

Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.
Membership Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024

7:37 PM Call to Order by Tim Zinn, President. A quorum was present.

I. Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, and Other Organizations

- A. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police
There was no representative in attendance.
- B. City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office
There was no representative in attendance, however Tim Zinn received a message with some announcements:
 - The city needs a few more snow angels, including in Manchester. Volunteers can enlist at the city's Engage PGH website.
 - The city's Police Academy is accepting new applications.
 - Mayor Ed Gainey is starting a new bi-weekly newsletter.
- C. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Cllr. Bobby Wilson
Jordyn Gilliard presented for Cllr. Wilson, and reported the following:
 - The Department of Mobility and Infrastructure ("DOMI") has asked for our priorities on street paving. The list is due on Friday, January 12.
 - Cllr. Wilson asked DOMI to abandon the plan to make Galveston Avenue a one-way southbound street between Western Avenue and N. Lincoln Avenue. We will work with DOMI on alternative solutions to the large truck traffic problem.
 - The city's capital budget was passed, with approximately \$420,000 allocated for traffic lights on Western Avenue. It was unclear whether this also covered streetlights.
- D. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney
Austin Jefferson presented for Rep. Abney and reported the following:
 - There is not much to report yet as the state legislature prepares for the new session, but Rep. Abney is busy restructuring his office and staff.
 - Toys were distributed to the third and fourth graders at King Elementary school during the holidays.
- E. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – Erin Tobin
There was no representative in attendance.
- F. Pittsburgh Department of City Planning - Nazia Tarannum
Ms. Tarannum introduced herself. She is the new city planner for our neighborhood. Stephanie Joy Everett, with whom AWCC has worked for several years, will continue to work with us as well.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were not yet available.

III. Reports of Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and Others

- A. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Serventi

- AWCC has approximately \$283,000 in the bank.
 - The 2023 profit and loss statement shows revenue of approximately \$110,000 and expenses of about \$85,000, for a net profit of about \$25,000.
 - The Christmas House Tour netted about \$45,000, which is higher than normal.
 - The annual budget process is starting. Committee chairs will review their draft budgets, and everyone else is encouraged to submit additional information. A draft budget will be presented to the membership at the February meeting.
 - The membership approved a motion to submit the treasurer's report for the annual audit.
- B. Communications Committee – Trish Burton
There was nothing new to report.
- C. Membership Committee – Aaron Bryan
There was nothing new to report.
- D. Property Committee – Michael Shealey
There was nothing new to report.
- E. Housing & Planning Committee – Jim Wallace
- The proposal to make Galveston Avenue a one-way street between Western Avenue and N. Lincoln Avenue is being shelved. We will work with DOMI to find a better solution to large truck traffic on Galveston Avenue.
 - The owner of the Value-Added Foods building at 1112 Galveston Avenue was fined \$1,000 at a recent magisterial district court hearing.
 - The Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA") hearing for the old A&P lot on Brighton Road was postponed. President Tim Zinn spoke with Tom Ayoob, Esq., the attorney for Costello Properties. Mr. Ayoob said that Costello Properties would work with the neighborhood on design changes prior to any new ZBA hearing.
 - The revised sales agreement for 827 Western Avenue, which will comport with the agreed-upon changes to the draft deed, should be finished this week.
 - The new owner of 939 W. North Avenue still appears to be looking for a new commercial tenant, based on the "For Lease" sign at the property.
 - The members then discussed the traffic changes caused by the closure of the entrance to W. North Avenue at Brighton Road. Brian O'Neill said that he opposes the erection of a new barrier and thinks that a directional sign at Rope Way will be adequate to re-route traffic.
- F. Friends of Allegheny West Committee – Deb Lantz
There was nothing new to report.
- G. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick
- Ms. Gomrick thanked all those who volunteered at the Christmas House Tour, especially Rich Fraer, who has volunteered to take down all the street pole greenery.
 - She also thinks that ticket prices for next year's house tour should be increased due to inflation and demand.
 - Preparations for the summer Wine and Garden Tour will start in February. The tour will be held at the end of June to avoid a conflict with the Kenny Chesney concert being held at Acrisure Stadium earlier in the month.
- H. Nominating Committee – Adrian Skinner
There was nothing new to report.

- I. Executive Committee Actions – Tim Zinn, president, and Bob Griewahn, secretary
- The secretary reported that the executive committee continues its practice of disclosing potential conflicts of interest. Tim Zinn works for Michael Baker International, which is working on the railroad bridges. Jim Wallace is of-counsel at Goehring, Rutter & Boehm (“GRB Law”), whom we have retained for various legal matters.
 - The membership then ratified, by vote, the executive committee’s December vote to have Jim Wallace speak to GRB Law about retaining that firm on an ongoing basis for AWCC legal work. It is hoped that a discounted rate could be obtained.
 - The executive committee also voted at its December meeting to have GRB Law represent AWCC at the zoning hearing for Costello Properties concerning the old A&P Lot, but that decision became moot when the hearing was postponed.
- J. Northside Leadership Conference Report – Ann Gilligan
- Ms. Gilligan reported that the conference is still working to finalize its bylaws revision and strategic plan.

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Registered Community Organization status
- Cathy Serventi is still working on this.
- B. Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District
- Bob Griewahn reported that a meeting was held by the WANID committee today to recap the projects status and our strategy moving forward. A member inquired about the remaining issues on the project, and Mr. Griewahn reported that the primary obstacle is a few neighbors who refuse to cooperate with utility relocation. Tim Zinn then reported that he had communicated with one of those neighbors today, and that he and Jim Wallace will meet with the neighbor on Monday to attempt to find a solution.

V. New Business

- A. Street Paving
- The membership then discussed the street paving priorities that were requested during Jordyn Gilliard’s presentation. They chose the 800 block of Dounton Way, both blocks of Buttercup Way, and the 800 block of Chapel Way.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

- Bob Griewahn, secretary.