

Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.
Membership Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024

7:37 PM Call to Order by Tim Zinn, President. A quorum was not achieved at the beginning of the meeting, but was achieved later.

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

- A. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Ofr. Defeo)
 - Last month, there were eight police reports, three arrests on the North Shore, and one theft from a vehicle in the 1000 block of Galveston Avenue.
 - The theft was from a personal vehicle at the Police academy. A firearm was stolen. The police got a search warrant and an arrest warrant, resulting in an arrest and the recovery of the stolen rifle.
- B. City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office (Rebekkah Ranallo)
 - The public engagement session concerning the city budget is tomorrow, June 17 at King Elementary School. A virtual engagement session will be held on Saturday, June 22. The city's "Engage" page has a presentation on the budget. Additionally, there is an interview with Jake Wheatley about city finances on Facebook.
 - The Love Your Block grant application portal is open until June 28. Eight grants of \$2,500.00 will be made.
 - The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation funded a traffic light project for the Brighton Road / Jacksonia Street area.
 - A member then asked about the "tiny house" proposed ordinance. Ms. Ranallo will get us an update.
- C. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)
 - Ms. Tarranum could not attend.
- D. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Cllr. Bobby Wilson (Jordyn Gilliard)
 - The city swimming pools will open on Saturday.
 - When asked about the "tiny house" ordinance, Ms. Gilliard suggested that we ask Cllr. Deb Gross's office, since she is sponsoring the bill. Cllr. Wilson has come out against it.
- E. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney
 - No one appeared on behalf of Rep. Abney.
- F. Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Pennsylvania State Historic Presentation Office
 - The representatives for these organizations were scheduled to attend this meeting, regarding a new proposed historic district. They were unable to attend, however.

II. Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District ("WANID") (Mark Fatla)

- Bobby Mistick is agreeable to the installation of a pad and street pole at Maolis Way and Rope Way.

- McIntosh Row remains a problem. The WANID committee is still working on a solution.
- The issue at the “courtyard properties” may be solved.

III. Minutes

- A quorum was achieved and the minutes of the May, 2024 meeting were approved.
(D. Lantz / J. Beatty)

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

- A. Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Serventi
 - The treasurer was unable to attend, so there was no report.
- B. Communications Committee – Trish Burton
 - Ms. Burton reported that there was nothing to report.
- C. Membership Committee – Aaron Bryan
 - Mr. Bryan was unable to attend the meeting but requested that the membership be told that he is seeking volunteers for the Independence Day block party. The party will be held in the 900 block of Beech Avenue.
- D. Property Committee – Michael Shealey
 - There was nothing new to report.
- E. Housing & Planning Committee – Jim Wallace
 - Mr. Wallace could not attend the meeting. Tim Zinn reported on certain items.
 - Although the executive committee voted to recommend that AWCC send a letter of support for the proposed historic district, the membership decided to defer a decision until the September membership meeting.
 - A member asked about the traffic lights on Western Avenue at the intersections with Galveston Avenue and Brighton Road. Ms. Ranallo of the mayor’s administration will ask the city traffic team.
 - Carole Malakoff reported that the developer of the old A&P lot on Brighton Road has plans that he will take to the Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Zinn reported that he had an email exchange with the developer and the developer’s attorney, who told him that they would be contacting AWCC. The developer’s architect and the Norfolk Southern engineers are in discussions about the bridge construction at the intersection of Brighton Road and W. North Avenue. The number of townhouses in the development may be reduced from fifteen to eight.
- F. Friends of Allegheny West – Deb Lantz
 - The new flower baskets are up.
 - The committee needs volunteers to work on the parklet at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road.
- G. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick
 - The summer wine and garden tour is coming up.
 - The Allegheny West Gazette has an insert on vendors who are contributing.
- H. Nominating Committee – Adrian Skinner

- The committee has two firm commitments for open slots on next year's executive committee.

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

- Allegheny General Hospital has some expansion plans. We may invite a representative to the September meeting to discuss them.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Registered Community Organization status
- Ms. Serventi was unable to attend the meeting.
- B. Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District
- This was reported upon earlier in the meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Gus Kalaris
- The executive committee recommended that AWCC recognize Mr. Kalaris, who is now 93 years old. The ice ball cart has been in business for over 90 years.
 - Ms. Ranallo suggested a mayoral proclamation. She will look into it.
- B. Filming
- Ms. Gomrick reported that CBS will be filming a pilot television series on the 900 block of Beech Avenue. Filming is supposed to wrap up by 11:00 PM each night.
- C. Summer Recess
- The membership voted to suspend membership meetings in July and August. The executive committee was given the authority to act on any urgent matters until the next membership meeting. (F. Barbush / D. Lantz, as amended by F. Barbush / J. Beatty).

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM (D. Lantz / D. Adam).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.