



**General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2014
1400 Buena Vista, 7:00 p.m.**

In Attendance (44)

Michele Adams, Steve Adams, Jeremy Branson, Jeff Brizek, Patricia Buck, Nicholas Cafardi, John Canning, Patrick Dexter, Bill Donovan, Nan Donovan, Kimberly Flaherty, Adel Fournies, Chris Gates, Pam Grove, Tom Hardy, Sharnay Hearn, Arthur James, Tim Johnson, Kate Kay, Deena Kelly, Denise Mahone, Deborah McCree, Todd Meyer, Gregory Mucha, Jason Owens, Renee Piechocki, Henry Reese, Craig Reinhard, Patricia Rogers, Craig Ryan, Vincent Salvino, Bob Sechler, Sheila Sechler, Douglas Shields, Blaine Siegel, Brooke Smith, Heather Staab, Ian Staab, Patrick Sweeney, Richard Thomas, Karina Westfall, Thomas Westfall, Jake Wheatley, Andrew Wickesberg

Introduction

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Allegheny City Central Association was held on Monday, September 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at 1400 Buena Vista Street. President Andrew Wickesberg chaired. Secretary Arthur James recorded the minutes.

Minutes from the 7/14/14 meeting were approved.

Jake Wheatley

State Representative Jake Wheatley spoke and answered questions.

- Was first elected as state representative in 2002.
- Has served on the appropriations committee the whole time. Other current committees are:
 - Education
 - Agriculture and Rural Affairs
 - Liquor Control
 - Rules
- Would like to invite everyone to the Heath & Wellness weekend coming up the weekend of September 13-15.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Hardy presented the treasurer's report.

Q: Did the outdated cameras and equipment get written down?

A: Not yet. Working with the auditors on how to properly do that.

Public Art

Renee Piechocki, the director of Pittsburgh's Office of Public Art, and Henry Reese, co-founder of City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, introduced the next two artists who will participate in the Garden-to-Garden Artway project.

- These two new artists' projects are a follow on to the River of Words project, and they are all part of the Garden-to-Garden Artway project that will connect the garden on Monterey Street to the new City of Asylum/Pittsburgh home in the Masonic Building.
- A call for artists to participate was published nationally.
- A panel reviewed over 75 applications.
- All projects are to have the common theme of language.
- The panel picked the artists who did River of Words. And, the panel picked the next two artists Blaine Siegel and Denise Mahone.
- Blaine's project explores nonverbal communication.
- Denise's project explores language and dreams.
- Both will be temporary installations.
- Blaine's will be first.
- Denise's will need input from the community for content.

Blaine Siegel described his project:

- Wants to involve the community in creating the work.
- Has been setting up at the farmer's market to collect stories from people by video. Will continue to collect video of people telling their stories.
- The collected videos will be projected in four locations without sound.
- The videos will be edited to play with the concept of time.
- The videos will be projected from sundown to sunrise, or as long as they are visible in the given lighting conditions.

Denise Mahone described her project:

- Has lived on North Taylor for 8 years.
- Looked at past City of Asylum/Pittsburgh projects for inspiration for her project.
- Was inspired by Khet Mar's mural on the Burma House, which itself was inspired by a dream.
- Wondered what else this community is dreaming.
- Wants to engage neighbors to get people interested in their dreams and their community's dreams.
- Interested in the language within dreams more so than the images.
- Will ask neighbors to supply the narrative of a dream along with a word or phrase of significance.
- The first phase will be to collect the dreams, words and phrases from neighbors.
 - Would like to collect anonymously.
 - Will have submission forms available at local establishments and online. Can return to her through her mail slot, or go to www.thedreamplaceproject.com.
 - Can also leave her a voicemail at 412-532-9530.
 - Will collect dreams through December 1st.
- The second phase will then be to produce the public artwork.
- What that will be will depend on what's collected and how much, but one idea may be to create a dream map of the neighborhood.

Development

Tom Hardy reported on development topics.

- Masonic / City of Asylum/Pittsburgh
 - The URA terminated Zukin's rights to the Masonic.
 - City of Asylum/Pittsburgh and the URA are still committed and they're working to see how to make it happen without Zukin.
- Garden Theater
 - Public sewer upgrades have to happen next before any more work can proceed.
 - The URA has worked with PWSA to come up with a plan for upgrading the sewer that avoids having to tap into the main under North Avenue for each building that will be developed. They will branch the main into the block so that each building can then tie into this new branch.
 - Once the sewer work is done, then the interior build-out work can begin.
- Other Buildings
 - 6 proposals have been submitted for the URA's latest RFP.
 - The URA hopes to have the board decide on one or more developers at its board meeting the second week of October.

Q: What's the timeline now for the Garden to open?

A: Probably first quarter of 2015.

Q: Were there any penalties for Zukin to take the "gem" of the block and not complete the others?

A: Actually, the concern was that the Garden would be the hardest to develop and the last to get done. Zukin has his own equity invested in the Garden Theater development, so he's well motivated to complete that project.

Q: Do we have a voice in the selection of developers for the URA's current RFP?

A: It's not a public process. The URA controls the properties. And we are not partners, funders or land owners. But, the URA will solicit our opinion.

- 1423 Boyle
 - At the last membership meeting, the ACCA approved a motion to get a developer to stabilize and develop the property.
 - We received 5 responses to an RFP.
 - Frank Quinn was selected because he completed similar work on Saturn.

Q: Has stabilization begun?

A: Yes, he's got his building permit.

Q: What work needs to be done for stabilization?

A: The roof and rear wall need repair.

Q: Is there a contract to pay Frank Quinn?

A: No, he's not being paid.

Q: Since the response to the RFP was so good, is there a trajectory where we don't have to worry about houses coming down?



ALL TOGETHER. DIFFERENT.

A: Yes, there's a trajectory, but we still have to worry about houses coming down. The City can move quickly to demolish a house once it's on the list.

- Great House Sale II
 - Four houses have been identified for The Great House Sale II project.
 - 401 Armandale
 - 206 Carrington
 - 108 Carrington
 - 115 East Jefferson
 - We now have a license with the City to clean out these buildings.
- Federal Hill
 - The last of the 44 new homes on Federal Street just sold.
- Mini RFP
 - Arctecon should break ground in the fall on the three units to be built on Carrington and Alpine.
 - Looking into posting another RFP for more properties in the reserve on Alpine.

Safety

Pam Grove reported:

- Federal Street Traffic
 - The residents on Federal deserve a lot of credit for resolving the traffic issue there by getting the city to install stop signs.
- Loitering on Alpine
 - A series of arrests were made between 8/25 and 8/29.
 - There has been no one hanging out there now for the last two weeks.
 - Lessons learned:
 - Communicate with your neighbors
 - Keep a log of activity and submit it on a 311 form.
 - Tom Westfall did a walkthrough of the area with Councilman Lavelle and DPW. They will work to improve the area by:
 - Increasing lighting
 - Adding cameras
 - Remove "garbage" trees to remove enticing shady spots.

Andrew Wickesberg reported that Pam Grove is resigning as the chair of the Safety Committee and thanked her for all of her service.

Federal North Master Plan

Arthur James reported on the Federal and North Master Plan.

- Community input was collected over the period of a month to determine the priorities of the elements within the master plan.
- 55 surveys were collected.
- The results are on the website at <http://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/federal-north-master-plan/>.

- There wasn't much spread between the top and bottom priorities. It was fairly evenly distributed. The top selected element was sidewalk upgrades chosen by 14.5% of respondents, and the bottom selected element was site furniture selected by 6.9% of respondents.
- Members of the board and the steering committee met with Design Center to review how the project went and discuss how to move forward.
- Design Center made several recommendations including:
 - Meet with council members Harris and Lavelle.
 - Coordinate with DPW as they make infrastructure upgrades.
 - Coordinate with TreeVitalize when it comes to adding street trees.
 - Identify individuals who can each be assigned a piece of the plan so that they can own it throughout the whole implementation phase.
 - Start talking with business about activating the street.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Meeting minutes prepared by Arthur James, secretary.
Meeting minutes approved on 10/13/14.