



Fineview & Perry Hilltop Citizens Councils
Virtual Community Gathering Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 6pm - 8pm

Facilitators

Greg Manley, *Secretary*, Fineview Citizens Council

Lance McFadden, *Board Director*, Perry Hilltop Citizens Council

Staff

Joanna Deming, *Executive Director*,

Carla Arnold, *Community Engagement VISTA*,

Lukas Bagshaw, *Community Outreach Coordinator*

VISION: *We build a C.A.R.I.N.G. community. One that's Cooperative, Advocating, Respectful, Inspiring, Neighborly, and Gracious.*

COMMUNITY-BUILDING SECTION

1. Welcome - Read Vision Together

We build a C.A.R.I.N.G. community. One that's Cooperative, Advocating, Respectful, Inspiring, Neighborly, and Gracious.

2. Introductions - 30 min

- a. Name, Place where you live / organization you represent.
- b. Describe the space you are currently in.

3. Bylaws Amendment Vote - 10 min

- a. To help continue our success as an organization, our Board worked over the past 6 months to improve upon our current bylaws. These updates corrected inconsistencies, clarified ambiguous language, reorganized sections and expounded in areas to make it easier for Board Directors to understand and follow our bylaws. These updates also adapted to technological advancements and the need for socially-distant forms of discussion.
- b. We've prepared a summary of the noteworthy modifications to the current bylaws
 - **FCC**
 1. [FCC Summary of Changes to Bylaws](#)
 2. [FCC Current Bylaws](#)
 3. [FCC Proposed Bylaws](#)

7. Looking forward - Distribution of investments
- ii. Current projects-
 1. Semicir St Landslide - \$1,000,000 + needs to be stabilized
 2. Riverview Park - Fragile soils, also needs stabilizing
 - a. In general, stabilizing land movement is an ongoing concern
 3. 5 points (Perry Highschool) - Changing the crossing geometry to improve safety as students cross
 4. Bike paths
 5. Climbing lane on Marshall Ave
 6. Traffic calming improvements & slowing traffic speeds
 7. Perrysville Ave signal
- b. How, as residents, can we help improve infrastructure?
 - i. Karina invites big audacious dreams from the public - add to the vision plan - 50 year timeline
 1. <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/transport-vision-plansburghpa.gov/domi/transport-vision-plan>
 - ii. The 311 is a good way to get requests to the right city offices.
- c. Let public officials know what you really want, not just problems. What are the measures of success, what tradeoffs are acceptable?
 - i. Follow up with Director Ricks at Dept. of Mobility & Infrastructure (DOMI)
 1. karina.ricks@pittsburghpa.gov
 - ii. Reach out directly to Eric Williams with these ideas/thoughts.
 1. eric.williams@pittsburghpa.gov
 2. 412-255-4773
- d. Links:
 - i. Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) website to view projects: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/current-projects>
 - ii. <https://www.wesa.fm/post/how-pittsburgh-transit-evolved-horse-drawn-streetcars-modern-t#stream/0>

2. Public Transit - (Port Authority, PPT & Candace Cain)

- a. **Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Public Transit System**
 - i. Issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic and how adapted to address new developments.
 1. In February ridership numbers were looking good.
 2. 80% of ridership disappeared overnight
 3. 25% reduction in service
 4. 50% commuter service reduced
 5. \$1,000,000 per month, sanitizing, buying masks
 6. Rear door boarding
 7. Fare collection suspended until plexiglass shields could be installed

8. Port Authority started collecting fares and increasing ridership- PPT gave out more masks to folks
 9. The bus operators have to deal with route disruptions
 - a. Please be patient with them, they are having to make difficult decisions (i.e., how many to take, leaving people behind)
 10. Enforcing mask wearing on buses - Help bus operators out
 - a. Bus operators aren't enforcers
 - b. It is better for the riders to ask, not the bus drivers.
- ii. Why is ridership low?
 1. 50% of the people take public transport downtown, people are working from home. Unclear when they will come back. It's not so much safety concerns, as remote working, people staying in more in general.
 - iii. Continued Response:
 1. Port Authority will conduct a review about the response to this pandemic to learn what can be improved in the future, now people have a better idea of what to expect.
 2. Gearing up to get back to normal. The passenger capacity is a response to the ebb and flow of cases and infections.
 - iv. Community Input Needed - How can we respond better in the future?.
 1. People can go to Port Authority Board meetings as well.
 2. Folks can sign up to give testimony virtually as well as eventually in person

b. Financial Situation of Public Transit System

- i. Funding issues faced by the Port Authority.
 1. Budget deficit is \$7,000,000
 2. Cares act money went to offset losses
 3. \$142,000,000 used to get through the year
 4. Budget compromises are in play.
 5. We don't know when riders will come back (still 70-80% down)
 6. Inconsistent and unreliable service is frustration- agreed to pay sick leave so people wouldn't work sick.
 - a. Normal pay conditions back, so more drivers, less inconsistency
- ii. What are the plans to get back on track financially?
 1. Working with the state legislature, hoping the CARES act will be helpful.
 2. Uncertainty for the next couple of budget years

c. Bus Stops

- i. **Biggs/Glenrose Stop Removal & Reinstatement Campaign**
 1. Overview of Bus Stop
 - a. [Photo #1](#) (From City Steps, looking south to Rising Main Ave)
 - b. [Photo #2](#) (City Steps area - (looking north)

- c. The bus stop in Fineview (formerly a trolley stop) at the bottom of the city steps at Glen Rose and Biggs was removed.
 - d. The Fineview bus is a loop. The door is on the right. When bus riders waited for the bus, they'd have to cross in front. So it was stopped for safety reasons.
 - e. The bus stop that they had to use was also dangerous- no lighting, not much space, a long walk. The old bus stop was safer, there was an accident at the new one.
2. Why was the stop removed?
- a. Safety is a key factor. 7000 bus stops in the system, many go back long before ADA, etc. This stop is really old, so the street crossing goes back a ways.
 - b. In 2016 a resident wanted a sign changed – the riders were across the street, the drivers didn't see them
 - c. DOMI evaluated and determined it was unsafe, pulled it in 2017,
 - d. In 2019 was reevaluated due to community request. The safety department thought it was not possible to secure the stop.
 - e. The ridership was low, according to DOMI.
 - i. There is a disagreement about how much it is used, but everyone wants to work towards getting it back as long as safety concerns are addressed.
3. How can we get this stop reinstated?
- a. Submitted a 100-person petition to Port Authority, who denied the request, but there was hope if a path could be made to help people to safely cross.
 - b. Then it went to the city to deal with it. Bobby Wilson and Dan Lavelle have helped advocate to create a budget item to put it back. It would cost about \$10,000 to do.
 - c. Candace requests everyone call 311 to request this improvement. This will help insure the stop is improved.
 - i. PORT AUTHORITY customer service department is open 7 days a week. M-F 6:00 am to 7:00 pm and on weekends and holidays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (412) 442-2000 as well access to our website at www.portauthority.org
4. Stop Reinstatement Process:
- a. Port Authority should be able to show more flexibility in addressing route needs/stop consolidations.
 - b. More community input needed. Some of the stops affect vulnerable populations adversely

ii. Availability

1. The people who are using the routes are having a difficult time
 - a. Service workers, medical workers, the essential service providers who are needed and can't work from home
 - b. For example - rider limits are necessary but burdensome to the people who have no choice
 2. Could Routes that are 80% empty maybe shift resources to the routes that are more used?
 - a. There is a contract issue about bus routes. They can't just be changed easily.
 - b. Port Authority will be gathering data about route use, and will adjust accordingly considering who is using and who isn't. Comments are needed and feedback is key.
 3. How best to give feedback?
 - a. Phone calls, email, letter, website, public hearings, meetings like this. These are welcome and necessary as they contemplate adjustments.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

1. Upcoming Events

- a. Litter Brigade - Mondays 5pm at the Fineview Overlook (Catoma Street)
- b. Weeding Unity Corner - Thursdays at 8:30am and Saturdays at Noon
- c. NEXT Virtual Community Gathering - September 22, 2020