



Proposed Bylaw Changes

Submitted 10/11/22

By popular demand and a recommendation from the Executive Committee the Allegheny West Civic Council Bylaws Committee has resumed working on an updated bylaws. Committee members are Bob Malakoff, Mary Callison and Tim Zinn.

Any suggestions and comments should be sent to Bob Malakoff (bobmalakoff@verizon.net, 913 Brighton Road 15233) or you can call 412 321-3612.

This is a summary of the recommended changes. The current set of bylaws can be found at: <https://alleghenywest.org/get-involved/allegheny-west-civic-council/constitution-bylaws/>

Some article numbers have been renumbered.

- Article V Officers - Replaces part of Article V Officers and Elections and Article VI Duties of Officers.
- Article VI Committees - Replaces Article VII Committees.
- Article VII Elections -Replaces part of Article V Officers and Elections.

The following modifications we are being considered:



-
1. **ARTICLE II AREA** - Clarification of neighborhood description and the changes to coincide with City definition in the east and south.

Proposed Revision

The Council shall represent the following geographical area in the 22 Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

**Starting at the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Reedsdale Street going north on Allegheny Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue;
East along Pennsylvania Avenue to Brighton Road;
South on Brighton Road to West Ohio Street;
South east on West Ohio Street to Ridge Avenue;
East on Ridge Avenue to Merchant Street;
South on Merchant Street to Martindale Street;
West on Martindale Street to Scotland Avenue;
South on Scotland Avenue to Reedsdale street;
West on Reedsdale street (westbound lanes) to Allegheny, point of origin.**

~~Starting at the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Ridge Avenue along Allegheny Avenue to the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue; along Pennsylvania Avenue to the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks; following tracks to the intersection of West North Avenue and Brighton Road; along Brighton road to the intersection of Brighton Road and Ridge Avenue; along Ridge Avenue to the intersection of Ridge Avenue and Bank Street; along Bank Street to the intersection of Bank Street and Marburg Street; south along Marburg Street until it intersects with the extension of Brighton Road; along the extension of Brighton Road until it intersects with the ridge line; along the ridge to the extension of Allegheny Avenue; along the extension of Allegheny Avenue to the point of origin. S~~

Notes

The description of the southern boundary was written before the Ft. Duquesne Bridge access roads were created. It is confusing and refers to a street that no longer exists (Marburg Street). The “ridge line” is not well defined. “South along Marburg Street to the until it intersects with the extension of Brighton Road” does not make sense since Brighton Road also goes south.

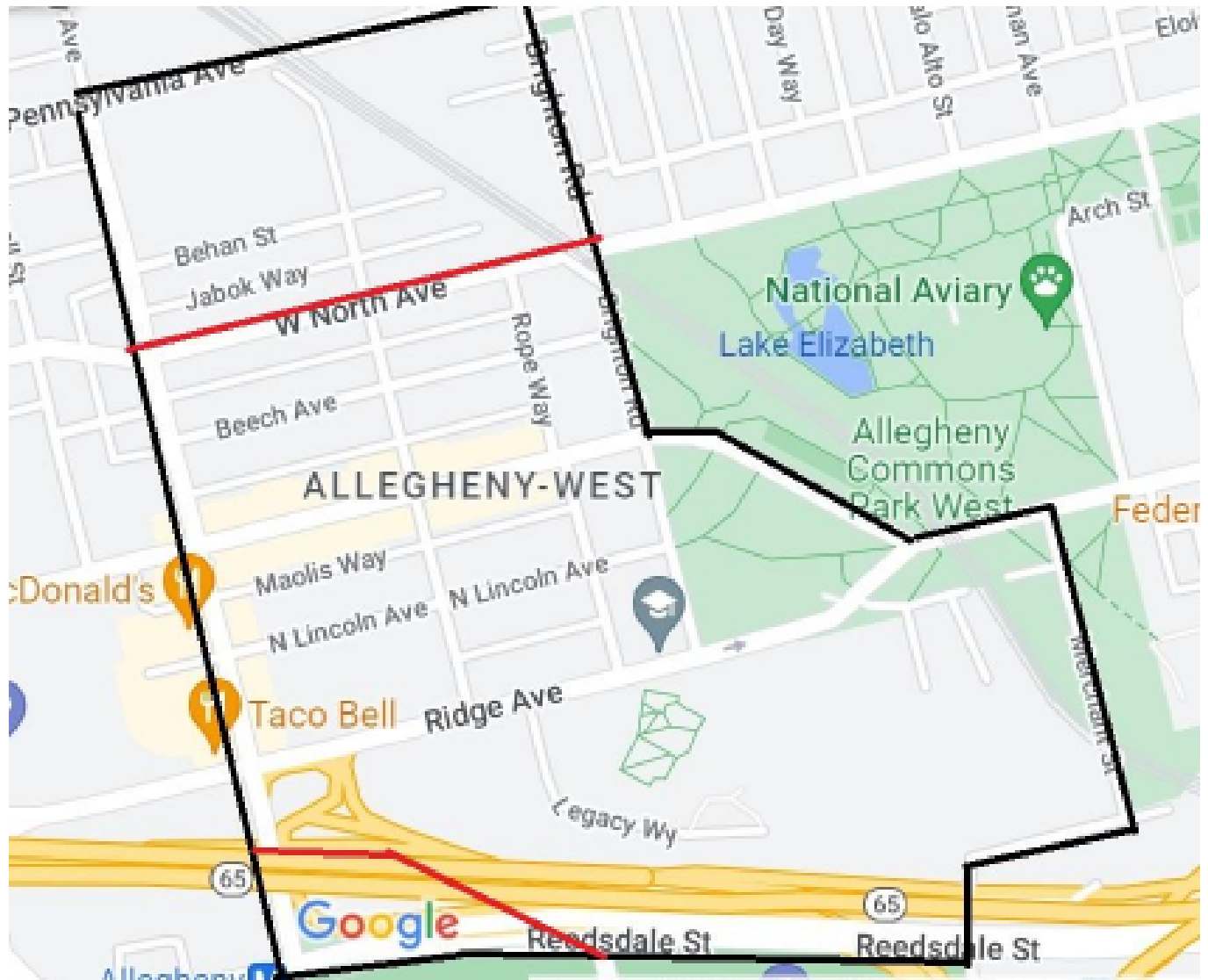
The northern border of the City’s definition stops at West North Avenue, assigning the area from the north side of West North Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue to Central Northside. The old bylaws description added the area bounded by Allegheny, Pennsylvania, the railroad tracks, and West North Avenue to Allegheny West. That has changed to add the area from the railroad tracks to Brighton Road.

The proposed southern and eastern boundaries are more in line with the City’s definition



of the neighborhood. The City's boundary on the South goes along the road that comes up from Reedsdale street and tunnels under the highway. That road is unnamed. It is simpler to just to continue on Reedsdale to Allegheny. The change adds part of the park, 2 parking lots and a highway interchange to the neighborhood.

We should work with the city to change the northern boundary so that they place some active AWCC members in Allegheny West





2. **ARTICLE III PURPOSE** – Added

Proposed Revision

[To add]

In performing its function, the council will receive and administer funds exclusively for scientific, educational, charitable and neighborhood improvement purposes. It may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities, and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Notes

This is an attempt to comply with Federal 501 C 3 regulations. This section should be reviewed by an attorney to insure 501 C 3 compliance. The last sentence is taken from Federal regulations.

3. **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP.**

Proposed Revisions

~~Associate membership: Also eligible for individual or group membership are any person, organization, or business establishment, located in close proximity to our border, but not within the boundary of Allegheny West set forth in Article II, whose activities would be more closely aligned with those of Allegheny West than to the neighborhood in which they are geographically located. Also eligible would be public officials, and representatives of organizations whose activities could affect the welfare of our area. All associate members would require the approval of the Executive Committee. An associate member will have all the rights and privileges of an individual or group member, including the right to vote.~~

Notes

We are not aware that there has ever been an Associate Member of AWCC. Recruiting members who are eligible for membership with another neighborhood organization is not advisable. It is a contradiction to Article II Area.

Making the Mayor, County Executive, City Council, and the directors of City Planning, Public Safety, and URA members makes no sense. At times their objectives differ significantly from the neighborhood, and they may not have a stake in the neighborhood.



Moved requirements for dues to Membership Section and stating that someone who has paid lifetime dues must also satisfy the other membership requirement to be considered a member in good standing.

4. ARTICLE V OFFICERS.

Proposed Revisions

The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the council and the Executive Committee and shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President ~~shall~~ **may** appoint special committees and shall perform all the other duties usually pertaining to the office. The President **along with the Treasurer** shall prepare an annual budget **to be presented at the** ~~January~~ **May** meeting **and voted on at the June meeting for the fiscal year beginning in July**. The budget must be approved by a majority of members present ~~at a regular or special membership~~ **the June** meeting.

The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for the collection disbursement of all moneys of the council, and the payment of all bills, and shall submit a monthly financial statement **to the President and Recording Secretary. Copies of the report shall be available to the membership.** His or her records shall be subject to an annual audit. No bills which are not line items in the approved budget for the fiscal year shall be paid without the approval of one over half of those present and eligible to vote at a regular or special membership meeting. **The Treasurer will be chair of the Finance Committee. The financial fiscal year will be July 1 through June 30."**

The **Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the council, and the Executive Committee.** The Recording Secretary will provide three copies of each record, one for the President, one for the Corresponding Secretary, and one for the Treasurer within ten days of the meeting at which said record was presented and approved by the Membership or Executive Committee, as appropriate."

The **Corresponding Secretary** shall be responsible for all communications pertaining to the business of the Council, shall insure that all official Council correspondence and other documentation be archived, and shall act as chair of the Communications Committee. The Corresponding Secretary will be copied in all Council correspondence including e-mail.



5. ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Proposed Revisions

The standing committees of the council are Housing and Planning, Membership, Property, Ways and Means, ~~Friends of Allegheny West~~ **Greenspace**, Communications and **Finance**. **The Communications Committee is chaired by the Corresponding Secretary and the Finance Committee is chaired by the Treasurer. The chairs of the other committees are elected by the membership."**

The **Housing and Planning Committee** shall be responsible for the physical planning and housing conditions in Allegheny West. **It should be as representative as possible of residential, business, and institutional sectors of the neighborhood. Any request for support of any development in the neighborhood should first be reviewed by the Housing and Planning Committee. Following review, if a request for support of a development is requested from the membership, the developer or his or her agent shall make a presentation at a regular or special membership meeting. Thirty days advanced notification of the presentation shall be given to the membership.**

Notes

Review of all development projects by Housing and Planning before it is voted on by the membership has been a long-time procedure of Civic Council.

Proposed Revisions

The **Communications Committee**, chaired by the Corresponding Secretary, shall take care of all communication activities and archiving activities of the Council. These activities include maintaining the Council's Web site, **producing on-line newsletters**, responding to and/or redirecting e-mail, setting up and monitoring the telephone answering machine, maintaining mailing lists and producing mailing labels, maintaining supplies of Council stationery, and maintaining the historical archive files. The Communication Committee will be responsible for the monthly publication of the **printed Allegheny West Gazette** which will be distributed throughout Allegheny West. **An electronic version of the Gazette may be distributed electronically to anyone capable of receiving it instead of a printed copy.**

Notes

It is important to produce a monthly Gazette to keep people informed. Not everyone reads electronic newsletters.

Proposed Revisions

[Friends of Allegheny West is changed to Greenspace.] ~~The Friends of Allegheny West Committee shall be concerned with bringing to the council support and services from individuals, from both within~~



~~and outside of Allegheny West, who are concerned with the human and physical development within the neighborhood.~~

[To add]

The Greenspace Committee is in charge of the Triangle Garden, Parklet, Tree Wells on Western Ave. and Flower Baskets on Western and Galveston Aves. It shall organize neighborhood cleanups and other related neighborhood projects as needed.”

[To add]

The Finance Committee shall assist the treasurer with management of Civic Council finances.

Standing committee ~~chairmen~~ **Chairs** shall select from between two and ten members for their committees within 45 days following their election. No member of Council may chair more than one standing committee at a time. No officer may chair any standing committee **except for the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer who chair the Communications Committee and Finance Committee, respectively. All standing committees except for the Executive Committee are open to everyone to participate in discussion and all Civic Council members in good standing present are eligible to vote on any motion from the committee.**

Notes

Historically, all committees except for the Executive Committee have been open to everyone.



6. ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

Proposed Revisions

[To add]

The officers and standing committee chair shall be elected at the November Annual Meeting for two-year terms according to the following: The President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Chairs of the Property, and Ways and Means Committees will be elected in even numbered years. The Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Sergeant at Arms and the Chairs of the Housing and Planning, Membership and Greenspace committees will be elected in odd-numbered years. No officer or committee chair shall be eligible to serve in any one office for more than one two-year term in succession.

[Implementation: If the first election following the implementation of the new bylaws is in an even numbered year, the offices designated for even numbered years will be elected for two-year terms and the other offices will be elected for one-year terms. If the first election is in an odd numbered year, the offices designated for odd-numbered years will be elected for two-year terms and the other offices will be elected for one-year terms.]

Notes

In the past most officers and committee chairs have been re-elected to a second one year term. Having two-year terms where only half of the Executive Committee is elected in any given year provides continuity by guaranteeing that at least half of the committee is familiar with the on-going business of the Council. It also makes it easier for the Nominating Committee because they only have to choose half as many candidates.

Proposed Revisions

[To add]

No more than one member of a household may be a member of the Executive Committee at the same time.

Notes

This has been a long-standing policy of the Council.

Proposed Revisions

Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee of five members, to be elected at the annual meeting to serve for ~~one~~ **two** years. This committee shall present a single slate of candidates for the



positions of officers and standing committee ~~chairmen~~ **chairs** at least one month preceding the annual ~~meeting~~ **at the October meeting. The proposed slate of candidates shall be published in the Allegheny West Gazette and on-line newsletter prior to the October meeting.** Prior agreement and consent to serve in the indicated positions if elected shall have been obtained by the Nominating Committee from all persons whose names were submitted. **Additional** nominations from the floor **at the October meeting** may be made, provided that consent and agreement to serve if elected have been obtained prior to, or during the meeting.

Notes

By closing nominations from the floor at the October meeting, everyone will know who all the candidates are before the November meeting and written ballots can be prepared.

Proposed Revisions

[To add]

Election of Nominating Committee. At the October Meeting in odd-numbered years at least four people will be nominated. The member with the highest number of votes will be the chair. The person finishing fourth will be an alternate member. In even-numbered years at least three people will be nominated. The person finishing third will be an alternate member. In the event that a committee member is not available the chair will select an alternate member to participate.

Process for the conduct of elections

~~The Judges of election will provide an official ballot to each member in good standing whose name appears on the sign-up sheet for the current meeting.~~

For the election at the November meeting, an official printed ballot listing all candidates will be provided to each member in good standing. Voting for officers shall be by secret ballot, except that if there be only one nomination for the office at the close of the nominations, voting for that office may be by acclamation. The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the orderly operation of the election process whenever a secret ballot is required.



7. ARTICLE IX. DUES AND MEETINGS & ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Proposed Revisions

ARTICLE IX. ~~DUES AND MEETINGS.~~

Council shall hold regular meetings the second Tuesday of every month. **In any given year, the membership may vote to cancel the July and the August meetings.**

Each individual member and designated group member in good standing at the time of voting shall be entitled to one vote on any motion or amendment, a carrying vote being one over half of those present and eligible to vote.

In the event of a pandemic, natural disaster, or other situation where an in-person meeting is not advisable, the Executive Committee may approve a one-time remote meeting using computer software that permits access via telephone or computer. Normal business may be conducted, and it is the responsibility of the Sergeant at Arms to keep track of people in attendance and any votes. Additional remote meetings and remote committee meetings may also be authorized if necessary.

Notes

Since anyone with a telephone can attend, people at the meeting will be able to vote on motions.

Proposed Revisions

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

[moved from ARTICLE IX: DUES AND MEETINGS]

Dues for the following year shall be voted upon by the membership at the November annual meeting. Dues shall be payable in January or voting privileges shall be revoked. Members paying after January shall receive voting privileges 30 days after payment of dues. ~~Fiscal year~~ **The membership year** shall begin January 1, and end December 31. Any new members joining after the September meeting shall be considered a member in good standing for the present and next year.”

A member may choose to pay lifetime dues in the amount of 15 times the annual dues. Any person or organization who has paid lifetime dues will be a member in good standing as long as they also satisfy the requirements of Article IV.

Notes

It was always a requirement that someone who has paid lifetime dues must also be a resident or property owner in order to remain a member in good standing. This makes that clear.