



General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 9, 2023
Fabled Table at 7:00 pm

In Attendance (14):

Lindsey Aquino, David Charlton, Laurie Charlton, Joan Gielas, Jordyn Gilliard, Matthew Hartford, Todd Kilgore, Deirdre Menchaca, Nancy Schaefer, Katherine Stern, Erin Tobin, Nada Wheelock, James Wick, Laura Winter

Introduction:

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, October 9 at 7:00 pm** at **Fabled Table**. The meeting was presided by **Matthew Hartford/James Wick**, and minutes were recorded by **Joan Gielas**.

Matthew Hartford, *President of ACCA*, introduced himself and welcomed meeting attendees.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Joan Gielas moved to approve minutes from the May, June, and September ACCA General Membership Meetings. The motion was seconded. Minutes were approved.
- All Meeting Minutes can be found on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/meeting-minutes/>

Announcements:

Jordyn Gilliard from Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office

- Jordyn Gilliard is the *Constituent Services Coordinator from Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office*. Jordyn introduced herself to the meeting attendees and is looking forward to working with ACCA and its members.
- *Department of Public Works*
 - Bobby Wilson's Office is compiling a list of areas in District 1 where weeds are growing onto the street and sidewalks have deteriorated. This list will be submitted to the Department of Public Works for improvement.

- *Alpine Parklet*
 - Jordyn reported that the *Director of Public Works*, Chris Hornstein, indicated that if Alpine Parklet was donated to the city, the Department of Public Works (DPW) would be able to maintain it as a greenspace.
 - Laura Winter and James Wick were glad to hear Director Hornstein's support. Laura and James have been working with Tom Mulholland on Alpine Parklet and adjacent lots. Tom is the *Community Conservation Director of Allegheny Land Trust*. There is a privately-owned lot adjacent to the parklet. This lot has been listed on the treasurer sales because the owner cannot be identified. Tom Mulholland is helping to secure this lot as an extension to Alpine Parklet. Jordyn will be meeting with Tom Mulholland next week and will provide us with more information after that meeting.
 - Laura Winter has also been gathering signatures from neighbors near the parklet to indicate their support for this project.
- *Preliminary Budget*
 - The Mayor's Office has released the 2024 Preliminary Budget. Budget details can be found on the EngagePGH website:
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2024-city-pittsburgh-budgets>
 - The next step in the budget process includes briefings with the City Council. The Department of Management and Budget will collect community feedback through a survey and community meetings. The budget will then be submitted to the City Council, who will hold a public hearing. The council should vote on the budget before the end of the year.
- *Spring Garden Avenue*
 - A small portion of Spring Garden Avenue will be closed because PWSA is working with the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure to replace the street bricks and remove the streetcar tracks. Detour signs have been posted.

Erin Tobin from Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

- *Riverview Park Update*
 - For the past six months, the Friends of Riverview Park have been working on a community engagement design process for the Grand Avenue Entrance to Riverview Park.
 - A Survey will be available to get feedback on a couple of design concepts for the entrance. ACCA will post the survey for neighbors to complete.
 - At this point, this is only a conceptual design. The goal is to build momentum around this project and to raise money to make this project a reality.



- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is advocating for funding from the city to restore Riverview Parks' Valley Refuge Shelter that is located near the Grand Avenue Entrance of the park. The funding for this project is in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. There is an opportunity for neighbors to express support by commenting on the draft budget through meetings and the EngagePGH website:
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2024-city-pittsburgh-budgets>
- Friends of Riverview Park meet every month, and all interested neighbors are invited to attend:
<https://www.forpark.org/>
- *Allegheny Commons Park: North Promenade Project*
 - The North Promenade Project is on schedule and most of the pathways are complete.
 - Still to do: The Plaza around the George Washington Monument and the planting of 70-80 trees.
 - The fencing will stay up while the project is under construction.
 - When the project is complete, there will be some kind of community celebration – maybe similar to a Festival of Lights. Tentative timing for the community celebration and ribbon cutting is the 2nd week of December.
 - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is open to any ideas for how to celebrate the completion of the North Promenade Project. Reach out to Erin Tobin with any suggestions: etobin@pittsburghparks.org or 201.669.9046.
- *Litter in Allegheny Commons Park*
 - Todd Kilgore asked about the possibility of adding more off-beat, humorous signs in Allegheny Commons to help with the litter issues. Erin said that the city recently went through a signage process, adding signs with park rules on the Western side of Allegheny Commons at the request of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Since Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy does not manage the park, it would not be the organization who would create or post fun/unique signs in Allegheny Commons. Erin doesn't know if the city would be willing to do that.
 - A question was asked about the pickup schedule for Allegheny Commons. Erin said that the current pick-up schedule is once a day for each trash can in all of the 40+ parks.
 - After the Parks Tax was collected, the city increased the number of laborers for litter pick-up in the parks.
 - With special events, the city schedules more frequent routes.
 - Workers who do trash pickup in the park also take care of events at PNC Park and Acrisure Stadium.
 - Neighbors can call 311 to report that a garbage can is overflowing.



- *Garbage Olympics*
 - Erin mentioned that Garbage Olympics is held every September. The Clean Pittsburgh Commission runs the Garbage Olympics event. Communities and organized groups can get involved with that.
 - Erin also mentioned that clean-up can be done year-round by groups or individuals. Clean Pittsburgh will provide trash bags, gloves, and safety vests. More information: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/clean-pgh/cpc>
- *Arch Street Basketball Court & Court Near Sue Murray Pool*
 - A question was asked about the status of the renovation of the Arch Street Basketball Court.
Erin said that the city will pave the surface of the Arch Street Basketball Court. After the paving is complete, artists will paint the surface.
 - Mayor Gainey included money in the budget to replace the existing half-court that is by Sue Murray Pool in East Commons, with a new full-court.

Lindsey Aquino from the Mayor's Office

- Lindsey Aquino is the *Community Liaison for the Mayor of Pittsburgh*.
- *City of Pittsburgh 2024 Preliminary Budget*
 - The city is asking for Community Feedback on the Preliminary Budget for 2024. To gather input, community meetings are being held throughout the city to discuss and comment on the budget. In addition, there is a feedback form on EngagePGH's website: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2024-city-pittsburgh-budgets>
 - The first budget meeting was held in Troy Hill on October 4th with about 40 people attending. There was great engagement and comments.
 - The remaining Budget Meetings will be held on:
 - Wed, October 11 in East Liberty
 - Thursday, October 12 in the Hill District
 - Monday, October 23 in Chartiers
 - Tuesday, October 24 in Hazelwood
- *Human Resources: Job Openings*
 - Two positions are available in the city:
 - Engagement Manager
 - 311 Call Center Representative
The 311 Rep is a hybrid position with possibility of working from home.
- *Office of Equal Protection*
 - Mayor Ed Gainey launched the Office of Equal Protection. Representatives from this office are available to provide presentations.
- *Allegheny Commons Litter Signage*
 - Lindsey will find out about signage in Allegheny Commons and report back.



Nancy Schaffer: Update on Arch Court and West Park Court

- *Arch Court*
 - Arch Court will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, November 2 from 5- 7pm at Arch Court Apartments, located at 1310 Arch Street. Arch Court is a 30-unit senior apartment building. They currently have available apartments with no one on the waitlist. All are invited to the Open House to see the facilities and meet the Arch Court Board Members.
- *West Park Court*
 - The West Park Court Board is in the process of exploring options that will move its building out from under ACCA ownership.

Use of Lots on Alpine Street:

Open Discussion

ACCA owns six vacant lots on Alpine Street. There are privately owned lots and a URA-owned lot adjacent or near the Alpine Parklet. What does the community want to do with vacant lots that ACCA owns?

Lot Use Suggestions:

- Can they remain a greenspace?
- Community Garden - what is the process?
- Could there be a low-cost entry point to start some kind of development?
- Dog Park?
- EV Charging Station?

Comments/Concerns:

- The more greenspace we have, the better it is for the neighborhood.
- There has to be community buy-in on whatever is done.
- Need feedback from neighbors that are near to the properties.
- Representatives from ACCA should go to the upcoming MWSS meeting to discuss the Alpine Lots and get additional feedback.
- Several of the Alpine Street lots that ACCA sold to a developer have been paved and roped off and looks like a large parking lot.
- Construction materials from the development of an adjacent lot on Alpine were dumped on ACCA-owned lots. This issue has been resolved.

The Meeting was Adjourned.

