



Fineview & Perry Hilltop Citizens Councils

Virtual Community Gathering Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 6pm - Meeting Begins (5:45pm - Room Opens)

Facilitator

- **Antjuan Washington**, Board Director, Perry Hilltop Citizens Council
- **Jeremy Tischuk**, Board Director, Fineview Citizens Council

Staff

Joanna Deming, Executive Director

Nancy Noszka, Community Real Estate Director

Carla Arnold, Community Engagement VISTA

Lukas Bagshaw, Community Outreach Coordinator

40 people in attendance

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

COMMUNITY BUILDING SECTION - 30 Min Total

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 - 20 mins

- a. Name, Place where you live / organization you represent.
- b. *What did you buy during covid that you never used?*

3. Opportunity to Offer Nomination for Board Director Candidate - 5 mins

- a. Barrett Lipkin and Jerry Gaines were nominated to serve on Fineview Citizen Council's Board. 7 Seats are available for Perry Hilltop and 6 seats are available for Fineview.
- b. Current board members gave testimonials.

- c. Contact Christine Whispell at (4 1 2) 682-0348 for more info about what our Boards do and how to join

4. **Meditation Activity - 5 mins**

- a. Jeremy Tischuk led a guided relaxation exercise.
- b. Contact Jeremy at (7 2 4) 799-1818 or visit <https://sahajaonline.com> for more info on Sahaja meditation.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SECTION - 60 min total

Resident-driven community development requires neighbors leading the change they've chosen to prioritize. Our working groups have made great progress towards goals identified within our Community Plan. When we cooperate together our potential greatly exceeds the impact each one of us can have on our own.

Guest Speakers

- **Fred Smith**, Chair, Housing Working Group
- **Greg Manley**, Chair, Events Working Group
- **Gia Haley**, Chair, Youth Development Working Group

Working Group Updates - 30 mins

1. Housing Working Group Update (Fred Smith) - 10 mins

- a. Listed current members and contributors
 - i. Meets once a month on the third Wednesday
 - ii. 8 member
- b. Discussed recent accomplishments and current projects
 - i. Started implementing our new 5 year affordable housing plan
 - ii. Rehabbing 2 houses to keep two families in residence
 - iii. Looking at 4 more properties on Lanark (across from Fineview Park)
 1. Developing a criteria for selecting tenants
 2. Will be looking for recommendations
 - iv. Two pre development 2133 /2115 Perrysville Ave - Hopefully to be developed soon
 - v. MOU with City of Bridges to rehab 6 properties on lower Lanark St
 - vi. Initial discussions with The Pittsburgh Project regarding enlisting volunteers to help with prep for development

- vii. Also working with Rising Tides to put together a MOU to get more purchases

2. Events Working Group Update (Greg Manley) - 10 mins

- a. Discussed setting up holiday events at most recent meeting
- a. This Friday there will be Trunk or Treat Wilson Avenue parking lot, across from The Pittsburgh Project
- b. Recently received a One North Side grant for our Senior Serenades program
 - i. Artists will receive \$100 plus an archival recording of their performance
- c. Twelve days of Kindness leading to Christmas
 - i. Looking for people /organizations could use volunteer help in some way-contact Carla@ourfuturehilltop.org
 - ii. Send requests to Carla or Joanna
 - iii. Dec 13-18 of December
- d. Cooking Together will be on Saturday Nov21 330pm
 - i. Check Facebook event page for details.
- e. Step Challenge went well
 - i. 92 runners - including two runners from Latin America who are traveling the world raising money through racing!
 - ii. City Proclamation declaring the second Saturday of October STEP CHALLENGE DAY in perpetuity.
 - iii. One of the toughest races in PGH-featured on CBS
 - 1. https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/video/4780516-dozens-compete-in-25th-annual-fineview-steps-challenge/?fbclid=IwAR1w6yR6ypXXJbJM_tqgneMk6_mZfaUx-3ZdHD905Sndpc6sD3b7Xo59yto
- f. Greg invites people to gather at his house on Thursdays at sundown for informal chats around an outdoor fire.

3. Youth Development Working Group Update (Gia Haley) - 10 mins

- a. How can youth be exposed to a variety of experiences?
 - i. Partnered with Tickets For Kids/One Northside Grant
 - 1. PHCC and FCC working with youth
 - 2. One Northside Grant- taking young people to all sorts of events. Sports, arts,music
- b. Training a board of young people-
 - i. Youth Development group to help run the program.
 - ii. Pilot Try Out- went to a HS to train the kids about boards...
 - 1. The kids had lunch and learned what the duties of an executive board member
 - 2. Started bringing in other professionals to discuss other kinds of organizations
- c. Partnered with the Pittsburgh Pirates to present the history of the Negro League -50 students attended, expansion on hold because of COVID

- d. Learn and Earn program
 - i. Teaching entrepreneurship skills, landscaping, community involvement.
 - e. Harnessing energy of young people- middle school to high school. Trying to turn them into productive, useful, future oriented activity.
 - i. Starting group program called “rap session” with Ms. Pauline - to gather insight and inspiration from the young people themselves.
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Small Groups

1. Intro - 5 mins:

- a. *Our 3 current working groups are well established and other groups are starting to formalize around other topic areas. Please join a topic area that interests you or where you feel you could help as an advocate. Let your moderator know if you want to get involved in existing working groups or lead a new initiative.*
- b. *Attendees break into small groups.*

2. Breakout Groups - 20 mins

- a. **Quality of Space (Gardens, Reddups, Vacant Lot & Public Art)**
 - i. Hosts - Tricia Patsilevas, Matt Indovina, Brigette Davitt
 - b. **Violence Prevention & Mental Wellness**
 - i. Hosts - Genefie McKnight, Mike Dixon
 - c. **Events & Volunteering**
 - i. Hosts - Greg Manley, Carla Arnold
 - d. **Housing and Community Investment**
 - i. Hosts - Fred Smith, Dwayne Barker
 - e. **Youth**
 - i. Hosts - Gia Haley, Betty Davis, Pauline Criswell
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ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION - 5 mins

1. Upcoming Events

- a. Monthly Cooking Together - November 21 3:30 PM (Recipe - stuffed grape leaf)
- b. Litter Brigade - Mondays 5pm at the Fineview Overlook (Catoma Street)
- c. Weeding Unity Corner - Thursdays at 8:30am and Saturdays at Noon
- d. Next Virtual Community Gathering - November 24, 2020