



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday, January 9, 2012 Allegheny Traditional Academy, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: John Augustine, Dennis Bell, Colleen Bender, Danny Bracken, Kimberly Bracken, Patricia Buck, Randy Burns, Anthony Cabral, Lauren Cabral, Paul Carson, David Charlton, Christopher D'Addario, Nathan Davidson, Dan Deis, Kathy Deis, Mark Deptola, Bill Donovan, Nan Donovan, Jerome Ferrar, Joan Gielas, Albertha Graham, Tom Hardy, Arthur James, Paul Johnson, Cynthia Johnston, Brian Kaminski, Warren Keyes, Joan Kimmel, Tom Little, Paco Mahone, Randi Marshak, David McMunn, Janet Moore, Gregory Mucha, Mark Myers, Glenn Olcerst, Jason Owens, Stephanie Pancheri, Neil Parham, Julie Peterson, Katie Pierson, Mace Porac, Henry Reese, John Rhoades, Vincent Salvino, Bob Sechler, Sheila Sechler, Belinda Shlapak, David Shlapak, Brad Spencer, Gregory Spicer, Barbara Talerico, Ruth Tomlin, Karina Westfall, Thomas Westfall, Andrew Wickesberg, Craig Worl, Al Zanon, Randy Zotter

Meeting called to order by Chris D'Addario, President

1. Announcements

- a. **MLK Toy Drive** - Julie Peterson noted that more toys than expected and thanked all for the generous donations. A big thank you to Bill and Nan Donovan, Debbie Proctor and others for their help.
- b. **Citizen's Police Academy** - Neil Parham, a resident on Alpine Avenue, has been participating in the Citizens Police Academy that is sponsored by the City two times a year. Any interested person may apply. More information is available at: http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/police/citizens_police_academy.htm
- c. **Won't You Be My Neighbor?** – Joan Kimmel announced a fundraising benefit for the two families of Monterey Street recently displaced by house fires. The Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church on Resaca will accept donations for the Monterey Fire Benefit. Please contact Rev. Dave McFarland for donation information: minister@alleghenyuuu.org

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the November 14, 2011

No amendments were made to the November minutes.

Motion made to approve the November General Membership Meeting Minutes by Tom Westfall. Motion seconded by Paul Carson. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Kaboom Playground – Julie Peterson

The PA League of Municipalities is holding its member meeting in Pittsburgh the year. Julie Peterson has been working with the Allegheny Commons Initiative (ACI), in partnership with the Mayor's Office, Kaboom, and the PA League of Municipalities, for the CNNC to work as the Community Partner for a new Kaboom playground in Pittsburgh.

The new playground will replace the existing play structures in West Park across from Palo Alto on North Ave, which is in need of updating. A new site for the playground was evaluated per the ACI Master Plan, but ultimately was too cost-prohibitive.

Kaboom requires that at least 50% of any planning committee is made up of parents and residents of the community. The CNNC's role will be to recruit volunteers. Financially, Kaboom is providing \$50,000 to project while the Mayor's office provided a matching \$50,000, for a total of \$100,000.

Kickoff for the 15-18 week design process will be with a Design Day targeted for early February. Kids will be asked to participate in the design process.

Those who wish to sign up can email info@cnnc-pgh.org or call the CNNC phone line with your name and phone number. Volunteers who cannot make planning meetings in person can participate from home via conference call/webinar.

The main event will take place June 19, 2012 in the Park.

4. Development Report

Garden Theater Block – Wayne Zukin, Craig Totino – Allegheny City Development Group

Wayne Zukin is thrilled today to announce that work has begun at 1113–1115 Federal Street. These buildings were to be torn down under previous development plans for the block, but will now be saved. The stabilization work on 1113-1115 Federal is the beginning of what will be a long process.

Collaborative Ventures continues to work on leases, including talks with two different restaurants for the Masonic Temple and the Garden Theater itself. The Bradberry is slated for approximately 16 additional residential spaces. Businesses have also reaching out to Collaborative Ventures proactively with interest in space on the block. Interested potential lessees include Nakama, the owners of Round Corner Cantina, the former manager of Firehouse Lounge, a Philadelphia-based restaurant establishment, a yoga studio, two clothing stores, and a photography studio - among others.

Property Reassessments – Tom Hardy – Development Consultant

Tom Hardy provided an overview of the recent blitz of property assessment information coming out from the City, in local media outlets, and on chat groups. Also reviewed was a history of the reassessment process, State Supreme Court decisions, and calculation of millage rates. Members were reminded to:

Monitor media outlets for updates.

Keep their current assessment notice.

Watch for any new notices.

Pay attention to appeal deadlines, as they may change dependent upon any court rulings.

If going for an appeal, collect property information.

Watch for informational sessions to be hosted around the City, which the CNNC will post to Announce.

The Property Assessment saga continues to evolve. The CNNC will post helpful information to the website and via Announce.

5. President's Report – Chris D'Addario

Chris D'Addario provided an update of the major initiatives the Board has been working on the last 7 months, noting that the Board has been working toward the goals set forth by the Vision and Mission statements of the organization. Chris read the Mission and Vision Statement of the CNNC. Initiatives and major accomplishments led primarily by Board Members have included, but are not limited to:

Applied for Google Grants for Non-Profits

Built a CNNC profile on the PittsburghGives.org website, netting over \$2,000

Prepared funding requests for CITF, ACCBO, CDGB

Met with CDCP regarding a grant for an Alpine Gardens study

Upgraded information technology

Continue work to clean up the Bylaws

Slashed overhead to the core – now a free phone, free email, minimal printer/copier costs

Assisted in a process that led to forgive \$20,000 in liens on the Toula's building

Developed and set into practice a formal policy for vacant land parcels

Working with Collaborative Ventures, the URA, the Mayor's Office and many others in the development of the GTB

Working with the MWSS on Historic District enhancements

Met with Commander Brackney, Councilman Lavelle, the URA, and other community partners concerning Safety Issues

Reinvigorated the Safety Committee, including holding more frequent Committee Meetings, holding a Safety Walk of the neighborhood, and continuing to work with community partners to obtain security cameras for installation throughout key crime hot spots in the neighborhood

Introduced a new line of fundraising giftware, that has netted over a \$1,000

Continue work on a robust rebranding campaign

All of this has been accomplished with no permanent address and no full time staff solely through donated time and countless hours of behind the scenes preparation.

Chris added that there is a lot left to be done, and asked that members consider donating their time for the good of the Community.

6. Treasurer's Report – Barb Talerico

Barb Talerico reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Barb noted that the full Treasurer's Reports are available at the CNNC website and posted every month. A copy of the Treasurer's report may also be requested by emailing treasurer@cnn-pgh.org. Barb reviewed the P&L for November 15 – January 9 as well as the Balance Sheet.

Motion to approve made by David Shlapak. Motion seconded by Anthony Cabral. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Safety Committee – Paco Mahone

Safety Survey

A survey was conducted in November with the next step to present the results to the General Membership at the February 13, 2012 membership meeting.

Paco Mahone welcomed help if anyone is interested in participating in the Safety Committee in any way. Next Safety Committee meeting will be January 17. There will be an email blast with the location and time. Dates and Times are also posted to the CNNC website.

8. Old Business

CNNC Postcard

Anthony Cabral noted that about 1,800 postcards were sent to residences in the community. Wanted to ensure that for those without access to email had an opportunity to know about upcoming membership meeting and how to get involved.

Newsletter

The New Allegheny Times newsletter was discontinued, leaving a gap for a printed vehicle to share CNNC news and updates. In the next couple of months. Karen Bryant (CNNC Communications Consultant) noted that the newsletter will be distributed on January 31. If you are not on the announce list and want to receive the newsletter electronically, go to the CNNC website to sign up.

Hard copies of the newsletter will be printed and dropped off at locations such as Doug's Market, Buena Vista Coffee, The Library on Federal, AGH, and Crazy Mocha. If members would like to see another drop off location, please email communications@cnn-pgh.org

9. New Business

Elections Committee

John Rhoades called for 3 volunteers from community who would work Board members on the Elections committee: Neil Parham and Ruth Tomlin volunteered. A third volunteer did not come forward. Interested parties may email elections@cnn-pgh.org. The Election Committee will meet in January and present next steps at the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Anthony Cabral. Tom Westfall seconded.

Meeting adjourned by Chris D'Addario, President, at 8:24 pm.

The next CNNC General Membership Meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at ATA.