

Morningside Area Community Council Monthly Meeting
May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Conducted via zoom Video due to COVID-19

I. Called to order 7:05. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Safety. Zone commander, Stephen Vinansky was present on the call. He outlined current issues, though crime has been low there has been a fatal and non-fatal overdose in the community. There were reported thefts from a work truck in the zoo parking lot and an attempted vehicle theft. Public safety will be doing a tribute to medical workers tonight and there will be a convoy of emergency vehicles to local hospitals. The June 13th open house has been canceled due to social distancing requirements. He gave a report on limited issues seen related to reports of nonessential businesses operating and large group congregating.

III. Elected and Other Officials

A. Mollie from the Mayor's Office was unable to attend but Dana presented news she had sent. Yard debris pickup was rescheduled to next Saturday, May 16. Street sweeping will begin but parking will not be enforced.

B. Magda from Councilwoman Gross's office reminded all to complete the census. 412 Food Rescue and the Stanton Heights community group will host a food distribution event at Sunnyside School on May 14. City paving will begin soon and affected streets, including several in Morningside are listed at the following website: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/street-resurfacing> The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is May 18. There has been an increase in domestic incidents and overdoses along with a general reduction in crime. Magda highlighted some resources on those fronts. Ryan raised the question of the community garden plots at the rear of St Raphael School. Possible items that the city could provide to the community gardens were discussed: tools, sheds, or composting equipment. The councilwoman is partnering with other council members for the urban farm initiative.

IV. Secretary's Report. March draft minutes were shared in the meeting but acceptance was tabled until next meeting.

V. Treasurer's Report. Jared provided the attached report.

VI. New Business

A. The elections were discussed. A motion was made by Mike Lambert to suspend the by-laws to allow for a virtual officer election by acclamation given the existing circumstances preventing in-person secret ballot voting as stipulated. Ryan and Matt both acknowledged their willingness to continue in their current roles. Jared nominated Ryan, Dana seconded. 11 members (Yasmeen pending) were present and the motion carried unanimously. Dana nominated and Allison seconded, 11 members (Yasmeen pending) were present and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Events affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic were discussed. The garage sale was raised as a concern, as questions are being asked. The yard sale is scheduled for the third Saturday in June. It was agreed that it was prudent to announce a postponement in principle with the goal of holding it at a time that is suitable (assumed to be when the city is in the "green" zone).

C. Jared inquired about the gentleman who had offered to help update and freshen the website. Dana raised a concern about the “longevity” of some of our login credentials and providing access to PayPal and other financial information. It was agreed the conversation on “freshening” the website would continue offline.

VIII. Mike Lambert moved to adjourn at 8:23, Jared seconded.