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**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 9, 2015  
1400 Buena Vista, 7:00 p.m.**

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**In Attendance (40)**

Steve Adams, Jake Baechle, Irene Bauer, Gregory Bednarek, Patricia Buck, John Canning, Lt. Kenneth Cleveland, Dan Deis, Kathy Deis, Jesse Descutner, Phil Flaherty, Joan Gielas, Randy Gilson, Jerrold Green, Bruce Harshman, Sharnay Hearn, Daniel Hixenbaugh, Tim Johnson, Deena Kelly, Todd Kilgore, Susan Larkin, Bruce Ledewitz, Gregory Mucha, Glenn Olcerst, Laura Pascal, Erin Powers, Frank Quinn, Henry Reese, Andrew Reichert, Shannon Reichert, Patricia Rogers, Brooke Smith, Kyle Smith, Patrick Sweeney, Erin Tobin, Kristina Waltman, Thomas Westfall, Andrew Wickesberg, Matt Williamson, Al Zanon

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**Introduction**

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Allegheny City Central Association was held on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at 1400 Buena Vista Street. President Andrew Wickesberg chaired. Vice President Deena Kelly recorded the minutes.

Minutes from the 01/12/15 meeting were approved.

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**River of Words**

Glenn Olcerst spoke about the River of Words

- HRC – Hearing commissioner Ray Gastil was receptive in terms of analyzing how the HRC works and how it deals with the public.
- Postponed so they could fulfill the pledge of how to transparently handle art.
- Review process and procedures. Glenn is steering them to enable a better way to work with HRC. Lower fee for art and artist. Glenn's statements went to HRC legal department. In-depth analysis of 1st amendment because words are protected. Professor at Pitt who attended the hearing and will be conducting oral history from each resident on why they have the word they have for evidence of 1st amendment protection.
- Asking for a more detailed letter of support (those having words, and those that do not have a word). This is a basis for legal protection. Also a petition may be created. We care because: this is an issue that relates to the historic district can be expanded. It relates to development in our neighborhood. Historic preservation and art are other reasons why we should care.
- This will also set a precedent for the art walk.

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## Pittsburgh Fringe Festival

Adele F. spoke about the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival

- The Pittsburgh Fringe Festival will be May 8-10 held here on the Northside.
- Make it your Fringe
- Looking for support from the community.
- Moving from Shadyside to Northside.
- Bistro to Go March 25 party for this event.
- Need ushers and help with ticketing.
- Venue in Deutschtown – church.

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## Annual Audit

Tom Hardy presented the auditor's report from the annual audit.

Randy Zotter moved:

*To approve the auditor's report of the annual audit for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2014.*

The motion passed.

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## Allegheny Commons Initiative / Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Erin Tobin reported.

- March 28 Event – Tree planting, etc.
- Partnership between ACI, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and NSLC has been signed and complete.
- There will be a celebration event in the future.
- Lake Elizabeth light debris clean-up this Saturday.

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## Welcome Neighbor to Neighbor

Irene Bauer spoke about the Welcome Neighbor to Neighbor program.

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## Propel Charter School

Rich and Sarah from Propel spoke.

- Officially purchased the building.
- 345 children.
- 90 from Pittsburgh, half of those from the Northside
- 77 percent free and reduced lunch.
- Waiting list of 500 students.
- Looking to do renovations inside and outside.
- Must bring everything up to code.

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## Arthritis Foundation

Christina from the Arthritis Foundation spoke



- Walk to Cure Arthritis – May 30
- Proposing the east side of Allegheny Commons as the location
- Health and Wellness fare from 8am to 10am.
- Approximately 1000 people to attend.
- Would like a letter of support from the community before submitting a permit application to the City.

Greg Mucha moved:

*To provide a letter in support of the Arthritis Foundation holding its 2015 Walk to Cure Arthritis event in Allegheny Commons Park.*

The motion passed.

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## Highmark / Allegheny General Hospital Sign and Lighting

Andrew Wickesberg reported.

- A completely new proposal has been prepared
- Highmark wants to see their sign from downtown.
- Email Andrew concerning thoughts, questions, concerns.

Meeting minutes recorded by Deena Kelly, Vice President.  
Minutes approved on 3/9/15.

