



**General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 11, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm**

In Attendance (30):

Brie Adams, Lisa Bakowski, Beth Boroumand, Sheila Collins, Brittany Conkle, Maggie Connor, Adam Diaz, Nan Donovan, Annette Farris, Joan Gielas, Daniel Haas, Hayley Haldeman, Arthur James, Keegan Magee, Mike Magee, Glenn Olcerst, Greg Ramsey, Sherah Rothman, Kristi Russo, Nancy Schaefer, Bobi Shields-Farrelly, Barbara Talerico, Richard Thompson, Chris Thorpe, Nikki Thorpe, Erin Tobin, Thomas Westfall, James Wick, Krista Winslow, Steven Winslow

Introduction:

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of the Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, October 11** at **7:00 pm** via Zoom. The meeting was presided by **Maggie Connor**, and minutes transcribed from recordings by **Vincent Salvino**.

Announcements/General Discussion:

Minutes from September 13, 2021 General Membership Meetings:

Maggie Connor shared the link to the minutes from the September 13th meeting. Beth Boroumand motioned to accept the minutes. Sherah Rothman seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Schaefer – Representative from West Park Court Board:

- West Park Court Board (created in 1971) is a subsidiary of ACCA (formerly Central Northside Neighborhood Council). The board has been dormant with only three people.
- WPC is starting the process of repurchasing the WPC building and desires to reconstitute the Board of Directors.
- Five people have volunteered for the board: Margaret Blain, Sheila Collins, Adam Diaz, Shay Craig, and Sharon Watkins. They would join the existing board members to serve a two-year term.
- Currently, West Park Court Housing Corporation is the general managing partner for the limited partners who own the building.
- In the future, the West Park Court Board will answer to Allegheny City Central Association.

- The current relationship with the managing general partner will cease, and 'HMS Housing' will start managing the building starting November 1.
- The sitting president of ACCA will be a member of the WPC board.
- Beth motioned to approve board members nominated. Sherah seconded. Motion passed.

Hayley Haldeman from Mattress Factory:

- Hayley thanked all of those who attended the Mattress Factory Block Party on September 2nd.
- In-person programming at the Mattress Factory is currently limited; measures are in place per COVID.
- The Northside Cultural Corridor includes six Northside institutions: City of Asylum, The Andy Warhol Museum, National Aviary, Mattress Factory, the Parks, and Children's Museum. The aim is to strengthen links between the institutions and be better neighbors to Northside residents. The project includes joint programming, outreach to the neighborhood, and increasing pedestrian traffic, rather than vehicle traffic and parking.
- The Northside Cultural Corridor was launched at an event with a free day at all Northside cultural institutions and premiered a new map for the corridor (created by Grounded, formerly GTECH Strategies).
<https://mattress.org/events/the-corridor-free-day-09-30-2021/>
- Glenn asked about the status of the committee working to revise the historic guidelines for art. Maggie mentioned that COVID has made progress difficult. Any amendment to the regulations will come from the community, not from the city.
- Glenn gave some background: The HRC challenged the River of Words art project. Glenn filed suit and the HRC agreed to allow the neighborhood to revise our own historic guidelines.
- Glenn asked for contact info for Hayley.
Hayley Haldeman Contact Information: hhaldeman@mattress.org
- Would this affect the desire to have a mural painted on the side of a house. Answer: It could. This is being discussed with how art could be incorporated and still be compatible with historic guidelines. This would include painting. Would like to find some standard ways of installing artwork so that it could be approved administratively by the HRC, since art is an important part of this community. Conversations are ongoing.

Erin Tobin from Pittsburgh Park Conservancy:

- Final 2021 survey will be available soon to gather information about Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's summer programming. Will circulate to the neighborhood when available.
- PPC is continuing to fundraise for Segment B (Federal to Arch) on the North Commons.



- PPC asked for a Letter of Support for a multimodal grant from PennDOT worth \$250,000 for the promenade.
- Erin thanked everyone for attending the *Making Your Parks Shine* event on October 1. Third best attended event celebrating the Parks Conservancy turning 25.
- Erin encouraged everyone to fill out the survey related to the October 1st Park events: <http://support.pittsburghparks.org/site/SSurvey>.
- Riverview Park Day was postponed because of COVID.
- Barb motioned that the ACCA draft a Letter of Support to request additional funding from PennDOT for the next phase of the Allegheny Commons project. Glenn seconded. Motion Passed.

New Business:

Jacksonia Street Traffic Calming Project:

Maggie has been discussing the Jacksonia Street Traffic Calming Project with Nick Ross from DOMI. The ACCA will post information as it becomes available. Currently, there is no final report to share about the Jacksonia Street traffic study.

Allegheny General Hospital Structural Issues:

Beth updated everyone via Northside Leadership Conference about Allegheny General Hospital's structural issues with their hospital campus. They want three changes: No more shared patient rooms, the need for larger procedure rooms, and moving the helipad to another location. They will be meeting with leaders from the different boards to discuss a plan. This is very preliminary planning. There will need to be a whole process for these changes.

Alpine Lots:

- The ACCA is looking to put the ACCA owned lots on Alpine Street up for an RFP. Assessments of the lots have been planned. The Development Committee will provide a recommendation to the Board about the elements of the RFP.
- Q: Have the results of the Jacksonia Street Traffic Survey been shared?
A: ACCA compiled all of the feedback that was submitted. That feedback has been sent onto the city. ACCA does not yet have a final report from DOMI.
- Q: Is there a target date for the RFP process to begin?
A: End of this year, beginning of next year.
- The maintenance of the Alpine lots was questioned. ACCA has been in contact with the company that was hired to maintain the lots. ACCA will follow up with that.
- Chris Thorpe from 242 Alpine: The grass was only cut once this summer. There is a lot of debris that comes with the long grass.
- Beth added that the delay for the RFP was because ACCA has a small board. She apologized on behalf of the entire board.



- Maggie added that an RFP was put out eight years ago. Five or Six of the lots are owned by the ACCA.
- Tom Westfall asked about forming a development committee for these lots. Maggie clarified that we have a development committee and provided her contact information (mconnor@accapgh.org) for anyone that would like to join. The goal is for the lots to be developed. Making the area a green space comes with challenges.
- Asked if a committee is formed for the lots, would an RFP even need to go out? The Board has already approved for an RFP to be put together. The plan is for those lots to be sold and developed.
- Is there a consensus about what happens with these properties?
When the Master Plan was done and the Board approved a plan for an RFP to be developed, the needs of the neighborhood has changed greatly. It's difficult to park on Alpine and Saturn. There is a need to see what is best for Alpine and Saturn Way. Neighbors would like to have green space and they have started to add flowers. They would like to expand that, but are concerned about the lot being torn up.
- Barb recalled talking to Diane Samuels (Cofounder of City or Asylum) about beautification of parking spaces. Barb offered to ask Diane to discuss that with the neighbors.
- Maggie suggested having a design exercise with neighbors on Alpine, Jacksonia, and up to Armandale. This current discussion is not just about lots, but traffic and parking issues. Maybe ACCA could hold a Saturday Workshop to identify what the problems are in the area, what the goals are, and the best way to strategically organize that work - to look at it at least a block-deep on either side. Maggie stated she could take this to the rest of the board. If interested, email Maggie (mconnor@accapgh.org).
- Beth clarified that this is not the same RFP as the one from 2015. October Development did not execute in the time required by that RFP, so lot ownership reverted to ACCA. The current board only became aware of this last year. ACCA decided to restart a different RFP process.
- Barb asked about the Drivers Hotel. Signs had been posted on the building. Maggie said there was no immediate information available, but could follow up.

Adjournment:

Barb motioned to adjourn. Glenn seconded. Meeting adjourned.



ALL TOGETHER. DIFFERENT.