



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday, February 13, 2012 Allegheny Traditional Academy, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Michele Adams, Steve Adams, John Augustine, Colleen Bender, Patricia Buck, Randy Burns, Anthony Cabral, Lauren Cabral, John Canning, Justin Cassel, David Charlton, Patrick Dexter, Bill Donovan, Tom Hardy, Arthur James, Paco Mahone, Randi Marshak, Charles Moore, Gregory Mucha, Jason Owens, Stephanie Pancheri, Neil Parham, Julie Peterson, Ralph (Henry) Reese, John Rhoades, Vincent Salvino, Bob Sechler, Sheila Sechler, Barbara Talerico, Ruth Tomlin, Karina Westfall, Thomas Westfall, Al Zanon

Meeting called to order by Anthony Cabral, Vice-President

1. Announcements

a. **Kaboom Playground Volunteers – Julie Peterson**

February 21 Kaboom will be in town. Kids are already lined up to be involved with the day. Preschool through fourth grade will be involved, including kids from the Children's Museum and from ATA. The kids will design their ultimate playground. 10 more adult volunteers are still needed for the adult portion of the event. More information available at www.cnn-c-pgh.org

b. **A+ School Budget Meeting with Linda Lane** – February 23, 2012 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Bidwell Church - PPS Superintendent Linda Lane to speak about the budget for City schools and what it means for equity in education for students. Childcare will be available for children over 1 year of age.

c. **Allegheny City Society** – Winter Film Event – 3 Wednesdays, starting 2/23 in Feb, Mar, and April. All movies either feature or are by Allegheny City/North Side residents. More information is available at: www.allegheny-city.org

d. **Community United Together** – February 21, 2012 from 5-6 pm – Meeting at the Pittsburgh Project on Charles Street to address safety issues and concerns with all Northside communities. For more information, email safety@cnn-c-pgh.org

e. **Henry Reese – City of Asylum**

i. **Alphabet City** – Plans for Monterey Street project were approved at Zoning; however, two residents objected to the Zoning ruling, which is now in the Court of Appeals.

ii. **Alphabet City** - Now conducting focus groups on outreach for the Literary Center to help identify organizations that would like to hold programs in the Center.

iii. **Upcoming events in April and May:**

1. **April 17, 2012** – Six Dutch poets will be performing as part of the Dutch Festival, and will be performing in various homes throughout the community.

2. **April 24, 2012** – Poet Laureate of South Africa

3. More information about City of Asylum events may be found at:

www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org

f. **Councilman Lavelle Open Office Hours**– Second Monday each month – The Councilman have open office hours to community residents in the Carnegie Library on Federal.

2. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the January 9, 2012**

No amendments were made to the January 2012 minutes.

Motion made to approve the January General Membership Meeting Minutes by Steve Adams. Motion seconded by Tom Westfall. Motion unanimously approved.

3. **President's Report** – Anthony Cabral- Vice President

Garden Theater – Media event in January was a success. Thank you to current Board members, past Boards, and all those who added to the day.

Julie Peterson is stepping down from the Board of Directors after 3+ years of dedicated service to the neighborhood. Julie will be focusing on her upcoming move, but will remain involved in the Kaboom playground and other community initiatives. A very big thank you to Julie for everything she has contributed to the organization.

4. Elections Committee Update – John Rhoades

Elections are held every May, as announced at the last two membership meetings as well as the last newsletter. A Director's Job Description will be posted on the website with hard copies available at the next membership meeting. There will also be a 'Meet the Current Board' event, which may be wrapped into an upcoming Board meeting.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the next General Membership Meetings in March and April. Email nominations will also be taken via a message to elections@cnn-c-pgh.org

The four Elections committee members will make general solicitations reaching out to the community. Election Committee members are Neil Parham, Ruth Tomlin, John Rhoades, and Julie Peterson.

How to Qualify to Vote: In order to qualify to vote, you must: a) be present at the May meeting, and b) have to have attended at least one other membership meeting as a dues paid member. The membership attendance tracking starts the month following last year's elections – June 2011 – and goes through this year's elections in May.

5. Development Report

Garden Theater Block – Tom Hardy

There was a great media event in January at the Masonic Temple. The GTB kickoff is a significant accomplishment – including official announcement that we have a lease commitment from one of the highest grossing restaurants in the City (Nakama). The developer team noted that they feel fortunate, as since the media event they are receiving even more calls from interested tenants. Work has already started on stabilizing 1113-1115 Federal Street.

Scattered Site Development – Phase I

Six new units on Jacksonia in the 100 block – a few of the parcels just closed with the City and CNNC. October Development is finalizing the development plans. One interesting aspect is that the plans include using geothermal heating systems as a heating and cooling source. Looking for a late spring/early summer construction start.

Scattered Site Development – Second RFP

In response to requests from residents of the upper War Streets to address certain safety/problem properties sooner rather than later, the Development Committee has issued a second scattered site RFP. The RFP is posted here: http://www.cnn-c-pgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/cnn-c_developmentrfp_2012.pdf

Historic District Expansion

Paul Johnson of the MWSS was not able to attend tonight's membership meeting. Paul and the MWSS has led up the process with the City designated historic district. Paul will be dropping off the application either today or tomorrow. Paul will be at the next meeting to discuss the historic expansion in more detail.

Guest Speaker: Fair Housing Partnership of Fair Housing – Kaleigh Behe and Victoria Viaiga

www.pittsburghfairhousing.org

Kaleigh provided a background to the mission of Pittsburgh Fair Housing as well as past and current initiatives. Program materials were distributed, and it was noted that in certain situations the Fair Housing Partnership could assist residents who have been discriminated against in housing practices.

Guest Speaker: PCRG Update - Ernie Hogan

www.pcr-g.org

PCRG Rehab Program

PCRG is exploring ways to help those in older communities rehab homes. One program that PCRG is aiming to launch by May is a pilot Home Purchase Mortgage Product, in partnership with the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh and Neighborworks of Western PA. The project will help those who wish to purchase a residential owner-occupied home receive a rehab loan, which is typically more difficult to get in today's open market.

Five banks are partnering with PCRG on the program, and loan amounts will be \$200,000-300,000 loan value, with 5% down. The Central North Side War Streets are one of the targeted areas for the pilot, primarily due to the nature of the housing stock as well as the need and vacancy in the district.

PCRG 2nd Annual Community Development Summit – Thursday, May 24, 2012

CNNC members who wish to attend are eligible for a discounted rate. For more information, visit:

<http://www.pcrp.org/conference/>

PCRG Safe Neighborhoods Network

This committee meets to discuss cross-neighborhood safety initiatives efforts. The CNNC participates in this meeting each month.

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 the period January 10 – February 12 as well as the Balance Sheet. Motion to approve made by Al Zanon. Motion seconded by Neil Parham. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Safety Committee – Paco Mahone

Cameras

Vector Security recently donated over \$10,000 worth of used equipment to the CNNC. Installation of the equipment will commence once the Safety Committee identifies appropriate locations. Some of the donated equipment will not be usable for what has been identified as a need, but the Committee will put unusable items on eBay with any monies received going toward the purchase of new equipment for the neighborhood.

Safety Survey

A few months back, many participated in a safety survey distributed by the Safety Committee. Initiatives surveyed were Parking Permits, enhanced Safety Signage, changing of traffic patterns, and hiring off-duty police officers.

Hiring Off-Duty Police Officers – one initiative from the survey that is being worked on currently. The Safety Committee is working with Officer Plata from Zone 1 to build on this initiative. The initial estimated budget for this endeavor is between \$18,000-\$20,000 for summer 2012. More information will be presented to the membership at a future meeting.

8. Old Business

E-Newsletter Launch

Anthony Cabral surveyed the group to find out who has received the newsletter. Anthony encouraged members to suggest topics and offer feedback on content. Email communications@cnn-pgh.org with suggestions or for more information.

"Announcements" from CNNC

Announcements will now be sent from CNNC@mail.vresp.com. Members are encouraged to add this new email address to their safe sender lists. (Members used to receive announcements from announcements@cnn.org but that email address is no longer in use.)

9. New Business

Harry Johnson of Councilman Daniel Lavelle's office reminded the membership of the Councilman's open office hours every second Monday of the month at the Carnegie Library on Federal Street. Members are encouraged to stop in and meet with the Councilman face-to-face.

Harry also distributed copies of the Councilman's Newsletter, available electronically here:

http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district6/d6_2011_annual_newsletter.pdf

Motion to adjourn made by John Rhoades. Lauren Cabral seconded.

Meeting adjourned by Anthony Cabral, Vice-President, at 8:01 pm.

The next CNNC General Membership Meeting will be Monday, March 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at ATA.