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**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 9, 2014  
1400 Buena Vista, 7:00 p.m.**

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**In Attendance (37)**

Michele Adams, Steve Adams, Jacob Anderson, Jeff Brizek, Patricia Buck, Dave Buzard, Nicholas Cafardi, Christopher D'Addario, Lisa Ferguson, Kimberly Flaherty, Chris Gates, Joan Gielas, Pam Grove, Tom Hardy, Lloyd Hedlund, Arthur James, Deena Kelly, Carolyn Klingman, Mark Klingman, Don Kosy, Daniel Lavelle, Jason Owens, Laura Pascal, Renee Piechocki, Mace Porac, Frank Quinn, Craig Reinhard, Vincent Salvino, Bob Sechler, Sheila Sechler, Ian Staab, Patrick Sweeney, Barbara Talerico, Erin Tobin, Thomas Westfall, Matt Williamson, Seth Wimer

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**New Officers**

The board elected new officers at their last board meeting. Officers are:

Andrew Wickesberg – President  
Deena Kelly – Vice President  
Chris D'Addario – Treasurer  
Arthur James - Secretary

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**Treasurer's Report**

Chris D'Addario presented the Treasurer's Report.

- With Tom Hardy's assistance, will make some adjustments to accounting.
- Have been paid back in full for the \$70k loan to October Development.

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**Annual Auditor's Report**

Pam Grove moved:

*To approve the auditor's report of the ACCA's financial statements for the fiscal year ending on 5/31/2013.*

The motion passed.

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**Allegheny Commons Initiative – North East Commons and Fountain**

Erin Tobin from the [Allegheny Commons Initiative](#) presented.

- The next phase of development in Allegheny Commons is the North East section. It goes from about Suismon Street and Cedar Avenue to Federal Street.



- ACI is working with [Pashek Associates](#) to develop the plan. ACI has worked with Pashek Associates on other portions of the park.
- Some trees will be removed, but will only remove sick and dead trees. Signs will be posted before removing the trees. Pashek has done a tree inventory and is working with other tree organizations.
- Will replace trees along the edges of the park.
- Would like to phase out the playground at MLK and reclaim it for the park. It is on park property. This will be addressed in a future phase of development. Will only remove dangerous swings at this time.
- Will redo walkway lighting. Will use same style of lighting that went in along Cedar, but with LED light sources.
- Will replace the fountain that used to be at the corner of Cedar Avenue and North Avenue. Working with a consultant from Missouri on the design of the fountain. Will use the 1935 plans for the fountain as a guide.
- The ACI is in talks with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and may be moving away from the NSLC.

Erin then answered questions:

Q: Will the fountain be lighted?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the timeline?

A: Will be presenting to the HRC and the Art Commission in July. Still need to do more with the design. Will then work out costing. Guessing that the total for this phase will be around \$2.8M. Will then do fundraising. Hope to break ground in the fall.

Q: Will the fountain be historically accurate?

A: Will mostly follow the plans from 1935, but will have some different walkways. Also found some pieces of the old fountain and old photos of the fountain that will be used as a guide.

Q: Have you asked the Buhl Foundation for funding?

A: Not yet, but will.

Q: Will the benches around the fountain discourage people from sleeping on the?

A: The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy hasn't looked at that yet. Details on the benches still need to be worked out.

Q: Where are the benches that were removed from the park already?

A: City Parks has them.

Q: How will the fountain be maintained?

A: There will be a maintenance fund established as part of the fundraising.

Don Kosey moved:

*To provide a letter of support to Allegheny Commons Initiative for their plan for the North East Commons and fountain*

The motion passed.



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## Fabled Table

Lisa Ferguson from [Fabled Table](#) spoke. Fabled Table operates out of 1400 Buena Vista and allowed ACCA to hold its general membership meeting there.

- Fabled Table offers children's programming with Mommy and Me classes. Also offers adult classes in the full kitchen.
- Works with the Northside Common Ministries at the Jefferson Rec. Center.

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## Temporary Art Installations

Henry Reese from [City of Asylum](#) reported

- There will be a series of temporary art installations throughout the summer, including River of Words.
- There will be a tent put up for the summer on Sampsonia Way.
- The All Star Refugee band will be here for a while and will perform at four locations, culminating in a concert on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a party on the 12<sup>th</sup> to meet the band.
- There will be performances all summer by different people.
- Will make the stage and sound equipment available to others for free to perform when it's not in use by the City of Asylum.

Renee Piechocki from the [Office of Public Art](#) presented regarding the [River of Words](#) project.

- There are three artists involved in producing the project.
- Will be on Sampsonia Way.
- Will have sentences in chalk on the ground plane and a series of words on vertical surfaces.
- Also looking for about 80 people to participate by hosting a word. Will be asked to hang a word in or on their house.
- There will be an open house on Sunday from 2 to 4 where people can volunteer to host a word.

Renee then answered questions:

Q: How long will the words remain?

A: The sentences in chalk is just dependant on the weather. The words that people host – hoping for them to be up for a few months or a year. But it's really at the discretion of the host.

Q: What locations are you looking for to host words?

A: Looking for all of Northside, but would like a concentration in the Mexican War Streets and Central Northside.

Q: Can words be displayed on abandoned properties?

A: Would rather have occupied properties host them with the owner's permission. Don't want to slow down the process by needing to ask for the City's approval.

Q: How do I sign up to host a word?

A: Attend the open house on Sunday, or email [opa@pittsburghartscouncil.org](mailto:opa@pittsburghartscouncil.org).



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## Glenn Olcerst's Public Art in the Alley

Glenn Olcerst presented regarding installing public art on his house along an alley.

- The Community Master Plan calls for more public art.
- Lives at 1200 Resaca.
- Has already put up a poem on the house with a motion activated sensor that purrs as you read the poem.
- Has installed photos on the back of the house facing Filson.
- Completing a 3-panel tile mosaic titled "The 1<sup>st</sup> Historic District". Would like to install it on the side of the house facing Eloise Street.
- Plans to hang the mosaic with 5 bolts in the brick. It won't be permanent. The only modification to the exterior is installing the bolts.
- Because the house is in the historic district, HRC approval is needed.
- The HRC hearing is on July 2. Please attend to show support.
- There's also a petition to show the HRC neighbors' support.

Glenn then answered questions:

Q: How big is the mosaic?

A: 3' x 7'

Q: Did you make this yourself?

A: Yes

Q: Can it stand up to the weather?

A: Don't know for sure. It is granite, but granite is permeable. Expect it to last 5 to 10 years.

Q: What height will it be set at?

A: The bottom will be about 7 or 8 feet off the ground.

Q: Are you worried about vandalism?

A: Hope not. The artwork installed on Sampsonia Way has been OK.

Q: Will you use a sealant?

A: Yes, a stone sealer.

Glenn Olcerst moved:

*To have the president send a letter to HRC recording the vote of the general membership welcoming "The 1st Historic District" stone panel to the Eloise Alley streetscape.*

The motion passed

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## Development

Tom Hardy reported on development topics.

- Garden Theater
  - Theater construction is continuing.
  - The core and shell work is almost done.
  - Will transfer to the restaurant owner for build-out in about a month



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- Build-out should take a few months, and then the restaurant will open.
- The URA is handling the water and sewer upgrades for that block. The existing combined sewer system must be separated.
- The URA received two bids for this. Work should start in the next month.
- Masonic Building
  - The closing on the building isn't quite there yet.
  - The URA will give Allegheny City Development a 30 day extension to close. There was originally a deadline of 6/10.
- Bradberry Building, 1113 & 1115 Federal Street
  - Proposals are due to the URA at the end of this month.
  - There has been strong interest. Five developers came to do a walk-through.
    - October Development
    - Arctecon
    - KBK Enterprises
    - Paul Johnson
    - TREK Development Group

Tom then answered questions:

Q: What's the situation with the vertical garden theater sign?

A: It should come down in the next couple of weeks. The City and the URA have a section 106 agreement (preservation of historic structures). This should offer some protection for the sign.

Q: Will it be confusing to have the garden sign and a different name on the restaurant?

A: The restaurant will be called "Arde".

Q: Will the breezeway between the Garden Theater and 8 West North Avenue be open, or closed off?

A: Don't recall.

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## Safety

Pam Grove reported on safety topics.

- Working on getting a Safety page up on the [alleghenycitycentral.org](http://alleghenycitycentral.org) website.
- National Night Out
  - Held a National Night Out planning meeting. Will have a second meeting on June 18. The meeting location is TBD.
  - Looking for people with connections who can get kids toys for National Night Out. Target was a sponsor last year and supplied toys, but they're not a sponsor this year.
- Accidents on Federal Street
  - Invited Grant Gittlen from the Mayor's office tonight, but he was unable to come.
  - One homeowner on Federal Street filled out a 311 form and were contacted by Commander Brackney.
  - Have witnessed more police patrolling Federal Street and they are ticketing.
  - The city will do a traffic study there.
- Jefferson Recreation Center
  - Safety committee will work on recent safety issues occurring at Jefferson Recreation Center.
  - Councilman Lavelle, Commander Brackney, and Public Works Director Mike Gable will coordinate to address the issues and meet with the Jefferson Recreation Center staff.
- Nextdoor.com



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- At the last public safety meeting, it was reported that the City is recommending that people use the new website [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

Councilman Lavelle confirmed that the City's Traffic Engineer, Amanda Broadwater, is working on a traffic study.

Pam answered questions:

Q: Is there a timeline for the traffic engineer on Federal Street.

A: Not yet. A study will be done first.

Q: When will the study happen?

A: (Lavelle) It would be worthwhile to tie the study into the master plan that ACCA is developing for Federal and North.

Q: Did cameras on Boyle get the shooting a couple of weeks ago there?

A: Was not aware of that event. Will obtain and review footage.

Q: How do we get the police to know where our cameras are and ask us for footage?

A: They generally don't ask for camera footage. You have to present it to them.

Tom Westfall reminded people to inform the safety committee so that they can check the cameras. Email [safety@accapgh.org](mailto:safety@accapgh.org).

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## Beautification

Steve Adams reported that there was a cleanup day held to clean up Arch Street.

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## Communications

Arthur James reported that the Federal and North Master Plan will be unveiled at the July membership meeting.

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## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Meeting minutes prepared by Arthur James, secretary.

Meeting minutes approved on 7/14/2014.



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