighborhood 311 reports**
311notifications@alleghenywest.org

The Executive Committee would like to start regularly reviewing whether our 311 reports are being acted on by the City. To help with this, if you make a report to 311 about anything in the neighborhood please send an email with a description of the issue and the tracking number to 311notifications@alleghenywest.org. If the City does take action or otherwise follow up it would be useful to send an email at that point too. Bob and Howard will get the email and the Executive Committee will regularly review them to see which reports get acted on.

Western Renewed Update

The start of a new year seems like a good time to update everyone on the progress of the Western Renewed project, with special attention to the utility relocations.

Of course your first reaction may well be the same as mine - this thing is dragging into another year?! The pace has been frustrating for everyone, but we've faced numerous obstacles:

- City electrical inspectors were badly understaffed through all of 2012, making scheduling incredibly difficult.
- Our electrical contractor faced serious health issues in 2012, keeping him out of action at various times. Changing contractors in the middle of such a complex project was not a viable option, so we've been patient out of necessity and out of loyalty to someone who has been a great working partner.
- Electrical lines have more rules and regulations than any other endeavor in life - and rightly so because electricity can kill or start fires - but devising cost-effective solutions in a dense urban environment is incredibly difficult. Especially if your inspector and contractor are unavailable!
- The City came along and took our lights! LED lighting is fine, but City lopped off the tops of our historic lights that we had just installed! That was an enormous distraction in 2012 but a battle we HAD to fight.

On the other hand, we had some serious victories in 2012:

- The City restored our historic lights after much time and energy.
- TEN properties saw their wires REMOVED and 4 more are ready to go once the inspector comes out to approve them. We reached consensus agreement on a design solution for MacIntosh Row that will eliminate the lines and poles on Western without adding overhead lines to the rear of the properties, AND without spending \$250,000 on trenching! This was a huge step forward.
- We have a design solution to servicing 2 of the 5 "courtyard properties" in the 800 block, and we are nearing final design for the remaining 3 properties, again without having to spend prohibitive sums on trenching.
- We raised an additional \$20,000 in funds from the Rivers Casino Fund at Northside Leadership Conference to cover the added costs of the utility relocations. As a result, the property owners who had to relocate service have not had to spend ONE ADDITIONAL DOLLAR to make those changes - we've borne all the costs!
- AWCC designed planting beds for the entryway intersection at Allegheny and Western, and raised an additional \$100,000 in funds from the Rivers Casino Fund at Northside Leadership Conference to cover those costs, plus pay for plantings and edging in the tree pits, as well as hanging baskets for the poles. This will enable us to realize the full vision for this street that the neighborhood and the Western Ave owners had from the beginning!
- The City hired one new inspector and our electrician has come through his illness and is ready to roll on next steps. The vast majority of property owners has paid their NID assessments, or is on a payment plan. For the few who failed to pay, we have placed a lien on the property, so we will eventually be paid. Everyone will pay their fair share as planned and approved by the City.

So there was significant progress, though most of it behind the scenes.

As for the utility relocations, we had 31 properties that had to have lines relocated from their front facades on Western. Those fall into 3 categories: MacIntosh Row (8), Courtyard Properties (5) and Stand-alone Properties (18). Look for an update on this part of the project in the March Gazette. As for the poles and service lines on Western, Duquesne Light will not remove its poles until ALL utility relocations are complete. So we need to solve 31 out of 31, or we can't take out the poles. The remaining tall streetlights are paid for and are sitting in storage, but can't be installed until the poles and wires are removed. So EVERYTHING depends on completing these utility relocations for all 31 properties.

Marcus Houser of NSLC continues to work as the Project Manager for Western Renewed. He is, or will be, in contact with individual property owners who still need work done. If you have any questions about your specific property, don't hesitate to call Marcus at 412-330-2557.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding through this long process. We also understand Impatience and any lack of understanding, because we've felt the same way at times. We hope this update gives everyone a clearer picture. Don't hesitate to ask any questions and we'll do our best to provide answers. Thank you!

--Gloria Rayman and Mark Fatla

**2013 Executive Committee
Allegheny West Civic Council**

- President - Bob Greiwahn (president@alleghenywest.org)
- Vice President - Martha Helmreich (vice-president@alleghenywest.org)
- Secretary - Michael Shealey (secretary@alleghenywest.org)
- Treasurer - Cathy Serventi (treasurer@alleghenywest.org)
- Housing & Planning - John DeSantis (housing-planning@alleghenywest.org)
- Property - Mary Callison (property@alleghenywest.org)
- Ways & Means - Carole Malakoff (ways-means@alleghenywest.org)
- Membership - Timothy Zinn (membership@alleghenywest.org)
- Communications - Gloria Rayman (gazette@alleghenywest.org)
- Friends of Agh. West - Howard Brokenbek (friends@alleghenywest.org)
- Sgt. At Arms - Trish Burton (arms@alleghenywest.org)

**AWCC Membership
Join Today!**

To become an AWCC member, send your Name, Address, Phone Number and email address to:

Allegheny West Civic Council - Membership Chair
812 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45. Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

Pay for your membership online with your credit card! Go to www.alleghenywest.org, click on the "Tours" button (it is set up to take payments for our Christmas tour) and then click on the Christmas Tour logo. Scroll to the bottom for the "purchase" link.

Your paid membership enables you to vote at monthly membership meetings.