

**Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**May 14, 2024**

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7:33 PM Call to Order by Tim Zinn, President. A quorum 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)
  - Ms. Robles is traveling and could not attend.
- C. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)
  - Ms. Tarranum could not attend.
- D. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Cllr. Bobby Wilson (Jordyn Gilliard)
  - Ms. Gilliard reported on the recent street paving in the neighborhood.
  - Several residents asked about the upcoming event in the Allegheny Commons park. Specifically, about the enforcement of littering and noise ordinances. Ms. Gilliard responded that she could not speak to that because those issues are the responsibility of the mayor's office, not city council.
- E. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney
  - No one appeared on behalf of Rep. Abney.
- F. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – Erin Tobin
  - There are no Allegheny Commons updates, per se.
  - The lighting ceremony in the Commons was well attended.
  - The fountain in the northeast corner of the Commons should be turned on in a few weeks.
  - Duquesne Light had a spill, which they described as “non-toxic.”
  - A resident asked about the PPC and the upcoming Pride Fest to be held in the Commons. Ms. Tobin stated that there currently is no ranger for the Commons. Furthermore, she has found that the city does not follow its own rules; city vehicles are often parked on the grass.
  - Ms. Tobin also reminded the membership that Allegheny West Civic Council's letters of support are important. The city appropriated money from the Parks Tax to the North Promenade project in the Commons due to the many letters received.
  - She would like two additional letters of support:
    - a. One for a project in the Charles Street Valley (Fowler Park)
    - b. One for Watson's Cabin in Riverview Park
- G. Riverlife – Chun (Pure) Zheng
  - There were no updates.

**II. AWCC – LRC Annual Awards**

- In observance of National Preservation Month, the Allegheny West Civic Council and the Allegheny West Local Review Committee presented the annual awards to property

owners that have made notable improvements to their properties in full accordance with either the City of Pittsburgh historic guidelines, or the Allegheny West guidelines for development outside the historic district.

- The members of the LRC were asked to stand and were applauded for their work. They are: Carol Malakoff, Elaine Fatla, Eleanor Coleman, Michael Shealey, and Tim Zinn.
- This year's recipients were:
  - Sarah Mistick (823 Western Avenue; single-family home - new construction).
  - Keane and Megan George (911 Galveston Avenue; storefront restoration)
  - Community College of Allegheny County (Chalfont Mansion on Ridge Avenue; external restoration)
  - Community College of Allegheny County (807 Ridge Avenue; Workforce Development Building – new construction)
  - Q Development (W. North Avenue; Branch Lofts apartments development at former International Harvester Building)

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

- A. 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 still is showing a profit as of the beginning of April.
  - The annual budget only included funds for the purchase of two historic award plaques. **The membership then approved a motion to ratify the payment of the additional three plaques awarded earlier. (C. Malakoff / F. Barbush)**
  - **The membership approved a motion to submit the treasurer's report for the annual audit. (F. Barbush / D. Adam)**
- B. Communications Committee – Trish Burton
  - Ms. Burton was traveling, so Vice President Elizabeth Barbush reported.
  - The Branch Lofts grand opening will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 4:00 PM. The historic preservation award from the Allegheny West Civic Council and the Local Review Committee will be presented to Q Development at that event.
- C. Membership Committee – Aaron Bryan
  - The first summer block party will be held on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day) in the 800 block of Beech Avenue.
  - The remaining two block parties will be held on Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day) in the 900 block of Beech Avenue, and Monday, September 2 (Labor Day) in the 800 block of N. Lincoln Avenue.
- D. Property Committee – Michael Shealey
  - There was nothing new to report concerning 806 Western Avenue.
  - The illegal parking in the driveway of 806 Western appears to have stopped, thanks to the retention of a towing company and the sign they erected.
- E. Housing & Planning Committee – Jim Wallace
  - Mr. Wallace could not attend the meeting.
- F. Friends of Allegheny West – Deb Lantz
  - Cleanups of the parklet at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road will be held on May 18, 24, and 25 in the early morning hours.

- G. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick
  - Ms. Gomrick reminded the membership that the summer Wine & Garden tour will be held on June 24 and 25.
  - She is seeking donations of wine or spirits for the raffle
  - All tour guides have committed to the event.
  - A neighborhood cleanup event will be scheduled sometime in June.
  - The Parador Inn on Western Avenue will be the dessert house, which is the final house that all tour guests will visit together at the end of the tour.
- H. Nominating Committee – Adrian Skinner
  - Mr. Skinner reported that the Northside Leadership Conference confirmed Mary Callison and Ann Gilligan as award recipients. The awards will be presented at the annual banquet on June 24.
  - Allegheny West will have two tables set aside at the event.
  - The membership approved a motion to pay for two banquet tickets for the guests accepting Mary Callison's Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 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.
  - Bob Griewahn reported that there has been some staff turnover at the Conference.

#### IV. Minutes

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

#### V. Unfinished Business

- A. Registered Community Organization status
  - Ms. Serventi submitted the conflict-of-interest policy to the executive committee for review. It will be submitted to the membership at the June meeting.
- B. Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District
  - President Tim Zinn reported that the WANID committee met last Friday. He will have the project manager, Mark Fatla, make a report to membership at the June meeting.
- C. Railroad Bridges
  - Tim Zinn reported that the designs for both the pedestrian bridge and the Brighton Road bridge have been vetted.
  - The Brighton Road bridge will be larger than the current bridge and will contain some flower beds.
  - The pedestrian bridge will look much like the old one, with retro lighting and plazas at each end.
  - The pedestrian bridge construction is slated for the year 2025, with the Brighton Road bridge following in 2026.
- D. Value-added Foods Building
  - Chris Furman reported that the next hearing will be on June 20. The owner has not yet paid the first fine.

## VI. New Business

- A. T-shirts with Allegheny West Civic Council's "AWCC" logo
  - Someone is selling t-shirts with our logo on Facebook. The membership discussed whether it is advisable to trademark the logo.
- B. Letters of Support
  - **The membership approved a motion to send letters to Cllr. Wilson and other appropriate government offices for the reinstatement of a park ranger for the Allegheny Commons. (N. Knaus / S. Cook)**
  - **The membership approved a motion to send letters of support for Fowler Park and Watson's Cabin, in accordance with Ms. Tobin's request earlier in the meeting. (N. Knaus / S. Cook)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM (N. Knaus / D. Adam).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.