

Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.
Membership Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024

7:41 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. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Ofr. Defeo, Cmdr. Malloy, Lt. Lutz)

- Commander Malloy introduces his XO, Lt. Lutz.
- The monthly crime report for Allegheny West amounted to two minor harassment reports.
 - A resident reported fentanyl being sold in Maolis Way between Galveston and Allegheny Avenues.
 - A resident noted the increase in homeless people in Allegheny West and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - A resident inquired about an arrest observed in Maolis Way between Rope Way and Galveston Avenue. Cmdr. Malloy indicated that it was most likely a domestic disturbance, which often do not show up in the crime reports.
 - A resident reported an abandoned vehicle with a flat tire in the neighborhood.
 - Finally, another resident thanked the police for their service.

B. City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office (Lindsey Robles)

- Ms. Robles did not attend the meeting, and no one appeared in her place.

C. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)

- The city's engagement process will begin soon for the upcoming comprehensive plan. Ms. Tarranum will notify President Tim Zinn when it commences.
- There will be a meeting on November 18 for the new zoning proposals. The meeting will be virtual, open, and begin at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be primarily informational, rather than seeking feedback..

D. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Clr. Bobby Wilson (Bobby Wilson)

- Councilor Wilson appeared in person to address neighborhood issues.
- DOMI will be working on locating the electrical line break on Beech and Galveston Avenues. It will then prepare an estimate to properly repair it.
- The city's forestry department is looking into the trees that were severely pruned on W. North and Galveston Avenues due to utility line interference. Clr. Wilson meets with the city's department of public works every other week. A resident commented that the solution for W. North Avenue might be to move the utility lines to Jabok Way, since they do not serve any of the properties on the block.
- A neighbor commented that street sweeping did not occur once again this past month. It is important that it happen because of AWCC's upcoming house tour.
- A resident inquired about Duquesne Light Co.'s use of its Ridge Avenue property. Clr. Wilson's office will continue to ask DQE about this.
- Another neighbor asked about the City Planning Department's recent announcement that they could make some zoning changes without City Council's approval. Clr. Wilson was not aware of the announcement. He will share the upcoming hearing date with AWCC.

- Another resident inquired about city ordinances to regulate Airbnb and other short-term rentals. He suggested that Clr. Wilson review the ordinances passed in Austin, Texas and New Orleans, Louisiana.

E. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney

- No one appeared on behalf of Rep. Abney.

F. Guest Presentation – Parador Inn

- Ed Menzer, former owner of the Parador Inn, thanked the neighborhood and introduced the new owner, Ed Talmuty.
- Mr. Talmuty reported that he intends to keep the property as an inn, but also add a first-floor restaurant, to be named “Villagio.” It will feature Italian bistro cuisine.
- He will be doing some interior and exterior painting, and the inn will be closed for several weeks while it is prepared for the grand re-opening.
- In response to a neighbor’s question, he said that he is working with Mr. Menzer to transition relationships from the neighboring parking lot owners. He also intends to run a shuttle bus.
- The inn’s guest capacity will remain the same.

II. Minutes

- **The minutes of the October meeting were approved. (J. Wallace / S. Cook)**

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

A. Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Serventi

- The treasurer reported on the available bank balances of both the Allegheny West Civic Council and the Allegheny West Development Corp.
- **The members approved a motion to commit the treasurer’s report to audit.**

B. Communications – Trish Burton

- Ms. Burton had nothing to report.

C. Friends of Allegheny West – Deb Lantz

- Ms. Lantz thanked the volunteers who worked on the parklet, especially Dr. James Worry.

D. Housing & Planning

- Former A&P lot on Brighton Road – The developer indicated that he will attend November’s Housing & Planning Committee meeting.

E. Membership - Aaron Bryan

- This year’s Christmas tree will be going up soon. Additional trees will be purchased to create the neighborhood street pole swags.
- The new “Holiday Greetings” sign was purchased.

F. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick

- The swag creation meeting will be held November 23rd, 9:00 AM at Aaron Bryan’s house.
- There will be two new tour houses on W. North and Western Avenues, respectively.
- Street closures are coming.
- The lower parking lot of the Babb Insurance property will be available for residents’ cars.

- CCAC's Byers-Lyon Hall will be the cookie and hot cider house this year.
- Tickets have sold out – over 1,700.
- This may be the last year that Hal and Nick's house, on N. Lincoln Avenue, is on the house tour. **A motion passed to purchase an appreciation plaque for them (not to exceed \$250,00). A "thank you" message also will be placed in the tour brochure. (C. Gomrick / F. Barbush).**

G. Nominating Committee – Adrian Skinner

- The nominated slate for the 2025 Allegheny West Civic Council executive committee is final:
 - President – Elizabeth Barbush
 - Vice President – Helen Harris
 - Treasurer – Cathy Serventi
 - Secretary – Bob Griewahn
 - Sergeant-at-Arms – Deb Kelly
 - Housing & Planning – Tom Cihil
 - Ways & Means – Carol Gomrick
 - Membership – Yulia Bhonsle
 - Friends of Allegheny West – Trish Burton
 - Property – Aaron Bryan
 - Communications – Sarah Cook
 - Immediate Past President – Tim Zinn

H. Property - Michael Shealey

- The plumbing work on 806 Western Avenue was completed.

I. Memorial Tree Ad Hoc Committee

- A memorial service in the Grove area of the Commons was held last Sunday.
- We received a note of appreciation from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. The note will be published in the Allegheny West Gazette.

J. Executive Committee – President Tim Zinn and Secretary Bob Griewahn

- The executive committee approved a motion to recommend that Allegheny West Development Corp. have GRB Law appear at the sheriff's sale of 946 Western Avenue and bid up to \$200,000.00.
- The committee also discussed retaining GRB Law to complete the registered community organization application.
- The committee also discussed a request that GRB Law give an informal legal opinion on the availability of specific performance remedies for the former Value-added Foods property at 1112 Galveston Avenue.

K. Northside Leadership Conference - Ann Gilligan

- Ms. Gilligan reported that the conference's committees are still being populated.
- The executive director's evaluation will happen shortly.

L. Unfinished Business

- The registered community organization application and the memorial trees were already discussed, as was the repair of the streetlamps affected by the temporary electric line repairs at Beech and Galveston Avenues.
- The city's Housing Review Commission unanimously approved three designs as part of the Norfolk Southern railway bridge updates:
 - i. The pedestrian bridge in the Allegheny Commons

- ii. The Pennsylvania Avenue bridge
- iii. The W. North Avenue bridge

These designs also received the approval of Allegheny West's Local Review Committee. Additionally, some of the wrought iron fencing in the Allegheny Commons will be repaired. One resident remarked about the importance of proper lighting, as overly-bright lights can adversely affect both humans and wildlife.

M. New Business

- A neighbor suggested that Allegheny West Civic Council sponsor one of the residences at the Allegheny Y.M.C.A., at a rate of \$500.00 per year for three years. She will make the motion at next month's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM (J. Wallace / T. Burton).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.