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**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 13, 2022**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm**

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**In Attendance (25):**

Brie Adams, Kemuel Benyehudah, Brittany Conkle, Maggie Connor, Anne Farris, Joan Gielas, Nicole Graycar, Gina Grone, Arthur James, Douglas Kamper, Faith Mudd, Arthur Perkins, Rebekkah Ranallo, Debbie Reed, Sherah Rothman, Kristi Russo, Krista Schlereth, Richard Thompson, Erin Tobin, Aujahnà Vaughn, Ryan Warsing, Lynne Weber, James Wick, Angela Williams, Krista Winslow

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**Introduction:**

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

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**Announcements:**

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded.

**Krista Schlereth from Allegheny Center Alliance Church (ACAC)**

- Krista spoke to the membership to rally support for the Sue Murray Pool to be opened.
- Erin Tobin is putting together a community meeting with the City Parks. There will also be a rally in the park to recruit more volunteers and lifeguards.
- Gina Grone, Executive Director of the North Side | Shore Chamber of Commerce contributed additional support.
- Art Perkins asked about the homelessness and overdosing near the pool and if that is an issue with hiring lifeguards.  
Krista wanted to focus on the issues with the pool for recruiting lifeguards.
- Brie Adams asked about lifeguard certification and training programs.  
That has not been investigated yet. Brie would reach out to the city schools if approved. More information about lifeguards for city pools can be found at: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/lifeguard-info>
- The Allegheny YMCA is also having an issue with hiring lifeguards.

- Debbie Reed asked about Learn and Earn option.
- Angela Williams asked if children are bussed to another pool, will that be a safety issue at the other pools being understaffed.  
Gina Grone said the city is organizing a busing program  
Faith Mudd from Councilman Wilson's office said her office is still looking into the shuttling program.
- Debbie Reed asked if Councilman Wilson will send something out contradicting the story that the reason the pool is not opening is due to homelessness and overdosing.
- Rebekkah Ranallo from the Mayor's office shared that the mayor's office is hearing support/non-support for posting police at the pools.
- Kemuel Benyehudah from the Mattress Factory shared his experience from going to pools. Hoping the last resort is having police officers at the pools.
- Angela Williams asked everyone to sign the petition to open Sue Murray Pool:  
<https://tinyurl.com/open2murray>

#### **James Wick**

- Alpine Parklet is across the street from James Wick's house.
- Trees and flowers have been planted over the years.
- James Wick is asking for a letter of support to replace the play area floor and a water source so the trees can be watered. The motion passed for the letter of support.
- Alpine Parklet is always looking for volunteers.

#### **Nicole Graycar from the Mattress Factory**

- Nicole Graycar is a consultant for the Mattress Factory working to gather deferred maintenance funding for the museum. They did a large scale walk about the campus. Grants were awarded right before the pandemic, and now this money needs to be spent.
- The first focus is on the artist's residence at Resaca and North Taylor on the corner. These are two buildings the museum acquired in 1984. The museum is looking to do an exterior restoration from the roof down. July 6th they will be going in front of the historic review community.
- Lynn Weber asked about how many units.  
There are bedrooms for the artists at those buildings. It will be similar to a hostel with 5 bedrooms.

#### **Gina Grone - Executive Director of the Northside Chamber of Commerce**

- Gina said that the Chamber is working with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership for a Pittsburgh Pedestrian Wayfinding Project.
- This is a system to prioritize pedestrians and help them find their way around neighborhoods.
- The project launched in 2013 and established the Wayfinding Advisory Committee, which raised \$700k for design and awarded a Federal TAP grant of \$1.4 million grant that needs to be spent this year.



- Three types of signs and in three different locations in the city. Oakland, Downtown, and Northside.
- 164 total signs have been proposed: 71 downtown, 38 in Oakland, and 55 in the Northside. View the map of the proposed signs:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1IHzyLw0bQARQPcDs695d6zZ3t9q7eC3U&ll=40.4521909005584%2C-79.9986970960519&z=15>
- The signs with contain information to help pedestrians know where they are and what they need.
- Next steps are to finalize locations and the information on the signs.
- Gina asked for a Letter of Support for the project. The Art Commission meeting will be held on July 27.
- Jack mentioned Randy from Randyland and his signs.
- Arthur mentioned the ACCA's rebranding and asked if our neighborhood will be referenced as such or Central Northside.  
Gina will wrap that into updates.
- Dick asked about the difference between ACC and Mexican War Streets.
- He also asked who will maintain the signs.  
There will be a maintenance fund.
- Will 311 be responsible?  
Gina will look into it.
- Lynn asked if this is intended for pedestrians, why are we taking the signs up Brighton Road?  
The signs will stop across from RiteAid. Maggie added that they added a lot of money into the bike lanes on Brighton.
- Maggie asked if there is more community processing coming up.  
July 6th is the next HRC meeting. It is up to the neighbors to look more closely to the messaging.
- Dick made a motion to write a Letter of Support. Maggie added that we send a Letter of Support pending a review of the signage content. Motion Passed.

#### **Lynn Weber for the Affordable Housing Committee**

- The committee had its first meeting, focusing mostly on the affordable housing in the neighborhood.
- Mistick attended the meeting.
- The Widow's Home is changing management this summer, the committee wants to meet with them.
- They are also planning to meet with the Light of Life on North Avenue to discuss the sale of their building.
- The Allegheny YMCA is continuing to offer housing of single rooms as well.
- Action Housing will meet in July.
- There is a need to have a discussion about affordable housing in the neighborhood.
- Erin asked if they are coordinating with the Buhl Foundation.  
Lynn said they will reach out.



- Erin asked since she is on the board of the YMCA, will the committee talk with the Y?
- Erin is preparing a community engagement committee that is spreading the word of the improvements at the Y.

#### **Clarification of Future ACCA Meeting**

- Joan clarified that ACCA does have a July meeting, but we don't have an August meeting.

#### **Faith Mudd for Councilman Wilson**

- The capital budget is coming up with the survey ending on June 17<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2023-city-pittsburgh-budgets/capital-budget-survey>
- The Deer Pit Park is open in Allegheny Commons, and a celebration is being planned.

#### **Erin Tobin from Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**

- The Park Conservancy will be sharing its programming soon.
- The Capital Budget - Erin is hoping each group of the Northside would submit an ask for funding for investments in the parks. A letter for the Alpine Parklet and a Letter of Support for the Allegheny Commons Projects including the lighting.
- Lynn asked about the Jefferson Recreation Center project.  
Erin and Faith did not have updates to provide.

#### **Rebekkah Ranallo from the Mayor's Office**

- Capital Budget is wrapping up, but Operational Budget is ramping up.
- Aujahna Vaughn is the new Learn and Earn intern working in the Mayor's office.

#### **Kemuel Benyehudah from the Mattress Factory**

- Mattress Factory Block Party is happening on June 17<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

- Approving the April minutes was deferred.

#### **Question About 1500 Arch Street**

- Brie asked what was happening on Arch.  
Maggie explained a little tap room is being opened.

#### **Adjournment**

- Dick motioned to adjourn. Brie Second. Meeting Adjourned.

