

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

7:37 PM Call to Order by Tim Zinn, President. A quorum was not initially present, but later was achieved.

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

- A. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police
 - No one from Zone 1 attended.
- B. City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office (Lindsey Robles)
 - The city's "Cuts Program" is now live. Residents who are 62 years of age or older, and unable to mow their lawns, can get contractor help.
 - The "Learn & Earn Program" is accepting students for the summer. It encompasses all of Allegheny County, and the internships include pay.
 - Citiparks is seeking lifeguards again. They will train accepted applicants.
 - The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new lights in the Allegheny Commons will be held on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The Perry High School Band will perform.
 - "City in the Streets" will kick off May 30 in Spring Hill. Other neighborhoods include the Hill District, Hazelwood, Knoxville, and Homewood.
 - The Davis Avenue Bridge groundbreaking will be next week.
- C. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)
 - Ms. Tarranum followed up with Allegheny West president Tim Zinn on some of our neighborhood issues.
 - The city's new comprehensive plan public engagement will start this summer. The comprehensive plan will be land use oriented.
 - There is a new head of City Planning.
- D. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Cllr. Bobby Wilson (Jordyn Gilliard)
 - Ms. Gilliard clarified that the Davis Avenue Bridge groundbreaking will be next Thursday, April 18.
 - An Arbor Day celebration will be held in Riverview Park.
 - Ms. Gilliard was asked about the status and timing of the proposed temporary housing legislation and responded that Cllr. Wilson's office is not privy to that information, because Cllr. Wilson does not support the bill.
- E. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney
 - No one appeared on behalf of Rep. Abney.
- F. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – Erin Tobin
 - No one appeared on behalf of the PPC.

At this time a quorum was achieved.

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

- A. Membership Committee – Aaron Bryan
 - Allegheny West bowling still is under way at the Elks Lodge on Cedar Avenue. Members were encouraged to attend and socialize. Bowling is not required.
 - Planning for the summer block parties has begun.
- B. Property Committee – Michael Shealey
 - There was nothing new to report.
 - One resident suggested that the Civic Council should hire a professional developer to work on 806 Western Avenue.
- C. Housing & Planning Committee – Jim Wallace
 - Mr. Wallace could not attend the meeting.
 - President Tim Zinn reported that he spoke with the new owner of the former A&P lot on Brighton Road. The property is a good staging area for the upcoming railroad bridge work, but the owner has not yet decided on his plans.
 - The new Branch Lofts development at the corner of Brighton Road and W. North Avenue will be having a grand opening soon.
- D. Friends of Allegheny West – Deb Lantz
 - The flower baskets all have been sold. The sponsorship breakdown is half residents and half businesses. Forty-two baskets are to be installed in June.
 - Parklet volunteers are needed.
- E. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick
 - Ms. Gomrick read off the sizeable list of businesses that are supplying and helping on the summer Wine & Garden tour.
- F. Nominating Committee – Adrian Skinner
 - On behalf of the committee, Mr. Skinner submitted the name of Ann Gilligan to be the 2024 Allegheny West Neighbor of the Year. He read off a long list of her qualifications and accomplishments. **The membership voted unanimously to accept the nomination and make the award. (D. Lantz / F. Barbush)**
 - Mr. Skinner then submitted the name of the late Mary Callison to receive the Lifetime Achievement award for her many years of service to the Allegheny West neighborhood and the Allegheny West Civic Council. **The membership voted unanimously to accept the nomination and make the award. (F. Barbush / T. Burton)**
- G. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Serventi
 - The treasurer reported that both the Allegheny West Civic Council and the Allegheny West Development Corp. were in sound financial condition. Allegheny West Civic Council is showing a profit as of the beginning of March, largely due to the sale of the vacant lot at 827 Western Avenue.
 - The major expenses thus far this year are real estate taxes, insurance, and accounting fees.
 - The membership approved a motion to submit the treasurer's report for the annual audit. (D. Adam / A. Bryan)
- H. Communications Committee – Trish Burton
 - There was nothing new to report.

- I. Executive Committee Actions – Tim Zinn, president, and Bob Griewahn, secretary
 - The secretary reported that there were no actions taken by the executive committee.
- J. Northside Leadership Conference Report – Ann Gilligan
 - Ms. Gilligan could not attend the meeting.

III. Minutes

- **The minutes of the last meeting were approved. (J. Beatty / F. Barbush)**

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Registered Community Organization status
 - Ms. Serventi is preparing the conflict-of-interest policy for submission to membership.
- B. Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District
 - President Tim Zinn stated that there was no news to report. He will have the project manager, Mark Fatla, make a report to membership at an upcoming meeting.

V. New Business

- A. Decorum – President Tim Zinn reminded the members that civility, both to guests and each other, is required at membership meetings.
- B. Girl Scout Cookies – Local entrepreneur and Girl Scout Iris Adam sold 747 boxes of cookies in the recent fundraiser. Residents were thanked for their support of this very worthy cause.
- C. Former VFW Building on Western Avenue – This property was sold and appears to be owned now by a real estate company called “New City”. The old “Fort McKeever” sign has been replaced with a sign bearing the new owner’s name.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM (D. Adam / T. Barbush).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.