



Allegheny City Central Association

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General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday, November 13, 2023 Fabled Table at 7:00 PM

In Attendance (20):

Steve Adams, Tyrell Best-Savage, Beth Boroumand, John Canning, David Charlton, Laurie Charlton, Brittany Conkle, Joan Gielas, Reverend Jerrel Gilliam, Jordyn Gilliard, Arthur James, Deirdre Menchaca, Nancy Schaefer, Katherine Stern, Patrick Sweeney, Richard Thompson, Chris Wheelock, Nada Wheelock, James Wick, Laura Winter

Introduction:

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, November 13, 2023** at Fabled Table at 7:00 PM. The meeting was presided over by **Matthew Hartford** and minutes were recorded by **Brittany Conkle**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- October Meeting Minutes were not yet complete and will be approved at the January meeting.
- All Meeting Minutes can be found on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/meeting-minutes/>

New Business:

- Discussion regarding changing the date and time of the monthly meeting. Discussion about a 6:30 PM or 6:00 PM start time.
- Discussion regarding a hybrid approach to meetings. Comments included that a hybrid may encourage more participation; a simulcast must be carefully planned so it isn't chaos; need to think about how to validate voting remotely, such as when a Husband and Wife are voting on same screen.
- The possibility of an informal holiday cider party was discussed.



ALL TOGETHER. DIFFERENT.

Announcements:**Speaker from Councilman Wilson's Office**

- Council voted and passed AGH master plan.
- 2024 Budget – public hearings in December.
- DOMI: Submitted 311 for traffic calming off of Arch to Ridge (South of North, by the church). And James Street.
- Alpine Parklet: Seems fine and going forward.

Speaker from Rep. Summer Lee's Office

- The office is in East Liberty on N. Whitfield Street. They can assist with all federal agency problems, and some local issues.
- Serviced 1385 constituent cases and solved 1027 cases.
- Returned over \$2 mil to constituents re: IRS, Social Security.

Presentation by Light of Life Executive Director, Rev. Jerrel T. Gilliam

Light of Life (LOL) purchased a school down from CCAC years ago. However, after community feedback, a two-building solution was agreed upon. The new building was opened three years ago and is by Heinz Lofts, those interested can take a tour. That is where the emergency services building is. They now have an emergency shelter for women and children – which is the fastest growing population of those needing emergency shelter (there are 18 beds on 3rd floor for them.) Emergency shelter is low barrier, individuals do not have to commit to sobriety.

Discussion on the changing faces of homelessness – shift in 90s with crack, shift with opioid crisis. Now, LOL sees people from all areas. Late 2000s, people weren't coming to LOL as they used to. Started an outreach team 7 years ago, as a result. Began going out to bring services to folks out there and to work with businesses in the community to be liaisons to those experiencing homelessness without getting police involved. Pandemic: really changed things.

During pandemic, misunderstanding on the rent moratorium. People thought their rents were being forgiven. Didn't realize rent was accruing the entire time. There are still people in line to be evicted because of the court backlog. Some end up on the streets because of this – it is not only drugs, alcohol, mental health.



At the University of Pittsburgh – over 2,000 students self-identified as having housing insecurity in the last year.

LOL has people who have jobs but nowhere to live; they are homeless but going to work every day.

LOL's new building will be for long term programs.

Once an individual commits to change, it is important to get them out of the environment.

How can ACCA help?

- LOL is selling the old building on North and Federal. Working with Rising Tide, Buhl to find someone who can purchase it and use it for affordable housing or other use.
- LOL has 90 beds total – split between emergency and long term. Have been using overflow shelter for months.
- Discussion of a resource card: LOL does not encourage giving money to folks panhandling. Give them the actual resource – sandwich, money, etc. Resource cards – all the services of LOL, direct phone number.
- LOL has an outreach team that can be called to check on someone who is homeless and may need services. Police could also do a wellness check.

The Meeting was Adjourned.

