



**General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2011
Allegheny Traditional Academy, 7:00 p.m.**

In Attendance: Michele Adams, Steve Adams, John Augustine, Colleen Bender, Ed Brandt, Randy Burns, Anthony Cabral, Lauren Cabral, John Canning, Paul Carson, Justin Cassel, David Charlton, Kathy Deis, Gavin Deming, Mark Deptola, Patrick Dexter, Bill Donovan, Nan Donovan, Burton English, Jerome Ferrar, Joan Gielas, Tom Hardy, Bruce Harshman, Cory Hart, Regina Humphries, Roger Humphries, Arthur James, Paul Johnson, Brian Kaminski, Barbara Kelly, Claudia Keyes, Warren Keyes, James Lawrence, Joe Mansfield, Randi Marshak, Jacqueline Marshall, Dennis McAndrew, Dave McFarland, David McMunn, Al Meyers, Jan Meyers, Lisa Monahan, Mark Monahan, Charles Moore, Janet Moore, Mark Myers, Andrea Nichola, Tim Nuttle, Karl Owens, Neil Parham, Julie Peterson, Ralph (Henry) Reese, John Rhoades, David Shlapak, Gregory Spicer, Neill Stouffer, Barbara Talerico, Allen Turner, Leslie Vincen, Dennis Vodzak, Karina Westfall, Thomas Westfall, Dan Wintermantel, Craig Worl, Al Zanon

Meeting called to order by Julie Peterson, Vice President.

1. Announcements

a. Glen Weber and Danielle Atkins – MLK December Toy Drive

The school needed 300 gifts for needy children, believe that we exceeded that amount. A big thank you to all who donated.

b. Eric Johnson – Danielle LaValle’s Office

Office has posted a new jobs to Councilperson LaValle’s Website: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district6/>

c. Marketing Focus Groups

Wednesday night, focus group for families, 7:30 at Julie Peterson’s house, Resaca Place. Maximum of 90 minutes.

2. Membership Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2010

It was noted that the attendee list will be added as an amendment and posted to the CNNC website. No other amendments or notations made.

Motion made to approve the November meeting minutes with pending list of attendees to be posted to CNNC website as minutes amendment. Motion seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Monthly Financials

Barbara Talerico reviewed the financials.

Motion made to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Steve Adams. Motion seconded by Paul Johnson. Motion unanimously approved.

Fundraising/Corporate Partnerships

Barbara Talerico reported that, through Karen Bryant and others, the CNNC Board have been able to line up appointments with other corporations and funders. Last year, Greg Spicer and Barb Talerico met with the Children’s Museum and Manchester Bidwell. This year they have already met with the Massaro Corporation, letting Massaro know what we’re doing through the organization, including the projects of the CNNC Community Master Plan. Next week Barb Talerico and Greg Spicer will meet with Alcoa.

Membership Renewals

Barbara Talerico noted that the dues are still \$5 for annual membership. The CNNC will be proposing an increase this year, which the membership will have to approve. We will also be trying to put membership renewals online. Claudia Keyes asked if the CNNC is considering lifetime dues; Barb noted that the CNNC is considering that option.

4. President's Report

Garden Theater Block (GTB)

Greg Spicer met with Craig Totino of the Zukin team. Discussed focused on the change from the Rendell Administration to the Corbett Administration, which means that we need to quickly move on RACP funds, worth potentially \$2M for the Garden Theater Block.

The East End Food Co-op (a proposed anchor tenant for the GTC) has hired their own marketing consultant, and it is expected that the CNNC will be asked for funds to help pay for the marketing study. One other way that the CNNC can support bringing the EEFC to the GTB is to gather signatures in support of the co-op. Note that the signature initiative is fairly time-sensitive, so if you wish to support the EEFC coming to the GTB, please be sure to pledge your support ASAP.

Garden Theater Block (GTB) Memorandum of Understanding

Agreement between the CNNC and NSLC – North Side Tomorrow – expired in December 2010. There are concerns about the NSLC and their involvement in north side projects. The CNNC is being vigilant about the relationship between the CNNC and NSLC.

Federal Hill Phase II

Greg Spicer signed the closing documents.

5. Reports from Committees, Task Forces, Joint Ventures, Subsidiaries:

a. Communication Committee – Julie Peterson, Communications Chair

Newsletter

CNNC with working with MWSS to eliminate duplicate mailings to the same address. Please contact the CNNC if you received more than one newsletter at your address.

Electronic distribution of the newsletter to those who elect to receive it electronically will begin with the March/April issue. Electronic distribution will also help to decrease postage cost.

February 18, 2011 is the deadline for articles for the March/April issues.

More information about contributing to “*The New Allegheny Times*” available by contacting Julie Peterson at info@cnnepgh.org

Branding/RFP/Focus Groups

Focus groups are continuing – two more in the next two weeks – Families and Gay/Lesbian. Please contact the CNNC at info@cnn-pgh.org if you are interested in participating.

Two firms have submitted proposals for the branding RFP; those on the RFP task force are meeting this Wednesday to vote on a recommended proposal to the rest of the Board of Directors. The BOD will vote to approve one of the proposals at the January BOD meeting.

Greg Spicer reviewed the process that the CNNC has used – from hiring Karen Bryant, through the RFP process, to the process to be used in choosing the final branding firm. Once the firm is chosen, the CNNC will request the finalist to present to the CNNC general membership.

John Canning expressed concern that there are key groups that are not being targeted by the Focus Groups, including those who do not fall under the category of Professionals, GLBT, and others. Suggested that the CNNC reach out to local churches and other venues that would target neighborhood residents.

b. Development Committee – Tom Hardy, Development Consultant

Dennis McAndrew, Development Committee Chair

Dennis thanked the talented group that contributes to the Development Committee.

Federal Hill

Construction started, will take 6-8 months to complete. Tom Hardy recapped that Phase I of Federal Hill had trouble finding a bank to fund the project. In contrast, Phase II had banks competing for the project.

GTB Development

Main focus is tenant recruitment at this point. Usually need 50% occupancy rate confirmed before a project will commence.

There is a \$2M grant from the State (RACP funds) that we are working diligently to get under contract.

Casino Funds

NSLC has Residential and Commercial funds. On the commercial side, the Toula's building is an area of focus.

On residential side, working to secure money to do some work on Boyle Street/Federal Street area in an effort to aid development between Boyle and AGH.

Residential Lots RFP Update

Focus is on the roughly 50 properties that the CNNC owns or controls.

Phase I will be done by Bill Behrend, at the 100 Block of Jacksonia near the Firehouse.

Expect to break ground in late spring/early summer.

4 East North Avenue

A member asked Tom to elaborate on the intended use. Tom confirmed that it is slated to be a Deli.

The timeframe for completion is slated for April/May.

6. Old Business.

No old business presented.

7. New Business.

Historic District Expansion

Greg Spicer announced the Mexican War Streets Society (MWSS) is working to expand the Historic District. Jim Lawrence, reporting as a representative of the MWSS, is working on a proposal to expand the historic district.

Objective is to align the National Historic Designation with the Municipal Historic Designation in order to get the most neighborhood revitalization benefits from a historic designation.

The National designation makes you eligible to use the Historic Designation Tax Credits, but not much more. Because the Federal government has cast a wider net, we do not anticipate the City having issue with expanding the Municipal Historic Designation District.

Getting the City to provide this designation will help to provide assurance to investors that organic redevelopment might occur as well as to help prevent the demolition of existing structures. Jim Lawrence also noted the importance of imposing historic designation to vacant lots in addition to structures.

John Canning noted that he liked that new build in Manchester's Historic District was still affordable, and that it would be beneficial to ensure that new build in this proposed new historic district also offer affordable housing options that blend seamlessly with the existing historic structures.

Jim Lawrence noted that the historic designation process should take several months, but goal is to finalize this by the end of calendar year 2011.

Sampsonia Way

Last week, the one-way of Sampsonia Way was reversed from Sherman to Monterey, and promptly reversed back, without notice. KDKA featured this story during a news broadcast. Of note, traffic pattern changes were a finding detailed in the CNNC Community Master Plan.

A staff member of the Mayor's Office is going to research the issue and will report back to the CNNC.

Meeting adjourned by Greg Spicer, President at 8:37 pm

The next CNNC General Membership Meeting will be Monday, February 14th, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Allegheny Traditional Academy.