



Allegheny West Civic Council

806 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233
www.alleghenywest.org ~ info@alleghenywest.org
(412) 323-8884

AGENDA

General Membership Meeting
November 11, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Confirmed no journalists present in the audience

II. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW NEIGHBORS

- New neighbor introductions (Steven and Camilla, Beech Ave.)

III. REPORTS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, CITY DEPARTMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Defeo)
 - Update on part 1 crimes: – 3 thefts in the last month, 1 domestic dispute arrest (800 block Western Ave.).
 - Lefty's update: police pulled all 911 calls from Jun-Nov 2025 (~230, but calls do not mention Lefty's specifically); crime data continues to be low; keeping eye on during night and weekends. Noise ordinance offenses (majority of complaints) are not enforceable. Loud music is more easily enforceable but no citable offences occurred. Police reached out to the owner for a discussion; did not yet hear back. Motorcycle noise is an exemption; city police have no capability to enforce. These issues are not sufficient to shut Lefty's down as a nuisance property. Police need to cite incidents inside.
 - Overall advice is to always call 911, not Zone 1; ***ask for CCR number and reference problem property***. They will work on remediating illegal parking. Can also contact Officer Defeo at 412-551-4976/eric.defeo@pittsburghpa.gov.
- City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office (Lindsey Aquino-Robles) – did not join
- State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Thomas Harnett) – did not join
 - Reached out to Zone 1 public safety council.
 - Public safety expo planned for spring 2026.

- Annual toy drive at Martin Luther King till Friday Dec 12th is accepting donations. Volunteering opportunity available on Dec. 13: 10-12 at their office to wrap gifts.
- Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum) – did not join
- Councilman Wilson’s Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)
 - 2026 budget hearings are beginning Nov. 13th; will provide a link
 - Vape shop legislation proposal sent to planning commission and will be scheduled for public hearing after amendments.
 - North Ave. signals and safety project to provide more space for emergency vehicles – see city’s hyperlinks.
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)
 - Invited to submit requests for the city budget; requested funding for Watson cabin in the Riverview park; the Rooney fountain (AW supported these requests).
 - Northside park improvement project received most tax park allocation funds in a long time.
 - Ranger Stevie is back; will come to the meeting will do re-introductions. They can have a presence like police and could intervene as needed.
 - In 2026 pedestrian bridge construction will start after the North Ave signals project is done.
 - Erin is going on maternity leave Jan-May.

IV. GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Minutes of Last Meeting (Bob Griewahn, Secretary) – accepted as is (C. Gomrick/F. Barbush)

B. Treasurer’s Report (Cathy Serventi, Treasurer) - Filing remaining taxes tomorrow. \$280k in the regular account, \$263k in the AWDC account. Will be moving some of the money to Citizens Bank to separate funds to stay under FDIC limits

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

C. Communications Committee (Sarah Cook) – no updates

D. Friends of Allegheny West Committee (Trish Burton) – no updates

E. Housing & Planning Committee (Tom Cihil) - city issued a decision on AP lot North Ave and Brighton, permit granted with an easement that is legally required. Value added foods – building is being dealt with.

F. Membership Committee (Yulia Bhonsle) – no updates

G. Ways & Means Committee (Carol Gomrick) - Christmas tour is Dec 5-6. Will put bows on lamp posts instead of swag to ease the burden. Train museum still has volunteering opportunities. There are still docent opportunities. If homeowners need help, talk to Carol. Can volunteer for homeowner lunches. After party will be at the Burtons. Questions to: tours@alleghenywest.org.

H. Nominating Committee - President Elizabeth Barbush and Secretary Bob Griewahn

- Election of 2026 officers conducted by Sergeant-at-Arms – Deb Lantz.

- Elected officers: Elizabeth - President, Helen Harris – Vice President, Chris Sweeney - Treasurer, Tim Zinn – Secretary. Tom Cihill - Housing & Planning Committee, Deb Lantz – Sergeant-at-Arms, Sarah Cook – Communications, Aaron Bryan – Property, Yulia Bhonsle – Membership, Jo Beatty – Ways and Means, Trish Burton – Friends of Allegheny West
- No nominations from the floor (S. Graubarth/F. Barbush). No discussion. Slate elected unanimously.
- Staggered terms are de facto in effect, about half of the officers are new. Bylaws have not yet been updated.
- Election of the nominating committee - need a min of 7 nominations, no 2-year limit
- New Chair of the nominating committee is Tim Zinn. Others: Aaron Bryan, Carol Gomrick, Sally Graubarth, Fran Barbush, and Jo Beatty (Sarah Cook will be the alternate)

I. Property Committee (Aaron Bryan) – nothing to report

J. Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)

- Meeting with Duquesne Light – authorized contractor to remove unused panels on Western Ave
- B. Wilson office agreed to meet on various issues on Western Ave to include nuisance properties
- Motion to add \$2k for awards banquet annually. (F. Barbush/ T. Burton) Unanimously approved.

~~VII. NORTHSIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT (Ann Gittigan)~~

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Issues on Western Avenue

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Elizabeth Barbush appointed a bylaws committee that will be working on updates, including staggered terms. They are currently staggered half and half.
- Aaron Bryan asked membership to approve the orchard tree ladder for about \$1.3k. Can also be used to decorate the poles. Approved (R. Griewahn / S. Cook).
- Art Garza asking if AW would pay for leaves collection; will ask for a quote. Delegated to Trish Burton for discussion.
- Northside Partnership Project is encouraging neighbors to display Neighbors Protect Neighbors signs to help fight gun and domestic violence. They also operate a shelter from Nov-May for 7 months; will be running a food pantry; holiday meals. If anyone would like to volunteer at the facility, the info will be shared. Contact info: English Burton Deputy Director phone 412-403-2303; englishnppvp@gmail.com www.npppittsburgh.org
- Path from tennis courts to Beech – John Engle – will email Elizabeth so it can be included in B. Wilson discussion.

- submitted by Yulia Bhonsle