



MINUTES
CASGED Community Meeting
November 14, 2023 6:30PM
Zoom/In Person

Executive Attendance: Lisa McAnany (President), Jamie Moore (Vice President), David Chimento (Secretary) Jared Stelmach (Treasurer), Tyler Andrews (At Large), Isaac Falvey, Erik Kath. Absent: John Kubilus

Community Attendance: Karen Benner, Velma Burkhart, Billy Cramer, Bob Herbert, Michelle Moore, Mary Ann Sestric, Jenny Stalnaker., Quincey S., Jan Reather, Lindsey Robles, Cmdr. Malloy, Ofc. Peyton.

Zoom Attendance: Eric Vanistendael, Jordyn Gilliard, Eric Leathers,

1. Call to Order
 - a. Lisa McAnany welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
2. Regular Business
 - a. Guests
 - i. Zone 1 Police Report - Officer Peyton, Commander Malloy
 1. SGED had a total of 8 Part 1 crime reports within the last 30 days, leading to 5 arrests. Details on the crimes were given by Officer Peyton.
 2. They shared details regarding their upcoming event: **Get Stuffed with Love**, giving away free meals to those in need of a Thanksgiving meal this year. If you or someone you know would like a meal, please call 412-323-7201 to sign up by November 17th. Special thanks to the Rotary Club who cooks and puts the meals together. See information below.
 3. Ofc. Peyton shared a reminder that we are in the thieving season. Please do not leave Christmas gifts in the car or the trunk and be careful where you leave your keys. Keep yourself safe and remind your neighbors.
 4. Tyler had a few prepared questions for the guests.
 - a. There was discussion on stats being shared. We want to be sure the stats are for all of SGED and not just SG. ED was included and one of the arrests above (domestic) was shared as part of the stats.
 - b. What is the best practice for mitigation of nuisance properties and drug houses.
 - i. They shared that the best thing to do is take notes. If you are not willing to testify then it's not always worth the trouble, but it may help to build a case. Some people are concerned with retaliation, so they may not be willing to testify. They will take a list from CASGED if we compile one from the community, but that will not lead to arrests.
 1. Joe V. Sr. recommended we send the Voskamp address in.
 - ii. Best thing to do it report it to 311
 - iii. Narcotics arrests do not make it to the list above because they are categorized differently.
 - c. Status on Door Hangers. Cmdr. Malloy shared they were supposed to be done by the end of October, so he will get his team on it. The door hangers have the same info from the magnet that was given at the Community Event, but their purpose is more of a tool to get officers out in the community and talking to neighbors. They will not ring doorbells or knock on doors.
 5. Bob asked how many officers are PGH Police short. Cmdr. Malloy shared that they currently have 778 officers but they are budgeted for 850. In past years, they had 1,000

then budget for 900, but due to the pandemic, they lost many officers. While there is a need for more, it does not make sense to stay at 900 if they know realistically that they can't make it to that number. It's better to move the funds elsewhere where funding is needed. On a good day there are 8 officers on the North Side patrolling. They have new classes of officers planned for future needs.

6. Bob asked how many unsolved murders in Pittsburgh and later clarified that we have an unsolved case where the AirBnB shooting was. Cmdr. Malloy stated that we do well and have a clearance rate of 85%. The AirBnB case is ongoing, but held up with the DA's office due to not enough to charge the suspected individuals. They are working with the DA to help build the case.

ii. Councilman Wilson's Office - Jordyn Gilliard

1. Jordyn shared that The Mayor submitted his final 2024 proposed capital budget and public budget hearings will take place in November and December. A link to the engage page for more information can be found here: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2024-city-pittsburgh-budgets> See Capital Budget page 78 which states there is approval of \$1,000,000 for the continued Chestnut St. project and Jordyn shared this will be for Phase 2.

- a. Jared asked about other items missing from the original plan we requested - lighting, electrical, streetscape and if it is really worth going to the meetings if they will not listen to us.

- i. Jan from DOMI was in attendance and stated that the utility work is requested to the utilities and DOMI just does their best to coordinate, but they cannot compel them to move wires underground, replace water pipes, etc.
- ii. Regarding traffic patterns, Jan shared that this project is an escalated one based on the community need and that they did not have time to consider everything like they typically do, so DOMI will better be able to assess the traffic calming needs once the project is complete. It will be better for DOMI to get a real picture from a fresh slate.
- iii. Tyler asked about the engage page platform and where the information goes, and if we can see previous comments. Jan can pull data if we would like.

- b. Tyler asked if there has been any information on Spring Garden Parklet and Michael Flynn Park and Jordyn shared that there is nothing she is aware of.

2. Jordyn shared that the new rental policy will include all rental properties, including existing properties. The policy and more information can be found here: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/pli/rental-registration>
3. Jordyn mentioned that the requested stop sign replacement has been repaired and Velma confirmed that it is up now across the street.
4. The Councilman's Office was in constant communication regarding unhoused individual staying in the commons and he has been placed in a shelter with long term housing. Thank you from the office for your patience with this.

iii. Lindsay Powell's Office - Leah Friedman shared updates via email

1. The Whole Home Repair program is open until November 17. This is an income-qualifying grant that can provide up to \$50,000 in home repairs to Allegheny County residents.

2. [Property Tax Rebates and Rent Rebates](#) for seniors/other qualified homeowners or renters for 2022 are due December 31, 2023. Our office can help determine if folks are eligible and fill out an application on their behalf.
 3. Enrollment is also open for LIHEAP (utility assistance) and Pennie (health insurance).
 4. If anyone needs assistance with connecting to state assistance programs, like SNAP or Unemployment, we can help.
 5. We can provide seniors with free bus passes.
 6. We're having a district office open house on Saturday, December 9th from 12-5pm at our office on Butler Street. I will pass along a flyer once we have it. Would love to meet neighbors!
- iv. Mayor Gainey's Office - Lindsey Robles
 1. Lindsey formally introduced Jan Reather with DOMI who spoke earlier on the projects regarding Chestnut St.
 2. Lindsey had no new updates for the group and asked if there were any questions or concerns.
 - a. Tyler asked about posting events and he will send the Light up Night event information to Lindsey.
 - v. DOMI Update - Jan Reather is the Infrastructure Engagement Specialist and the liaison and go-to for large capital projects.
 1. DOMI signed off on the new redirection signs today and they will be up in the next couple of weeks after they are made.
 2. Jared brought up the gps change that is needed to keep too much traffic out of the community and that tractor trailers are getting stuck.
 - a. Jan brought it to DOMI and but can't force it with Waze. All they can do is submit it and hope the algorithm of drivers going alternate routes helps to reroute people accordingly.
 3. Tyler asked for 'local traffic only' signage and Jan will take it back to DOMI.
 - vi. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy - Erin Tobin
 1. Tyler mentioned she will be out for a few months on maternity leave. Tyler also shared that she is also our go-to for the Clean Pittsburgh Commission and she/the team can help to provide materials for clean up projects.

3. Announcements

- a. New Board Positions
 - i. Lisa reviewed the new board positions and introduced the new executive board.
 - ii. Tyler spoke about his role with enhanced communication, emails, and redeveloped website.
 - iii. Jamie shared that as a new board, we are going to do some strategic planning and will be meeting on Dec 19th. Will have more direction on committee work, relatively all new, excited to work with you all and support the community.
- b. Review of Previous Minutes
 - i. Lisa stated that previous minutes were shared and to review them.
- c. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023
6:30PM, 1308 Spring Garden Ave.

4. New Business

- a. Zoning Study
 - i. Erik Kath handed out QR codes for members to review and provide feedback on the Neighborhood Plan which was developed by CASGED more than a decade ago and a Zone study that Erik developed and presented to Bobby Wilson's office. We are working to have zone

changes to allow for neighborhood-friendly retail. Erik's goal is to have comments and dialog around these plans so we can continue to develop them.

Neighborhood Plan: <https://www.ca-sged.org/neighborhood-plan>

Zoning Study: <https://www.ca-sged.org/2023zoningstudy>

- ii. Lisa mentioned that the resurface of Chestnut St will have a ripple effect to the feel and livability of the neighborhood.

b. Development Proposal, Chestnut Street Corridor - Erik Kath

- i. Erik Kath (EK) presented the potential of Eric Vanistendael's (EV) Renew412 project, which involves taking on a \$7.3 million project within the community. EK mentioned that the board has had several discussions with EV and the board could not make a decision on whether to move forward with a letter of support or not, based on previous interactions. There were about 3 for, 3 against, 3 who abstained/neutral. David mentioned that our thought was to have community meetings around this facilitated by EV and then formally survey the community.
- ii. Bob asked if there was commitment funding right now and EV/EK said not yet. Bob also mentioned that after this project it would be a good idea to take some of CASGED's houses to redevelop them.
- iii. Jenny said this is a large project and asked how long EV has been working on this. EV said he has been attempting to make the underlying argument for about 9 months now, spending the hardest work since June on his spreadsheets and sales work.
- iv. Eric Leathers (EL) commented that the board is split and asked if there was a timeline when the letter is needed. EV said that Bridgway and Gaming Economic Development Tourism Grants are historically awarded in Nov/Dec, and Gaming was the focus of a site walk recently. He will also be touching base with Rep. Powell and Allegheny County Commonwealth money. EL voiced approval to move forward with a letter of support.
- v. Jenny asked if the only ask was for a letter of support or is there anything else that we need to commit to. EV stated that he would like to engage the community and that potential funding sources would require this.
- vi. Lisa thanked EV and all involved, and restated that this is not the last on this discussion and nor the last proposal the community will see.

5. Committee Updates

a. Residential

- i. Isaac mentioned that CASGED closed on 5 properties and we have 2 abandoned residential structures that we would like to find someone to purchase and live in them. Please email us for more information.
- ii. We sold 832 Spring Garden to a couple who own Concord Place Apartments for parking. They will make it look better over the coming months.
- iii. Isaac also reiterated that there is a focus on affordable housing that EK discussed.

b. Commercial

- i. Everything was covered with the plans outlined above.

c. Public Safety

- i. Tyler reiterated the topics discussed from Zone 1.
- ii. Northside Zone 1 Public Safety meetings take place the first Thursday of each month at the Mattress Factory.
- iii. Tyler will communicate with all guests and have topics for discussion prepared and given to them one week out so they can be prepared with updates. If you have any questions for Zone 1 or any elected official, please email that in.

iv.

d. Community Engagement

- i. Tyler also stated that the minutes and everything will be on the enhanced website coming soon!
- ii. Lisa mentioned Light up Night: Saturday, December 2nd. 5-8PM and said this will be a great event for the community and the kids. There will be treats and activities available. Jamie mentioned that we have a good planning committee and that we are still looking for volunteers. Joe informed us that Rachel Heinz had a group go out and work on electrical for us.

6. Any Other Business

a. Green Space Initiatives

- i. Tyler mentioned that he will be taking on the opportunity of green space initiatives as part of the Community Engagement committee. He said we have large spaces that will make our quality of life better within the community.
- ii. Tyler would like to have our own “engage page” on these topics where we can get community feedback and be prepared for discussions with the city/county.

7. Adjournment

- a. Lisa thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

Get Stuffed with Love

Feed the Hungry – Thanksgiving 2023



Do you need a meal on Thanksgiving?

Rotary Clubs of Bethel-St Clair and Northern Allegheny, and Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church are partnering again this year to cook, assemble, and Pittsburgh Police officers will deliver food on Thanksgiving Day. Over the past 20 years this event has gone from feeding 250 people who are homeless, shut-ins, disabled, and in need to over 4300 people and numbers keep growing!

**If you need a meal, you just need to contact your local police zone officer!
Deadline date to call in a meal is Friday, November 17, 2023 NO EXCEPTIONS, so please call now!**

Zone 1: Officer Darrick Payton, @ 412-323-7201 darrick.payton@pittsburghpa.gov

Zone 2: Officer Eldridge Kimbrough or Officer Brian Wissner @ 412-255-0782
(sub station – 8am to 4pm) or 412-255-2828 eldridge.kimbrough@pittsburghpa.gov
brian.wissner@pittsburghpa.gov

Zone 3: Officer Christine Luffey @ 412-488-8425 christine.luffey@pittsburghpa.gov

Zone 4: Officer Victoria Butch @ 412-422-6520 victoria.butch@pittsburghpa.gov

Zone 5: Officer Jeffery Crawford or Officer Nicole Kolesar @ 412-665-3605 or 412-512-4082
jeffery.crawford@pittsburghpa.gov nicole.kolesar@pittsburghpa.gov

Zone 6: Officer David Sadecky or Officer Robert Stehle @ 412-937-3051
david.sadecky@pittsburghpa.gov robert.stehle@pittsburghpa.gov

If you don't need a meal, but would like to donate, please make checks payable to "The Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair" and write "Thanksgiving" in the memo. Checks should be mailed to SSB Bank, Attn: Heather Dieckmann, 8700 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237