



General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2023
Zoom Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm

In Attendance (20):

Beth Boroumand, Maggie Connor, Nan Donovan, Erin Feichtner, Joan Gielas, Rebecca Grazier, Matthew Hartford, Jake Heaton, Arthur James, Joan Kimmel, Deirdre Menchaca, Michelle Moore, Amanda Primrose, Sherah Rothman, Vincent Salvino, Nancy Schaefer, Richard Thompson, Erin Tobin, James Wick, Bobby Wilson

Introduction:

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, February 13, 2023** at **7:00 pm** via Zoom. The meeting was presided by **Maggie Connor**, and minutes were recorded by **Vincent Salvino**.

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A vote to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2023 ACCA Meeting was postponed until the March Meeting.
- All Meeting Minutes can be found on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/meeting-minutes/>

Membership Dues

- Maggie announced that the 2023 ACCA Membership Dues can be paid online:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/join-renew/>

New Business:**Nancy Schaefer: Update on West Park Court**

- Nancy Schaefer is a Board Member of West Park Court (WPC).
- West Park Court is the 112-unit building on the corner of Brighton Road and West North Avenue.
- West Park Court was the first building of its kind to be developed and owned by a neighborhood group (CNNC/ACCA). The building went into service in 1978.
- In 2006, the building was sold to a limited partnership. It was still controlled by neighborhood people, but other people were involved so that capital could be raised for rehabilitation.
- The agreement with the limited partnership was to last 15 years. After 15 years, the limited Investors would give the right of first refusal back to the community so that the building would be back under neighborhood ownership.
- On January 27, 2023, West Park Court closed on the building and the neighborhood is now in full ownership of the building. Basically, WPC bought the interest of the limited partners. Currently there are three separate organizations involved, but that will be worked out over time.
- ACCA needs to approve the board members of the West Park Court nonprofit.
Nancy Schafer and **Jeneen Henson** want to be appointed for another two-year term to the WPC Board of Directors.
- Beth motioned to appoint **Nancy Schafer** and **Jeneen Henson** to the board. Vince seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Maggie Connor: Update on the Affordable Housing Committee

- ACCA Board Members have designated this year as a **Year of Housing**. They are trying to educate themselves about what ACCA has done in the past for affordable housing, as well as get a better understanding of what kind of affordable housing resources currently exist, and how our organization can better support them in our community.
- Maggie announced that the March ACCA meeting will be in-person at Fabled Table on March 13 at 7:00 pm. The featured topic for the meeting will be Affordable Housing. ACCA has invited all of the current affordable housing providers in our neighborhood to present to the membership the work that they do.
- Article on the March 13th Affordable Housing Forum posted on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/2023/02/affordable-housing-forum-planned-for-march-acca-meeting/>
- Presentation by Joan Kimmel about the History of Affordable Housing:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NS-Affordable-Housing-Joan-Kimmel-ACCA-Meeting-2023-01-09.pdf>



District 1 Representative Councilman Bobby Wilson

- Councilman Bobby Wilson is happy to be representing the entire neighborhood of Allegheny City Central. He is currently familiarizing himself with the portion of the neighborhood that has been added to his district.
- Jefferson Recreation Center:
 - There are delays with recreation centers across the city. The Jefferson Rec Center plan is being reviewed.
 - The councilman hopes to have updates next month about securing funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The American Rescue Funds must be under contract by 2024 and under construction by 2026.
 - Maggie mentioned a member of the neighborhood is interested in enhancing the green space around the Jefferson Rec Center. The councilman is willing to meet with the neighbor to discuss these plans.
 - Vince mentioned money that was awarded to the Rec Center prior to the pandemic might still be available.
- Joan Kimmel asked about the AGH 10-Year Master Plan.
The councilman stated the Master Plan has not come before City Council. He should be contacted when there is any action. The plan may currently be in City Planning.
- Joan Kimmel asked about North Avenue and its redevelopment – including the median strips.
The councilman stated they are still looking into funding for the North Avenue project. The project will involve North Avenue from Brighton Road to I-279. Councilman Wilson will provide updates when he has more information.
- The lighting situation in the park:
Allegheny City Electric Company has been doing the prep work. Duquesne Light will be placing the underground wiring to reconnect to the power source. The city was going to use \$500,000 for this, but now a new power source is being built by Duquesne Light. Once connected, the Department of Public Works will need to check the lights. The project is moving along.
- Maggie asked for an update on the Vertical Clearance Project of Norfolk Southern Railroad.
The councilman attended the Open House that Norfolk Southern (NFS) held on January 18, 2023. The update from NFS was that they are still committed to 3 phases: Phase 1 - the Pedestrian Bridge, Phase 2 – the Brighton Road and West North Avenue Bridge, and Phase 3 – the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge.
The councilman has been in communication with DOMI to make sure the design provides the best accessibility option for the West side of the bridge.
Maggie is concerned with West Park Court related to accessibility and visibility. There are also concerns about the intersection of North Avenue and Buena Vista. Councilman Wilson recommended that all affected parties have a meeting with DOMI.



- Related to Norfolk Southern's recent derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, Matt Hartford asked about possible effects the derailment will have on the approval of NFS's Vertical Clearance Project.
The councilman has communicated with Erika Strassburger, a representative on City Council and director of PWSA, to ask how PWSA will be monitoring to assure that our water is safe. He is also asking the county what they are doing to monitor the air quality. Councilman Wilson will reach out to the City's law department to look at the agreement with NFS to see what can be done.
Maggie also suggested that anyone concerned with the impact that the railroad has on our environment should investigate Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh:
<https://railpollutionprotectionpittsburgh.com>.
- Vince asked about the belongings that were piling up in the park.
Councilman Wilson said this kind of situation should be handled faster in the future. He has asked the administration to implement a strategy for initial outreach and approach. The councilman mentioned that the city is seeking funding for situations such as these.

Erin Tobin: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Allegheny YMCA, and Clean Pittsburgh Commission

- **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:**
 - Erin thanked Councilman Wilson for helping to secure additional funding to Allegheny Commons Park for Segment B of Allegheny Common's North Promenade Project. The project will cover from Federal Street to Arch Street, and possibly to George Washington Monument - depending on funding.
 - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will put the project out for bid in May or June and are confident that ground will be broken this year. The project includes lighting, new benches, new trees, trash receptacles, and possibly renovation around the monument.
 - Erin also thanked Duquesne Light who is one of the main funders of the project.
 - PPC is looking for volunteers for park clean-up events. No volunteers are needed for What the Muck.
 - On April 8th, there will be community events in Allegheny Commons for Earth Month.
- **Allegheny YMCA:**
 - Erin is on the Board of Directors of the Allegheny YMCA
 - The Allegheny YMCA will be posting a community survey that asks what community members would like to see at the Y.
- **Clean Pittsburgh Commission:**
 - Erin is the District 1 Rep for Clean Pittsburgh Commission (CPC)
 - Clean Pittsburgh Commission is working on de-littering the city. If our neighbors want to put together a litter committee, CPC has resources (trash bags, litter pickers, safety vests., gloves, and more).
 - Garbage Olympics will be held the 3rd weekend in September.



ACCA Board of Directors Election

- Maggie mentioned that the ACCA Board of Directors elections will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023. She encourages people to start thinking of getting more involved in our neighborhood.

Meeting Adjourned.



ALL TOGETHER. DIFFERENT.