

Morningside Area Community Council Monthly Meeting
October 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Conducted via zoom Video due to COVID-19

I. Called to order 7:04. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Safety.

- A. Commander Vinansky reported 5 burglaries and attempts in the last 30 days, several focused on the 1100 block of Morningside Ave. There was a non-fatal overdose where Narcan was administered, and there a theft from vehicle.

III. Elected and Other Officials

- A. Leah Friedman from the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs was in attendance. The city and County are offering rental and mortgage assistance through the URA and the PHFA. URA is offering a loan fund specifically geared toward minority-owned businesses in the city. The city capital budget input process is underway, having started in the summer as is typical, including this year the operating budget. This year will be a very tight budget year due to reduced tax revenue as a result of the pandemic. City Planning is working on a comprehensive land-use plan for the city for the first time ever.
- B. Mik Pappas spoke to the group about the recent move of the magistrate's office. He also outlined available resources for renters and other experiencing housing instability. He outlined the effects of the pandemic on the operations of the magisterial court during the pandemic shut-down and the re-opening. The court moved to a location at 5750 Baum Blvd in East Liberty and will likely move again within six months. The posting of a fringe-group handbill at Heth's Field was also discussed.
- C. No representative from State Rep Innamorato's office was present.
- D. No representative from Councilwoman Gross's office was present.

IV. Secretary's Report. September draft minutes were shared in the meeting and uploaded to the website. Dana moved to accept them and Ryan seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report. Jared was unable to attend but provided his report.

VI. New Business

- A. Ryan moved to approve up to \$100 in expenses to aid Ka Fair in cordoning off street area for visibility and safety.
- B. The city's Halloween guidelines were discussed, and Rod Schwartz's desire to spearhead a Halloween activity in the neighborhood. He is still interested in moving that forward, and it may improve on the city's plan.
- C. Gavin White from the Parks Conservancy was present to discuss a site walk through at Heth's Run. The state has provided a grant to the zoo to improve the entry and the parking lot. It's unclear whom at the city would have approved such an application or for what the funds are allotted. Gavin pointed out to us that the zoo's long term lease for the parking area will be up in three years and the city has some leverage to try to move the project forward.
- D. The Duffield development and the Super Playground public comment process were discussed.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Zoom Chat Transcript

19:22:18 From Mikhail Pappas : <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>

19:23:53 From Leah Friedman, City of Pittsburgh : For Housing Assistance:

<https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>

<https://www.ura.org/pages/housing-opportunity-fund-programs>

<https://www.phfa.org/pacares/>

Operating Budget Engagement: engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2021-operating-budget

Census: my2020census.gov

Comprehensive Plan Feedback: ForgingPGH.org

Workshops on How to do Business with the City: <http://entrepreneur.pitt.edu/events/bids-for-pgh/>

Minority Growth & Recovery Fund: <https://www.ura.org/pages/mbrglf>

19:24:51 From Mikhail Pappas :

https://www.ura.org/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMjAvMDcvMDcvNHE4OG9vZHNvY19lU1BfNy4yMDIwLnBkZiJdXQ/HSP_7.2020.pdf

19:25:47 From Mikhail Pappas : <https://uwsdpa.org/>

19:46:40 From Leah Friedman, City of Pittsburgh : Can definitely connect with Commission on Human Relations if you're interested

19:47:56 From Mikhail Pappas : I'm going to sign off folks. Please follow up with me about anti-racist training or any questions about the court, the move, etc... mik.pappas@mdjs.pacourts.us

19:49:00 From Morningside Area Community Council : Leah, that would be awesome. Thank you!

20:24:45 From Leah Friedman, City of Pittsburgh : engage.pittsburghpa.gov