



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday October 15, 2012 Allegheny Traditional Academy, 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance (23): Steve Adams, Dennis Bell, Olivia Benson, Patricia Buck, Christopher D'Addario, Patrick Dexter, John Engle, Pam Grove, Katie Hale, Tom Hardy, Regina Humphries, Arthur James, Paul Johnson, Brian Kaminski, Joe Mansfield, Randi Marshak, David McMunn, Dan McNamara, David Shlapak, Barbara Talerico, Leslie Ward, Craig Worl, Al Zanon

Introduction

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Central Northside Neighborhood Council was held on Monday, October 15, 2012, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of Allegheny Tradition Academy, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present. The minutes of the last regular monthly meeting on 9/10, being posted on the web site beforehand, were approved.

Development Committee Report

The development report was given by Development Consultant Tom Hardy on behalf of the Development Committee. Topics reported included:

- The Historic Review Commission approved the proposed modifications to the Garden Theater.
- A proposal for moving forward with the Great House Sale II.

Pam Grove moved “that we accept the proposition as the Development Committee outlined it.” The motion was adopted. The presentation is on the web site at: www.cnnc-pgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/ghs_2.pdf.

Safety Committee Report

The safety report was given by Steve Adams, Chairman, on behalf of the Safety Committee. Topics reported included:

- Looking into placing cameras in trouble areas.
- Receiving complaints about people running stop signs. Have raised the issue with the police, but that's low on their priorities.
- Looking to consult with Laura Byrne, the Executive Director of Lawrenceville United, who has improved safety there.

Harry Johnson from Councilman Lavelle's office offered to help with stop sign and cross-walk issues.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasure's report was given by David Shlapak, Treasurer. Topics reported included:

- Annual audits have been finalized

Al Zanon moved “To accept the Treasurer's Reports”. The motion was adopted.

Allegheny Commons

Alida Baker, the Project Director for Allegheny Commons Initiative (ACI), reported on current undertakings in the Allegheny Commons. Topics included:

- **Lighting**
 - The lighting along North Avenue between the George Washington Status and Allegheny General Hospital doesn't work and the park is dark there.
 - The city is currently working on its capital budget, and the ACI is asking the city to include \$200,000 for funding

the replacement of the lighting in the budget.

- The ACI is asking for everyone's support in this by contacting Councilman Lavelle's office to request the \$200,000 in funding in the capital budget.

- **West Ohio Street Bridge**

- The city wants to replace the bridge because it's in disrepair, but a new bridge must have higher clearance to allow double stack trains. They have selected a design for a new bridge. It will require an embankment in the park that extends from the middle of the tennis courts to Market Street and will rise 4'6". The city has funding allocated for this now and they want to move forward before they lose the funding. They have a build date of 2014 scheduled.
- Despite this, double stack trains won't be able to run on the line until the bridge at West North and Brighton Road is raised as well. The city has not developed a plan for that bridge. The ACI hired a landscape architect to study that intersection. They determined that raising the bridge there for the required clearance would require a very high and long embankment.
- The ACI is opposing the city's plan for the West Ohio Street bridge on the grounds that the city is only focusing on the one bridge and not developing a comprehensive plan to address the other nearby bridges. The ACI is asking for everyone's support in this by contacting the Mayor's office and Councilman Lavelle's office expressing their concern that the city wants to raise the West Ohio Street bridge without a comprehensive plan for the neighboring bridges.

- **Friends of the Allegheny Commons**

- The ACI has created a membership program called Friends of the Allegheny Commons.
- Having a membership program will allow them to 1) raise revenue 2) demonstrate to funders that the community is engaged 3) demonstrate that there is a constituency for the park.

Councilman Lavelle's Mobile Office

Councilman Lavelle could not attend. Harry Johnson from his office reported:

- The Reapportionment Advisory Committee has given their final proposal. City Council must vote to accept the proposal. Lavelle's office is encouraging everyone to contact all City Council members telling them that we oppose the plan to split our neighborhood into two council districts.
- The city has accepted the nomination for the expansion of the Mexican War Streets historic district.

Harry answered a number of questions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05

Minutes prepared by Arthur James, Secretary, Central Northside Neighborhood Council.
Minutes approved on 01/14/2013.