

**Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**February 11, 2025**

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7:41 PM Call to Order by Elizabeth Barbush, President. A quorum was achieved at the outset.

Motions Passed:

1. \$1,000.00 sponsorship to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for the annual cleanup of Lake Elizabeth in the Allegheny Commons.
2. Invite Magisterial District Judge Jehosha Wright to the Allegheny West Civic Council general membership meetings.

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

**A. City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Ofr. Defeo)**

- No one appeared on behalf of the Zone 1 police and there was no report.

**B. City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office**

- No one appeared on behalf of the mayor's office and there was no report.

**C. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney**

- No one appeared on behalf of the state representative's office and there was no report.

**D. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)**

- Ms. Tarranum did not attend the meeting. She did, however, send word that there are city youth internships available. Applications for those positions are due by February 15.

**E. Pittsburgh City Council District 1 – Clr. Bobby Wilson (Jordyn Gilliard)**

- Ms. Gilliard reported that a representative from Michael Baker Corp. spoke at a meeting she attended, and said that work on the bridge at Brighton Road and W. North Avenue should start this summer. When it does, W. North Avenue will be closed between that intersection and Buena Vista Street for the duration of construction
- Work on the bridge at Pennsylvania Avenue will occur in 2027.
- A resident suggested that the city's capital budget should include funds for the walkways from Brighton Road to the tennis courts in the Allegheny Commons, as well as the walkways near Foster Square.

**F. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)**

- Ms. Tobin could not attend, but sent word that the pedestrian bridge in the Allegheny Commons will be the first bridge worked on by Norfolk Southern.
- The annual cleanup of Lake Elizabeth will occur on April 10, 11, and 12. Ms. Tobin requested that the Allegheny West Civic Council sponsor the event. The membership then voted to approve a \$1,000.00 sponsorship.
- The Patricia Rooney Fountain in the northeast quadrant of the Allegheny Commons will be activated on April 26.

**G. City of Pittsburgh Environmental Services**

- Two presenters from Environmental Services spoke about recycling in the city. They discussed the items that are allowed and those that are not. Residents were encouraged to check the city's website for details.
- Additionally, they discussed anti-litter enforcement. The number of inspectors is being increased from two or three to 10.
- The city has a new "311" website interface for reporting violations, and the submission of photographs was encouraged.
- A resident inquired about trash on our roads and was told that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation handles the highways. Pittsburgh's Public Works Department handles local roads.
- Another resident asked that the city do something about trash and litter around the stadiums.

**II. Minutes**

- The minutes of the January 2025 meeting were approved. (T. Barbush / C. Gomrick)

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

**A. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Serventi**

- The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, and there was no report.

**B. Communications – Sarah Cook**

- Ms. Cook was unable to attend the meeting and there was no report.

**C. Friends of Allegheny West – Trish Burton**

- Flower baskets sponsorships have been confirmed. New basket sponsorships cost \$350.00 to sponsor, while renewal basket sponsorships are \$310.00.
- The committee still is working on the design of the proposed gateway sign for the parklet at the corner of Brighton Road and Western Avenue. They may consult with Pashek & Associates.

**D. Housing & Planning – Tom Cihil**

- The next meeting will be held at 806 Western Avenue, and there will be a video option for those unable to attend in person.
- **1103 Western Avenue (Chateau)** – Keane George has a proposal for this property.
- **Beech Avenue Sidewalk** – Keane George states that the brick sidewalk in front of his property on the south side of the 900 block of Beech Avenue is nearly finished.

**E. Membership – Yulia Bhonsle**

- Ms. Bhonsle was unable to attend but sent a report that the neighborhood mixer planned for February has been moved to March 20. It will be held at Giorgio's Place on Western Avenue.

**F. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick**

- Summer Wine Tour planning will start this month.

**G. Property – Aaron Bryan**

- We have two active quotes for work to be done on 806 Western Avenue. We may do the demolition work ourselves to save money.
- We also are getting quotes for soffit and fascia work.

- Mr. Bryan will be contact the Pittsburgh Housing Authority for details on the changes to their housing program.
- He is also looking for a property manager.
- A resident recommended that we speak with Andy Madden, who lives at 816 Western Avenue, for development advice. Mr. Bryan then asked those in attendance to suggest more contractors for work on the property.

**H. Executive Committee – President Elizabeth Barbush and Secretary Bob Griewahn**

- **RCO Application** - The executive committee will submit nondiscrimination and conflict of interest policies for a vote at the next membership meeting.
- **Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District** – We are trying to move forward and will meet with the Councilor Bobby Wilson and the Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure.
- **Alleys, Axles, & Ales Tour** – There is nothing new to report.
- **Bowling shirts** may be ordered for members.

**I. Northside Leadership Conference - Ann Gilligan**

- There was nothing new to report.

**J. New Business**

- **Capital Budget** – A resident repeated the request for capital budget funding of walkways in the Allegheny Commons.
- **Lefty's bar** – Residents are very unhappy about noise, broken glass, beer bottles being left on doorsteps, etc. It was recommended that we start establishing a record for future enforcement.
- **1112 Galveston Avenue** (former Value-added Foods building) – Chris Furman reported that there is now a hole in the wall of the property. Magisterial District Judge Wright is offering to come to AWCC meetings. The membership then approved a motion to invite M.D.J. Wright to the next general membership meeting. (B. O'Neill / H. Pulz)

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM (T. Barbush / S. Graubarth).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary.