



General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 14, 2014
The Mattress Factory, 500 Sampsonia Way, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance (50)

Michele Adams, Steve Adams, Jacob Anderson, Gregory Bednarek, Heather Bednarek, Colleen Bender, Jeff Brizak, Patricia Buck, John Canning, Paul Carson, Christopher D'Addario, Mark Deptola, Patrick Dexter, Chris Gates, Joan Gielas, Randy Gilson, Donna Green, Pam Grove, Tom Hardy, Lloyd Hedlund, Arthur James, Tim Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Kate Kay, Christina Keffer, Deena Kelly, Todd Kilgore, Jason Owens, Mace Porac, Marirose Radelet, Craig Reinhard, Latasha Riddick, Patricia Rogers, Vincent Salvino, David Scalzo, Bob Sechler, Sheila Sechler, Belinda Shlapak, David Shlapak, David Solosko, Patrick Sweeney, Jenn Tharp, Brian Toevs, Leslie Ward, Thomas Westfall, Andrew Wickesberg, Matt Williamson, Seth Wimer, Craig Worl, Randy Zotter

Introduction

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Allegheny City Central Association was held on Monday, April 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at The Mattress Factory with President Steve Adams being in the chair and Secretary Arthur James being present.

Minutes from the 2/10/14 and 3/10/14 meetings were approved.

President's Message

Steve Adams reported the following.

- The board is looking for a new place to hold the general membership meetings that is within the bounds of the neighborhood, and is ADA accessible.
- The Annual Report has been printed.
- A Buhl Foundation meeting was scheduled for tonight, but they rescheduled it so as not to conflict with our meeting. Their process is ongoing.
- There were more than a dozen responses to the search for an Executive Director. Tom Hardy has been named Executive Director.
- Board elections will be held in May. There will be 8 seats available. Nominees so far are:
 - Patrick Dexter (sitting)
 - Ray Hayes
 - Tim Johnson
 - Patricia Rogers
 - Tom Westfall
 - Andrew Wickesberg (sitting)
 - Matt Williamson

Ready Freddy

Latash Riddick, the community outreach intern from the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Child Development, spoke about the Ready Freddy: Pathways to Kindergarten Success project.

- The program is working with seven Pittsburgh Public schools to promote a quality transition to kindergarten.
- They meet quarterly at Pittsburgh King PreK-8
- There will be a "Transition Night" event on May 28 from 5-6:30 where parents can enroll their children in kindergarten and meet school staff and principals.
- They are looking for volunteers to help with the program.

First National Bank of Pennsylvania

Brian Spracht, the branch manager of the Observatory Hill branch of First National Bank of Pennsylvania spoke about various products they have available.

- Mortgage Products
 - Guaranteed 30 day closing or \$500 back.
 - ¼ point discount on jumbo mortgages.
 - Construction mortgages.
 - Family home ownership program.
 - Rehab program with little to no money down and no PMI.
- Home Equity Loans
 - Term loans for 2½%
- Workplace banking account available through some employers.
 - No fees.
 - No minimum balance
 - Various discounts.
 - Free safe deposit box

Focus Priorities

Steve Adams reported that after the last general membership meeting where input was taken regarding things the organization could focus on, the board narrowed the list down to those that it feels can be addressed over the next year.

- Safety – Continue to work with residents and Zone I
- Garden Theater Block Development – Attend to the development of other buildings within the block
- Brighton Road – Needs a business plan / redevelopment plan
- Great House Sale
- Tree Planting – Have formed a Beautification Committee with Andrew Wickesberg as chair.
- Vacant Lots – Short of building on them, keep them clean and safe.
- National Night Out – Build on last year's successful event.
- Host another summer event – possibly a pig roast.
- Host a Thanksgiving Dinner event
- Fundraising – Look for new sources of revenue.
- Communication – Continue to keep residents informed.

Development

Tom Hardy reported on development topics.

- Garden Theater Block



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- The National Parks Service approved the historic tax credits for the Masonic Hall.
 - The developer can now seek an investor to purchase the tax credits.
 - Construction continues on the Garden Theater
 - The URA is seeking developers for the Bradberry and 1113 & 1115 Federal Street. The RFP will be issued soon and there will be a 6 to 8 week period for developers to respond.
- Great House Sale
 - The properties don't have clean titles yet.
 - Working to get a license agreement from the City to allow us to enter the properties and stabilize them.
- Vacant Lot RFP
 - Of the four selected recipients, Arctecon is moving forward the quickest toward their plan of developing 3 houses on Alpine and Carrington. The developer will live in one of them.
- October Development
 - 5 out of 6 properties on Jacksonia are closed or under contract.
 - Will now move forward on Phase II.

Website Redevelopment

Arthur James gave a live preview of the newly redesigned website.

- The new website isn't live yet, but should be within a week or two.
- The website is designed to showcase all our neighborhood has to offer. It's meant to attract people from outside the neighborhood
- There is still a section to provide information to neighborhood residents, and ACCA members, but it's not front and center.
- The new design uses the new branding, colors and artwork that was developed by North Start.
- Will showcase photos submitted by neighbors.

Safety

Pam Grove reported on safety topics.

- There will be a city wide safety meeting on April 22 at 6pm in Lawrenceville. The Mayor and Pittsburgh Police Zone commanders will be there. Everyone is encouraged to attend and show their concern about safety.
- National Night Out will be on 8/5. Need volunteers now to help put the event together. Contact Pam via safety@accapgh.org.
- The warmer springtime weather often sees a rise in nuisance activities.
 - Call Zone 1 police – contact Commander Brackney or Officer Hodges.
 - If you witness any crime, call 911.
 - Call 311 for non criminal issues

Beautification

Andrew Wickesberg is the chair of the newly formed Beautification Committee, and spoke about the committee.

- As a first task, wants to partner with the Mexican War Streets Society for the Redd Up Day on 4/26. Since Andrew will be out of town that day, Pam Grove will coordinate.
 - Volunteers should meet at the corner of Alpine and Saturn. Will work from 10 to 12.
 - Tools will be provided.
 - Will clean up an empty lot.
- Committee will focus on cleaning empty lots, planting trees, addressing litter, and promoting art.
- Need people to join the committee. Send an email to beautification@accapgh.org to contact Andrew.



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Incident on Federal Street

Some residents living in the townhomes on Federal Street discussed the incident that happened earlier in the day where an SUV sped down the hill, bounced off the median, and ran up the front steps of one of the town homes. Some of the points of discussion were:

- Need ways to slow the traffic down that comes down that hill.
- This is not the first incident. Many parked cars have been side-swiped there.
- Suggested a stop sign to slow traffic.
- Lloyd Hedlund from Councilwoman Darlene Harris's office was present at the meeting and said he would follow up on the issue.

120 East North Avenue

Some residents raised the issue of several homeless people camping out on the front porch of 120 East North Avenue. They reported that:

- The police have said they can't do anything about it without the owner of the building filing a complaint.
- The property is next door to a daycare, but the daycare facility has not filed a complaint.

New LED Street Lights

The city has replaced the street lights on Boyle Street with new LED lights. A neighbor who lives on Boyle stated that there is now a lot more light spilling into his second floor bedroom. Lloyd Hedlund from Councilwoman Darlene Harris's office said he would follow up with DPW about that.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Meeting minutes prepared by Arthur James, secretary.
Minutes approved on 5/12/2014



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