



Allegheny City Central Association

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General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday, June 9, 2025 West Park Court, 7:00 pm

In Attendance (15)

Lindsey Aquino, John Canning, Larry DiCicco, Jessica Farrell, Joan Gielas, Eric Huber, Arthur James, Max Joffe, Quinn Kirby, James Lawrence, Morgan Martin, Nathan Salamacha, Richard Thompson, Steven Williams, Daanish Zaidi

Introduction

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, June 9, 2025** at **West Park Court**, located at 710 West North Avenue. The meeting was presided over by **Jim Lawrence**, *ACCA President*, and minutes were recorded by *ACCA Secretary*, **Larry DiCicco**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A motion to Approve the Minutes from the ACCA General Membership Meeting that was held on **May 12, 2025** was made by Dick Thompson, and seconded by Jim Lawrence. Motion passed unanimously.
- All Meeting Minutes can be found on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/meeting-minutes/>

Membership Dues:

- A reminder was given to attendees to join ACCA or renew their membership either at the meeting or online (<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/join-renew/>)



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ACCA Announcements

Election of Executive Committee of the ACCA Board of Directors – June 2, 2025:

- The first Board Meeting of the newly elected and returning members of the ACCA Board of Directors was held on Monday, June 2, 2025.
- The first order of business for the Board of Directors was to elect the Executive Committee of the Board.
- The results of the Executive Committee vote were:
 - **Jim Lawrence**: President
 - **Max Joffe**: Vice President
 - **Larry DiCicco**: Secretary
 - **Richard Thompson**: Treasurer
- As per ACCA Bylaws, the Immediate Past President, **Nancy Schaefer**, is also part of the Executive Committee. At the Board Meeting, Nancy Schaefer agreed to stay on the Executive Committee until she relocates.
- The Executive Officers will serve a term of one (1) year.
- The Board of Directors would like to recognize Ms. Schaefer's efforts and hard work during her interim position as the Board President, after the resignation of the previous Board President, and to express a **BIG THANK YOU to Nancy!!**
- In addition to the newly elected Executive Officers, current Board Members include **Sheila Collins, Maggie Connor, Deirdre Menchaca, and Steven Williams.**
- According to the ACCA Bylaws, the ACCA Board of Directors can include as many as 15 members. ACCA invites others to consider participating. If interested in serving on the board, send an email to elections@accapgh.org.

ACCA Treasurer's Report:

- **Dick Thompson**, *ACCA Treasurer*, provided a Financial Overview for ACCA.
- The annual budget has been set at \$10,055 and is tracking close to forecast. Funds are available to meet 2025 obligations.
- Since Membership dues are minimal (\$5/\$3 annually), other revenue generators are required for ACCA.
- Dick also announced that ACCA has budgeted \$250 in support of the National Night Out event scheduled for August 5, 2025.



ACCA Safety Committee Report:

- **Safety**
 - **Max Joffe**, *Chair of ACCA's Safety Committee*, provided a brief overview of safety issues.
 - **Jessica Farrell** is the *SaferTogether Coordinator, from Pittsburgh's Department of Public Safety*.
 - Jessica reiterated, if there are things that need attention from Police and/or authorities, please reach out and bring to Zone 1's attention.
 - Jim Lawrence mentioned the empty lot along Brighton Road and North Taylor Avenue. Apparently, the lot has experienced a significant amount of overgrowth, and that has allowed cover protection for unacceptable practices in this lot. The owner of the property sent a crew that cut down and removed all of the overgrowth, leaving only the larger trees. The 'attractive nuisance' has been eliminated. It is possible that the property owner will come back to improve on the current condition of the lot, but right now it is not certain what is to be anticipated.
- **National Night Out**
 - National Night Out is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 5th** in the 1400 block of Arch Street. National Night Out is a Community and Public Safety Event and celebration.
 - The Mexican War Streets Society has contributed \$1,000 to be used for the National Night Out event.
 - ACCA is currently reaching out to local businesses for additional support.
 - Volunteers are being recruited. To volunteer for National Night Out:
 - Fill out an online form: <https://forms.gle/43MhCJ5gEUrcYZw5>
 - Email Safety@accapgh.org
 - Save the Date for National Night Out: **Tuesday, August 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

ACCA Development Committee Report:

- **ACCA-Owned Vacant Lots:**
 - **Jim Lawrence**, *Chair of ACCA's Development Committee*, reported that the Alpine Lot Project/Development is moving ahead.
 - The URA has agreed to cede their property to ACCA, providing the plans being developed can be implemented.
 - It is anticipated, that if things proceed, and the Owner of the adjacent lots will participate in the planning being done by DevCom, a developer could be on-board in a 6-8 month time frame.



- **ACCA Registered Community Organization (RCO):**
 - As mentioned in a previous meeting, ACCA has finalized its Registered Community Organization (RCO) status and is now recognized by the City of Pittsburgh.
 - One of the primary functions of ACCA's RCO status is to schedule and conduct Development Activities Meetings to communicate and discuss neighborhood developments that are seeking permits from the city.
 - ACCA has a few small projects that will be scheduled during June to get the process moving. These two projects are relatively small undertakings and will allow ACCA to interact with the city to assure the process is in place and functioning.
 - A meeting is scheduled for the Board of Directors to meet with City Planning (Nazia Taranum) to provide more details about the scheduling of the DAM's and other RCO specifics requirements.
- **Jacksonia Avenue & Arch Street Green Space:**
 - The green space on the southwest corner of Jacksonia and Arch Street is being proposed to be developed as a community greenspace by a local developer (Todd Meyer). The Development Committee is reviewing the proposal, and the Mexican War Streets Society has reviewed the proposal. Further updates will be provided.

Community Announcements

Update from District 1 Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office:

- **Morgan Martin** is the *Legislative Aide from Councilman Wilson's Office*.
- Morgan reports that the traffic lights at Galveston and West North will be out of service for a while to install new lighting system. A four-way Stop Sign system will be utilized in the meantime.
- The North Ave Signals/Pedestrian Project is underway. Work is scheduled to conclude mid-2026.
- Councilman Wilson's office will be issuing Newsletters beginning this June/July time frame.
- Morgan did follow up on concerns about children playing on Arch Street, north of Jacksonia. Children tend to speed down Arch on skateboards and/or bikes and cause safety concerns with autos crossing Arch from Jacksonia. A speed bump (or multiple speed bumps) could be a solution or installing "Watch Children" signs. This issue is unresolved at this time.
- To reach out to Morgan Martin, email morgan.martin@pittsburghpa.gov



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Update from the Mayor's Office:

- **Lindsey Robles** is the *Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator from the City of Pittsburgh*.
- Lindsey reports that Northside's Sue Murray Pool, located at the bottom of Cedar Avenue, will be open this summer.
- Lindsey also shared news that the Davis Avenue Bridge has re-opened after a long closure for upgrades and repairs.
- Lindsey was asked to verify if work on Allegheny Commons Park's Pedestrian Bridge that crosses over the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks will in fact take place in 2025 as previously reported by Michael Baker. Lindsey will attempt to reach out to Norfolk-Southern and/or Michael Baker for an update.
- The Regional Transit Authority will also be contacted for an explanation of alternate routes once the construction begins on the Brighton Road / West North Avenue intersection
- To reach out to Lindsey Robles, email: lindsey.robles@pittsburghpa.gov

New Business**New Initiatives for Allegheny City Central Association:**

- Jim Lawrence announced that a **Commercial Initiative** needs to be part of ACCA's agenda moving forward. A number of buildings on Brighton Road will be available in the near future and Jim would like ACCA to have a say in any proposed development.
- A suggestion was made that ACCA should reemphasize its relationship with the Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC). An association with the NSLC could help in undertaking ACCA's commercial initiatives.
It was determined that ACCA will reach out to the new NSLC Business Development Manager to start this process.

Next General Membership Meeting: July 14, 2025

- The next ACCA General Membership meeting is scheduled for **7:00 pm** on **July 14, 2025** at **Arch Court**, located at *1310 Arch Street*.

The Meeting was Adjourned.