



---

**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 13, 2021  
Zoom Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm**

---

**In Attendance (30):**

Rick Belloli, Beth Boroumand, Brittany Conkle, Adam Diaz, Nan Donovan, Stephanie Joy Everett, Andrés Franco, Bill Gatti, Joan Gielas, Thomas Graham, Daniel Haas, Rachael Heisler, Arthur James, Sara Lewis, Deirdre Menchaca, Faith Mudd, Marlee Musico, Glenn Olcerst, Sarah Olexsak, Sherah Rothman, Ian Alden Russell, Vincent Salvino, Nancy Schaefer, Bobi Shields-Farrelly, Caitlin Steve, Erin Tobin, Celeste Vitunic, Ryan Warsing, Matt Williamson, Bobby Wilson

---

**Introduction:**

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, September 13** at **7:00 pm** via Zoom. The meeting was presided by **Beth Boroumand**, and minutes transcribed from recordings by **Vincent Salvino**.

---

**Announcements/General Discussion:**

**Minutes from July 12, 2021 General Membership Meetings:**

Sherah Rothman motioned to accept the minutes from the July 12, 2021 meeting. Brittany Conkle seconded. Motion passed.

**Garden Theater Block Update via Bill Gatti and Rick Belloli:**

- Bill Gatti stated that TREK Development closed on their debt in late May, but it took a while to get all of the necessary permits. Construction has begun on 6 W. North.
- Bill announced that they will be hosting a party/celebration on Wednesday, September 15 at 5:30PM at 40 North Restaurant and Bar. Remarks will be at 6:15 and then a lighting of the Garden Theater Blade Sign outside.
- The Garden Theater Block Project is completely intact from what has been shown in the past with 57 apartments: 9 in the Morton House and 48 in the new building - 6 W. North.
- There is 4500 sq ft of commercial space, primarily in the Garden Theater, and they will be looking for tenants. TREK reserved 1200 square feet of commercial space on the corner of Federal and North for neighborhood-serving retail space.

- Commodity pricing (lumber, equipment, insulation, etc.) affected the project, but hitting the pause button to wait for that to settle down would have more of a threat. Things are getting better with the pricing.
- Joan asked if people could just show up for the celebration at 40 North. Bill said it would be helpful to register, but nobody will be turned away.
- Vince asked if there was a limit to attendance at Wednesday's celebration. Bill said that 40 North can do up to 150 people. The attendance is currently at 100.
- Glenn asked about the status of the common room balcony in the Garden Theater. Bill explained the balcony will have three to four apartments on the upper floor - not common space. The green space that is behind the Garden Theater will be common space.
- Beth asked about the general timeline to completion. TREK is pushing to be open by the 4th quarter of 2022, or the 1st quarter of 2023.
- Joan asked about interest in commercial opportunities. Bill said that there was no exciting news to offer. There is regional and national interest in the Garden. There were no inquiries for almost two years, then COVID hit and it was even quieter. Now things are picking up.

**Report from District 1 Councilman Bobby Wilson:**

- Councilman Bobby Wilson is excited for the lighting of the sign of the Garden Theater.
- COVID sick pay was revisited in city council. The COVID sick pay is still available for 10 paid sick days.
- The final vote for Paid Bereavement Leave will be taken on Tuesday, September 14. The Leave will offer up to three days for city employees and would include loss of pregnancy. If passed, Pittsburgh would be the first city government to offer this benefit to its employees.
- Vincent asked about the council district and when redistricting will occur, with the suggestion that our neighborhood should be reunited under one councilperson. Councilman Wilson said that a committee needs to meet in January and a public hearing will be held. He also stated that his district does need to grow since it lost population reported via the census.

**Thomas Graham from State Representative Jake Wheatley's office:**

- Office hours have changed to 9:00am to 4:30pm. The office is still available via email online.
- Unemployment issues are still occurring. Contact the office for assistance.
- Rent rebates - If you have not received your rebate yet, please contact the office.
- Golden Luncheon for 65+ will take place in third week of October.
- Contact info: tgraham@pahouse.net, 412-471-7760



**Erin Tobin from Pittsburgh Park Conservancy:**

- Caitlin Steve was introduced. She will be working in the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Community Engagement Department.
- PPC is continuing to fundraise for Segment B (Federal to Arch) on the North Commons, that will include new trees, improved pathways, and new lighting.
- Kids days are coming up as well as Plant Walks. All events are posted in the Weekend Update, PPC Calendar, and Allegheny Commons Facebook page.
- The Park Conservancy is turning 25 years old this year. As part of the celebration, the Patricia Rooney Memorial Fountain will be lit up on Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2. On Friday, October 1 there will be a Community Celebration in Allegheny Commons. There will be food vendors and a musician. The farmer's market is being encouraged to stay up later.
- At the end of October, a survey will be shared regarding the programming in the park.
- The Man, Beast, Bird Monument (the Hartzell Memorial) will be moving back to its original location by Spring 2022. It will not be replumbed to work as a fountain.
- Pumpkinfest will not be held this year.

**Andrés Franco from City of Asylum:**

- The 17<sup>th</sup> Jazz Poetry Month was launched. Nine concerts will be presented with people from over 30 countries. It will be streamed as well. Monday, September 20th will be the first one. <https://www.alphabetscity.org/jazz-poetry-month/>
- Bad Activist: <https://www.alphabetscity.org/events/bad-activist/>
- Freedom to Create Gala and Keynote will be occurring on October 8 and 9.
- 40 North Restaurant is doing well and started serving Sunday brunch and will be serving Sunday dinners.
- To subscribe to the City of Asylum Newsletter:  
<https://cityofasylumpittsburgh.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=22aa59e8c9bdb5b7bcc6394d6&id=2c80825fe2>
- To find the schedule of performances:  
<https://www.alphabetscity.org/>

**New Business:****Update on the Jacksonia Street Traffic Calming Plan by Beth Boroumand:**

DOMI did a study of the traffic traveling on Jacksonia Street. They released their findings and proposed solution, which was to change the direction of traffic on Jacksonia in three different places. A lot of feedback concerning the plan was collected and submitted to DOMI. There was a wide range of what people felt about the changes. For right now, the city is looking at their options and seeing what's possible. ACCA is hoping to have an update by October of what DOMI's plan will be going forward, so that it's the least restrictive to the people living on Jacksonia, but still protects the residents in and around the neighborhood from people flying up the street or not obeying stop signs.



**Report on the ACCA Neighborhood Trash Pickup by Vincent Salvino:**

Vincent reported on the Neighborhood Trash Pickup that occurred on the Saturday before the Neighborhood Yard Sale. A small group of volunteers for the Trash Pickup met in the park for doughnuts and coffee, and received bags and gloves if needed. The Trash Pickup was sponsored by ACCA, and this will be the first of many. Vincent said that we're looking to have a cleanup twice-a-year in coordination with the Neighborhood Yard Sale and the MWSS House Tour. ACCA wants to support the Mexican War Streets Society in working alongside them to make our neighborhood the best it can be. And, ultimately, to keep our neighborhood free of trash.

**Danny Haas of the Mexican War Streets Society:**

Danny Haas introduced himself. Danny is on the MWSS Board of Directors and is the Program Chair. Danny organized the Yard Sale and thanked everyone for their participation in the sale. In the coming year, there should be a lot more events happening and a lot more community engagement. Beth stated that we want to be neighborhood groups, that at the very least, complement each other and support each other.

**Adjournment**

Vincent motioned to adjourn. Danny seconded. Meeting adjourned.

