

Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc.
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025

7:36 PM Call to Order by Elizabeth Barbush, President. A quorum was achieved at the outset.

Motions Passed:

1. Membership meetings suspended for July and August 2025. AWCC Executive Committee empowered to act on time-sensitive matters during recess.
2. AWCC to issue conditional letter of support, based on the sample reviewed by the Housing & Planning committee and the Executive Committee for proposed development on former A&P site at Brighton Road and W. North Avenue.

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

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

- Warm weather brings a rise in police report numbers.
- There were three police reports and one arrest in April.
- A business on the 900 block of Western Avenue was burglarized.
- An arrest was made at Lefty's Bar for defiant trespass, but the suspect's blood alcohol was too high for jail.
- Complaints about Lefty's have increased but not to levels that concern police. All complaints should be made to 911.

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

- Ms. Robles did not attend the meeting.

C. Pennsylvania State Representative – Rep. Aerion Abney (Thomas Harnett)

- Budget season is underway in Harrisburg.
- Rep. Abney is working on a new state tax credit for federal EITC recipients.
- A new scam hotline has been established: (866) 722-6675.

D. City Planning Department (Nazia Tarranum)

- Ms. Tarranum did not attend the meeting.
- Pres. Barbush intends to meet with City Planning next week.

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

- The traffic signal at Galveston Avenue and W. North Avenue will be replaced with four-way stop signs.
- The Councilor's newsletter has started circulation.

A. Magisterial District Judge Jehosha Wright

- MDJ Wright introduced himself and explained that his district covers Manchester to Troy Hill.
- He handles civil cases at his E. Ohio Street office and criminal matters downtown.
- Chris Furman reported that MDJ Wright has been responsive to 1112 Galveston issues.
- Judge Wright is working to reduce repeat offenders on E. Ohio Street.

B. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

- The Lake Elizabeth cleanup was successful. Ms. Tobin thanked AWCC for its sponsorship.
- Arbor Day festivities went well, and the fountain is operating early this year.
- Pittsburgh's Public Works Department has been improving its performance in Allegheny Commons.
- Riverview Park Day is upcoming.

- Ms. Tobin alerted members to coming requests for support letters for capital and operating budgets.
- • Park pathway improvements will cost six figures. She recommends AWCC and ACI make a budget request.

II. Minutes

- April 8, 2025 minutes approved. (H. Harris / S. Graubarth)

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

A. Communications – Sarah Cook

- Ms. Cook will chair a new NFL Draft ad hoc committee and encouraged members to submit ideas.

B. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Serventi

- There was no report.

C. Friends of Allegheny West – Trish Burton

- Flowers from the Calvary Methodist flower sale will be planted soon.
- Hanging flower baskets will be installed on Western Avenue during the first week of June.

D. Housing & Planning – Tom Cihil

- Brighton Road (former A&P Lot) – The committee recommended a conditional letter of support for the project. The letter of support must contain the conditions in the draft reviewed by both the Housing & Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. The membership approved the motion. (R. Zoufalik / T. Zinn)

E. Membership – Yulia Bhonsle

- The Memorial Day block party will be held in the 800 block of Beech Avenue.

F. Ways & Means Committee – Carol Gomrick

- The committee has chosen all the houses for the upcoming Wine & Garden Tour. The volunteer party will be held at Aaron and Sandy's house.
- The committee is still looking for items to raffle at the tour.

G. Property – Aaron Bryan

- Mr. Bryan had no report.

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

- **RCO Application** – The application has been submitted to the city.
- **Riverlife** – Riverlife will be casting driftwood back into the river.

I. New Business

- **Preservation Month** – May is Preservation Month. The Allegheny West Local Review Committee has no awards for 2025 but expects several in 2026.
- **Summer Recess** - Membership meetings suspended for July and August 2025. AWCC Executive Committee empowered to act on time-sensitive matters during recess. (A. Trunzo / T. Burton)

Meeting adjourned 9:01 PM (F. Barbush / T. Cihil).

— Bob Griewahn, secretary