

Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.
Membership Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024

7:34 PM Call to Order by Tim Zinn, President. A quorum was achieved at the outset.

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

A. Duquesne Light Company

- The Duquesne Light Company was scheduled to appear and answer questions, but they canceled their appearance.

B. Pittsburgh YMCA (Renovation project on W. North Avenue)

- The YMCA building upper floors currently have 105 residential rooms, but only 89 can be occupied now.
- The facility needs to be brought up to code.
- The renovation will give the residences separate showers. There will also be laundry facilities and childcare.
- The first two floors currently house the fitness facilities and will get an upgrade.
- The food program will continue during the renovation. It is not done on-site.
- They will hold a “town hall” meeting next Tuesday with the construction contractor present to answer questions.
- The membership then authorized the AWCC Executive Committee to issue a letter of support to the YMCA if the project is as described in this meeting. (C. Furman / C. Serventi)

C. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Ofr. Defeo)

- There was only one report in the last calendar month. It was a theft on N. Lincoln Avenue near Brighton Road. The perpetrator stole the keys to a Federal Express truck.
- Ofr. Defeo stressed that the statistics we receive are always for the prior calendar month, not the prior four weeks.
- One member reported that a vehicle disappeared from the 900 block of Beech Avenue. Ofr. Defeo will look into this and report back.

D. City of Pittsburgh Mayor’s Office (Rebekkah Ranallo)

- No one appeared on behalf of the mayor’s office.

E. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)

- Ms. Tarranum could not attend.

F. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Cllr. Bobby Wilson (Jordyn Gilliard)

- The “Garbage Olympics” annual event is coming up on September 21st.
- Some members questioned the quality of the tree trimming that took place on W. North Avenue and Galveston Avenue. The trees were severely cut back and many feel that they are now an eyesore.
- President Tim Zinn requested that she ask for an update on the Duquesne Light Company’s Ridge Avenue property and plans.
- Additionally, President Zinn questioned the quality of the electrical work done at the corner of Galveston Avenue and Beech Avenue. A failure of the underground conduit needed to be repaired, and the city’s contractor repaired the problem by running an

overhead wire instead, and drilling into the historic light poles. The residents are highly displeased.

- Treasurer Catherine Serventi raised the issue of the difficulty she is now having when trying to get a street closure permit from the city for Halloween trick or treating by children. The city is requesting a special event permit involving 10 sawhorses when only two or needed. This would cost Allegheny West Civic Council \$1,200.00. She thinks the person at special events does not know the special rule for Halloween.
- Street sweeping has been greatly improved. The membership thanked Julianne Hluska and the rest of the staff at Cllr. Wilson's office.

G. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney

- No one appeared on behalf of Rep. Abney.

II. Minutes

- The minutes of the June 2024 meeting were approved. (F. Barbush / M. Shealey)

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

A. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Serventi

- The treasurer reported the bank account balances for AWCC.
- Significant financial events included the sale of a vacant lot on Western Avenue and the summer Wine & Garden Tour.
- The Wine & Garden Tour netted approximately \$17,000.00.
- The treasurer's report was approved for audit submission. (D. Lantz / T. Barbush)

B. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick

- President Zinn reported on behalf of Ms. Gomrick.
- Tickets for the annual Victorian Christmas House Tour go on sale September 22.
- The ticket price will be \$5.00 more than last year.
- The committee is still looking for houses to appear on the tour.

At this point, the membership voted to table the remaining standing committee reports to shorten the meeting to allow folks to watch the Presidential debate. (C. Serventi / D. Lantz). The following items were mentioned prior to adjournment.

- **Former A&P Lot** - President Zinn reported that the new owner of the old A&P lot at the corner of W. North Avenue and Brighton Road will be attending the next Housing & Planning Committee meeting to discuss his plans.
- **939 W, North Avenue** - The Housing & Planning Committee will also be discussing the property at 930 W. North Avenue.
- **Value-added Foods Building** - Chris Furman announced that he and Shannon Pultz want to have AWCC lift the deed restrictions on this property so that they may purchase it. Jim Wallace, the chair of the Housing & Planning Committee, suggested that they attend the next committee meeting to discuss the issue.
- **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy** (E. Tobin) - Ms. Tobin reported that Riverview Park Day is coming up.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM (D. Lantz / D. Adam).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.