

Morningside Area Community Council Monthly Meeting
March 4, 2015 - Agenda
VFW Banquet Hall, Morningside

I. Welcome & Introductions (7:09 pm)

II. Treasurer's Report & Previous Minutes (Henry Petrilli, Ira Mabel)

There was only one small deposit last month for membership revenue. There were three expenses for website hosting and membership expenses. MACC's operating balance is \$2,047, savings are \$3,470.

Minutes were not completed for the February meeting. They will be posted along with March's minutes.

III. Public Safety (10 minutes)

A. Commander O'Connor Announcement

Commander O'Connor has retired. MACC received a nice email from the Commander about how much he enjoyed working with the community.

Jason Lando is the new Zone 5 commander. He has worked in Zone 5 for several years.

Commander Lando will be instituting a few changes: More officers will be attending community meetings, not just the Commander. There will be a new nighttime community liaison to interact with businesses. The zone will be doing more youth outreach. There will be a community response car operating noon-8pm whose only responsibility is to respond to Mayor's complaints, 311 complaints, and complaints from community meetings.

Zone 5 will now have a neighborhood email list to send out weekly crime stats (email jason.lando@pittsburghpa.gov and indicate you live in Morningside to sign up). Zone 5 will also have a twitter account.

Last month there were four vehicle break-ins around 5300 block of Stanton Ave.

B. Zone 5 Safety Update (Stacey DiRenzo)

The next Zone 5 meeting will be March 10 at the Union Project. On April 22 there will be a city-wide public safety meeting at the Teamsters Temple, the theme being "Focus on the Future."

The presentation at the last Zone 5 meeting from the narcotics impact squad

was very good. MACC might be interested in scheduling it for a future meeting.

IV. *Councilwoman Deb Gross*

The city just kicked off a year-long engineering phase for the Heth's Run project. There is a lot of new energy and interest around water and stormwater. Neighborhoods uphill will eventually be connected with trails down to the Run.

Like Project 15206, there is opportunity to stop stormwater at a personal level. PWSA is starting a new grant program for 50/50 match, or sometimes up to 100% match, for stormwater projects.

Councilwoman Gross is always looking for ways to support working families. She is working on "reasonable accommodation" legislation, as well as initiatives on child care. She is starting a micro-lending program for typical women-owned small businesses, which could eventually be expanded into other supportive businesses.

V. *PittMesh*

Meta Mesh presented additional information about a proposal for a mesh network in Morningside. You can watch a version of their presentation at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvAT7DTspaM>

The Ideal locations for nodes are businesses and nearby volunteers. The initial phase will be a 20 node seed deployment covering 8 square blocks. Routers for Morningside will be 2.4 Ghz for better coverage but less range. The antenna needs to be mounted on the outside of buildings. Meta Mesh is looking for volunteers primarily in business district area.

Meta Mesh is starting a webstore for kits. The Morningside project will be 20 nodes at \$500 each, for a total of \$10,000. MACC will also need to have and store some maintenance equipment. Also include a home dual-band router in the kit.

First phase from Meta Mesh is to purchase hardware, install firmware, start education program, then install the nodes. They are looking for a few excited community members to take ownership of the project and maintain/install it.

Meta Mesh will work with MACC to secure grant funding. Possible sources are URA, Google, Neighborhood Allies, and the Sprout Fund.

The next steps are:

- Develop curriculum
- Gather a list of volunteers
- Map volunteer locations
- Write grant proposal

- Approve grant proposal with MACC
- Apply for funding

The proposed schedule is:

- March 2015 - Grant writing
- April 2015 - Grant application
- Summer 2015 - Hardware deployment

The home router prioritizes your traffic over sharing your bandwidth with the mesh. Meta Mesh has not seen issues with ISPs over sharing bandwidth. Meta Mesh has an agreement with Allentown to maintain routers for 1 year. They will not walk away from the project, but the installation team will have to take ownership of maintenance. What about 10 years from now, who will pay for maintenance? Meta Mesh cannot answer that.

To be a node host, fill out a contact form on the website (<http://www.metamesh.org/>). The cost to run a node is about \$5/year (electricity only). To join the installation team, you don't need experience, only a willingness to learn. They are looking for 20 node hosts to be funded under the grant.

Who are users in Allentown? Businesses, people on the street, Brashear Association during a move. Meta Mesh only has anecdotal stories, no statistical information about users

Where does initial internet service come from? It comes from node hosts. You can either power a node only, or also donate bandwidth.

VI. *Old Business*

MACC has 55 members so far this year, for ~\$1000.

Grant Gittlen from the Mayor's office is taking short leave of absence.

The Community Affairs office is on twitter and facebook (@OCAPGH).

There will be a meeting for Welcoming Pittsburgh in the form of a series of 5 conversations. The nearest one to Morningside is Wednesday, March 18 at the Kingsley Association in Larimer from 6-8 pm. RSVP at www.welcomingpittsburgh.com/

The city has been making big push for new police officers, apply on www.pghjobs.net.

MACC n Cheese is April 11. Doors open at 7. There will be 10 entrants, 150 tickets for sale, none sold at the door. Check the Morningside Mile facebook page for more information.

VII. *New Business*

The Easter Egg Hunt is on! Three volunteers came forward to organize, as well as a

few to help day of. It will be Sunday March 29th, 12:20 - 2pm at Gallagher Hall.

Also on March 29th Rodef Shalom is having their annual Empty Bowl bowl sale and soup dinner. Proceeds will go to Just Harvest and the Pittsburgh Food Bank.

The spring neighborhood clean-up is April 18, 9:30 am. Meet at VFW.

There is no update on tree application, but it has been approved.

MACC has purchased 15 tickets to the Pirates game on May 9th. There are 8 left, \$15 each. Contact Jenny for more information.

The May MACC meeting will be a pot-uck.

VIII. Adjourn (8:27 pm)

Motion to adjourn, unanimously approved.

Minutes prepared by Ira Mabel, Secretary