



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 53
ISSUE 4

CITIZENS REPORT

September 2023



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZENS FEDERATION

17th Annual

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS
House & Garden Tour

Saturday, September 16
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Artist Market, Food Trucks, and
Molly's Trolley

TICKETS: \$25, PURCHASED AT LEGION PARK OR EVENTBRITE

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is pleased to announce the Seventeenth Annual Brighton Heights House and Garden Tour on Saturday, September 16. This is an opportunity to celebrate the history and architecture of our unique neighborhood of Brighton Heights. This year's tour will include gardens, an artist market, and food trucks.

The tour will begin at 11 a.m. at Legion Memorial Park and end at 5 p.m. at 3601 Shadeland Avenue, the corner of Brighton Road and Davis Avenue.

Tickets are \$25 and available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Questions or comments can be directed to bhtour23@gmail.com or 412.913.8250.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

John Morrow Auditorium

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From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

Well, what an interesting summer we had in our region this year. With a few good swings in temperatures, some impactful summer storms, and the challenges the Canadian wildfire smoke presented, I am glad to have been able to enjoy all of the summer events the BHCF had but am looking forward to fall and the 2023 BH House Tour on September 16!

I'd like to start off my report with the information that's forthcoming for our organization and how it relates to you. There are a number of items the BHCF is advocating for you on a daily basis. Some items may be general concerns over trash, repairs that are needed in a public space or on a street, or request to increase public safety. Another request item from residents is an upgraded Marmaduke Park playground and spray feature. The Marmaduke Park playground portion has not seen investment since the last upgrade in 1997. The BHCF is requesting funding for Marmaduke to be allocated in the Mayor's 2024 capital budget. Please contact the BHCF if you can support this request with a letter or wish to speak at the public comment in November. This capital budget request is one of many and should not interfere with your ability to speak to any other projects you would like to see in the future.

I can report again on the Termon Ave Gardens Housing Development. As stated in May, the project is clearing the final permits and is on schedule to: 1) end of 2024: demolish the two standing structures on Termon; 2) early 2024: site work and underground utilities; 3) TBD 2025: home construction begins. The developer has had a number of site visits with BHCF, including the most recent on July 3, where we notified them the building was not secured and was a safety concern. We also requested that the sidewalks access be maintained and kept free of high weeds, downed tree limbs, and snow. They were in agreement and added that soon a gate will be added to the entrance to keep out unauthorized vehicles. I will continue to report any updates and maintain a line of communication for us.

BHCF hosted the Davis Ave Bridge Art Development Activities Meeting on July 13. Lori Hepner proposed the art planned for the bridge. More information is available on the Engage PGH website. On the subject of the bridge itself, the reports from Friends of Riverview and proposed timeline by the City of Pittsburgh, construction could start this winter with an estimated completion time of 2024.

On the Committee front, this was just a jam-packed summer that really started in May for the BHCF. I hosted the Build Your Wealth in the Trades initiative on May 13; my family and I enjoyed a beautiful way to remember and honor those we lost with the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28 in Legion Park; and The National Night out Public Safety event was held at Christ Our Savior Parish on August 1. Committee

meetings were held all summer with those including: Free Food Fridge, Land Use, Gardens and Greenspaces, Neighborhood Watch, House Tour, and most recently, the Bright the Night. If you have any interest in some of the planning or volunteering, please do not hesitate to contact us or the Chair of any committee to learn more.

In June the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure completed the installation of its traffic-calming implementations for Termon Ave. This was a 3-year process to increase the safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicular traffic. I know this was initially not well-received by all residents, but after its implementation I can say it decreases the overall speed and eliminates a stop sign without making traffic stop completely, which can be the case for speed humps. We can check the data in time to see if a reduction in accidents is achieved.

Separately from BHCF Committees, board members and community members attended the Northside Leadership Conference Scholarship Awards Dinner on June 15 at The Priory. Congratulations to the 4 high school seniors from Brighton Heights who were awarded \$1,000 scholarships: Khalil Collins, David Kettel, Liam Donahue, and Julia Ferline. For the second year in a row, Brighton Heights had the highest number of recipients. Thank you to the residents who help get this information to the seniors, the Northside Leadership Conference and the Sponsors.

I want to congratulate the Northside Baseball & Softball Association Colt and Bronco teams on winning the Pittsburgh City Cup at PNC Park in July. It was great to see the pictures and hear the story about the win. Great season had by all of the Northside Leagues who played at Jack Stack.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back from summer at our regularly scheduled September General Membership Meeting on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. at John Morrow School Auditorium. Have a Happy Labor Day and a safe back to school season.

And as always, I'll see you in the neighborhood.

Do You Have a New Neighbor?

If so, let us know, BHCf will give them a one year free membership and send them a newsletter for a year. And if you would like to write something about Brighton Heights, please feel free to send your article to:

BHCf Newsletter
 PO Box 99602, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
 Or E-Mail it to Editor, Dave Lebec
submissions@brightonheights.org

This newsletter is printed for us by Allegheny General Hospital and we appreciate their generosity.

Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Dave Lebec
 Copy Editor: Erin Marie Yourd
 Distribution: Joseph Glassbrenner

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the membership of the board.

BHCf Board of Directors:

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 Treasurer: Robert Haller
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The United Way #188

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is a United Way agency. You can make a donation to the Federation by choosing #188 on your donation form. All United Way donations are used exclusively for children's activities such as the Halloween Parade.

Any member making a United Way donation receives free membership in the Federation. Usually paperwork does not catch up to us until the year after the donation.

Membership Renewal

Check the date after your name on your mailing label and make sure your membership is up to date. If it is not, please renew your membership now, either by sending in a renewal with the form on the back of the newsletter, or by going to our website online and renewing it by PayPal.

| BHCf Information List | |
|--|--|
| BHCf Answer Line: | 412-690-0918 |
| Address: | PO Box 99602, Pgh PA 15233 |
| E-Mail: | BHCfpgh@gmail.com |
| Web Site: | www.brightonheights.org |
| ALCOSAN (odor control) | 412-766-9445 |
| Allegheny Co Health Dept | 412-578-8390 |
| Animal Control | 412-255-2036 (before 3 p.m.) 412-255-2935 (after 3 p.m.) |
| Building Inspection | 412-255-2176 |
| Building Permits: | 412-255-2175 |
| Burned Out Street Light | 412-255-5483 |
| City Council Office | 412-255-2142 |
| City Council Rep for BH | 412-255-2135 |
| City Planning | 412-255-2200 |
| Emergency | 911 |
| Environmental Services | 412-255-2780 |
| Graffiti in the neighborhood You are a direct victim Graffiti Busters (will remove it) Graffiti Watch | 311 911 412-255-2872 412-255-2272 |
| Litter Hot Line (PA State) | 888-548-8372 |
| Mayor's Office | 412-255-2626 |
| Mayor's Response Line | 311 |
| Organized Crime, Narcotics, and Intelligence Division (ONI) | 412-665-4300 |
| Parking Authority | 412-560-7275 |
| Pittsburgh School Police Police - Zone 1 | 412-622-3520 412-323-7201 |
| Public Works | 412-255-2790 |
| Refuse/Recycling | 412-255-2773 |
| State Rep. - District 20 | 412-321-5523 |



Join us for

Riverview Park Day!

September 9th, 2023

Riverview Park

Celebrate our park with free activities

Bike Races • Tours • Adventure Hikes
Kids' Activities • Live Music • Food & More!

More information to come!



Peace Rally

Christ Our Savior Parish and many churches of the Northside communities of Brighton Heights, central Northside and Spring Hill are coming together for an Interdenominational Prayer Rally for Peace on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Allegheny Commons West Park, across from St. Peter Church (720 Arch Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212). In the event of inclement weather, the event will move inside of St. Peter Church).

The goal of this event is to bring local churches and the community together in solidarity, praying for peace to be restored with the increased senseless violence in our City. Our speakers include Fr. Nicholas Vaskov, Pastor, Christ Our

Savior Parish; Reverend Brenda Gregg, Senior Pastor, Destiny of Faith Church; Reverend Aisha Tate, Senior Pastor, Brown AME Church. Deacon Michael Fekete, Christ Our Savior Parish will facilitate this event and Dr. Josie Merlino, Director of Music, Christ Our Savior Parish, will lead the selection of hymns. Other churches and choirs are invited to participate.

We expect City of Pittsburgh paramedics, firefighters and police officers to attend this event, as well as representatives from the Mayor's office and City council. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this event! All are welcome! (Please bring your own chair if needed.)

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



INTERDENOMINATIONAL PRAYER RALLY FOR PEACE

in West Park (across from St. Peter church)

720 Arch Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Speaker



Father Nicholas Vaskov
Pastor
Christ Our Savior Parish

Speaker



Reverend Brenda Gregg
Senior Pastor
Destiny of Faith Church

Speaker



Reverend Aisha Tate
Senior Pastor
Brown Chapel AME Church

Facilitator



Deacon Michael Fekete
Christ Our Savior Parish

Music provided by:



Dr. Josie Merlino
Director of Music
Christ Our Savior Parish

Please join us for a special event promoting peace together in our community through prayer and song!

BYOC-Please bring your own chair if needed.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

The Food FREEdge!

Just a quick update from your Food Fridge Committee! The fridge is currently up and running at the New Life Family Worship Center on the corner of Shadeland and Davis. There are stocked freezer, refrigerator, and pantry items that are currently being used. If you are interested in donating, you can bring the donation to any of our public Federation meetings that happen every odd-numbered month (except July), on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. You can also mail a check to the Brighton Heights Citizen Federation address with "EMF Free Food Fridge" in the memo; the P.O. Box is 99602, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. If you'd like more information or would like to make a monetary donation, you can also email BHCFPGH@gmail.com. Be on the look out for a new flyer with a scannable QR code to also donate or find out more information. An Instagram account can be found [@brightonheightsfreedge](https://www.instagram.com/brightonheightsfreedge).



Build Your Wealth in the Trades

by Joseph Glassbrenner

The Third annual BYWITT teen and young adult trades initiative was held on May 13. We had a half dozen teens show up to take part in the building. This year, the trades learned were carpentry and electrical. Volunteers from the IBEW Local Union No. 5 and the Carpenters and Joiners Local Union No. 432 instructed sessions. A wooden shelter was built for the BHCF's new Food Fridge initiative at the New Life Family Worship Center. A special thanks to Mery Womack and Bishop James who worked with the BHCF to provide a spacious outdoor venue with indoor space to host food and drink after. The learning and instruction would not have been possible without the skills of the carpenters who volunteered. Thank you for giving your time and talents.

The electrical portion was led by volunteers from the IBEW Local Union No. 5. Participants installed and repaired outdoor lights around the parking lot and Food Fridge location. They also installed a new outdoor outlet to provide the power for the fridge. Thank you IBEW Local Union No. 5.

Following the skills session outdoors, participants and all volunteers were treated to Tom Fridays sandwiches and pop. They heard from tradespeople about the careers and opportunities available in the building trades. Apprenticeship applications and information from different local unions were available and distributed.

Last but not least, I want to recognize our financial sponsors who donated. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters, New Life Family Worship, Modular International Lighting Supply, Mistick Construction Co, Mascaro Construction Co, Councilman Wilson's Office, Northside Leadership Conference, and IBEW all donated to our cause. I look forward to working with everyone on this initiative for Northside's teens and young adults next year. If you are interested in planning or volunteering, contact the BHCF by phone or email.

Bright the Night 2023!

Mark your calendars for December 2 to enjoy some holiday cheer! The Bright the Night committee just had their first meeting and are very excited to bring back this event this year. We have a tentative location and some great ideas to end our year with a great family-friendly event. We are always looking for volunteers, vendors, or donations. Please contact us if you have the time or means to donate to this event. We look forward to bringing you additional updates soon. (Thanks to Beth and Scott Smith for bringing bagels from Gussy's Bagels!)

CONTACT: Stacey Slie

EMAIL: Stacey.slie@gmail.com

CONTACT: Ali Fischer

EMAIL: aliwfischer@gmail.com



PHOTO BY CHRIS ON UNSPLASH

NORTHSIDE CHRONICLE PHOTO CONTEST

FAVORITE NORTHSIDE VIEWS

SEND VIA:

EMAIL:

EDITOR@THENORTHSIDECHRONICLE.COM

INSTAGRAM:

@NSCHRONICLE

ENTRY DEADLINE:

SEPT. 20, 2023

RULES:

1. **ONE ENTRY PER PERSON**
2. **INCLUDE NAME**
3. **INCLUDE NEIGHBORHOOD**
4. **INCLUDE DESCRIPTION**
5. **NORTHSIDE PICS ONLY**



Gardens & Greenspaces

from Ed Gergerich

It's been an unusual growing season. We got an early start with the work that Boy Scout Troop 348 performed in late February. The May 6 planting at PA65 went well thanks to the Martin family (Wendell, Janet, and their sons Riley and Conner) as well as Judy Bendtsen, Jenn Skertich and Bob Haller.

A problem arose when PWSA couldn't locate the water turn-on due to the annual heavy growth of Japanese Knotweed along the wall where the valve is located. Early May had about a 3-week drought and we lost a few of our small curbside Vincas. Also, some volunteer Sunflower plants in odd places couldn't be transplanted. Even though the PA65 Garden is less structured than usual, it still looks pretty good and still gets compliments from passing motorists.

The May drought ended with a storm on Saturday the 20th, which rained out our scheduled planting day. Fortunately, we had gotten an early start and had planted the Greenup Lot Marigolds and some of the Adams Lot annuals before the rains came. Judy Bendtsen, Susan Benn, and Janet and Ginger Martin have been the go-to gals for this effort. Also, we have been transitioning to more perennials with less annuals so there is less to plant on planting day. The downside to having more perennials is that it makes it harder to get weeds out by their roots without hurting the good stuff. Climbing Bindweed and Ground Bindweed remain a particular bane.

Early on, water was an issue at the Termon & California Gardens. The hose connection at the Greenup Lot was broken. (Thank you to Art Kreisel for a quick fix!) The Adams Lot had been watered from a faucet on the side of former Representative Ravenstahl's office. With the office now vacant, the water is off. Believe me, it was no fun dragging a hose across the traffic on Brighton Heights Blvd or carting jugs of water from my house. Fortunately, for most of the summer, we have had rain every few days so our loss of annuals has been minimal.

We will be doing more garden work as summer turns to fall. We still need to get more weeds out by the root before they go to seed, and remove spent annuals to keep the gardens looking good for the September 16 House and Garden Tour. We can use your help. It doesn't matter if your thumbs are green or brown, all hands on deck! If you are worried about getting your hands dirty, I have extra gloves. Give me a call (412-779-9222).

Stay safe, stay green!

Board of Directors Election Nominations

Nominations for the November Board of Directors Election will take place at the September General Membership Meeting. All of the Officer positions are up for election at the November meeting, along with several of the Elected Director positions.

PHOTO BY MATTHIAS OBERHOLZER ON UNSPLASH



Spring Clean-up Day Results

from Tim Maloney

The rain held off and we were able to have another successful clean-up event! There were over 30 hardy volunteers who picked up trash from almost the entire neighborhood.

Thank you to the following people who took time out of their weekend to help beautify Brighton Heights:

Shamon Tate Walker, Christie Cherkes, Representative Bobby Wilson, Tim Hartman, Daryl Hartman, Rick Weiss, Bob Haller, Beth Smith, Scott Smith, Dan Blumenfeld, Tracy Johnston, Jess Marecic, Larry Keppleman, Nicolas Nesbitt, Christina Nesbitt, Nick Petrillo, Tabitha Novosat, Emily Ramos, Wendell Martin and family, Josh Sand, Lila Sand, Allie Petonic, Ed Gergerich, Judy Bendtsen, Donna Kramer, Brendan Delaney, Oliver McGuiness, Susan Michael Maloney.

If I missed your name, I apologize...

A special thanks to Donna Kramer for bringing fruit, juice and Father and Sons Donuts; California Coffee Bar for the coffee; and Beth and Scott Smith for bringing bagels from Gussy's bagels!

I want to give big shout out to Michele Hubert and All Saints Church for allowing us to use their space!

Finally, thank you to John Olkosky and DPW team for picking up trash bags throughout the neighborhood!

I would like to encourage everyone who lives in Brighton Heights to do their part by picking up trash as you see it. If each of us does a little bit, we can keep our neighborhood looking beautiful throughout the year.

If you need more information or are interested in the Adopt-A-Block program, contact Tim below.

CONTACT: Tim Maloney

PHONE: 412-726-0800

EMAIL: dirtdoctim@msn.com

Garbage Olympics

WHEN:

Saturday, September 23, 2023

WHERE:

Starts at All Saints Church;
3577 McClure Ave

TIME:

9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinator below.

CONTACT: Tim Maloney

PHONE: 412-726-0800

EMAIL: dirtdoctim@msn.com

The Clean Pittsburgh Commission will be holding their 7th annual Garbage Olympics on Saturday 23, 2023. We will be picking up trash and debris throughout the entire neighborhood. Last year we had an amazing turnout for this event, so let's do it again in 2023!

We will be competing against other neighborhoods for most trash picked up, as well as prizes for the most unusual find and most volunteers.

We will provide refreshments to get your day going, plus gloves, vest and trash bags. Just bring your wonderful self!

Plan on attending the post event party at Threadbare Cider House with free refreshments and prizes. This is always a fun time and a nice payoff for your hard work!



Halloween Parade

Save the date and join us!

WHEN:

Saturday, October 21, 2023

WHERE:

Registration at Kunsak Parking Lot on the corner of Davis and Massachusetts Avenues

TIME:

Registration 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Parade starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp

Parade Route is up Davis Avenue to Legion Memorial Park

Please check the BHCF Facebook page for more details and to look for the Halloween Parade Event.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICCO MARTELLO

Congratulations to Bill Kunz

Joseph Glassbrenner presents Boy Scout Troop #348 Leader Bill Kunz with the Neighborhood Recipient Award at the Northside Leadership Awards Dinner on June 15. Bill was recommended by community members and nominated by the BHCF to receive this award for his decades of dedication to the Scouts and our community. Thanks and congratulations, Bill!

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Observance returned to Legion Memorial Park on May 29, 2023. The event was the joint planning effort of the BHCF, American Legion, and Brightwood Civic Group. The event began with the call to assembly by Commander Pete Galinowski. Following the introduction were the Raising of the Colors by Perry Traditional Academy ROTC, the ROTC also assisted the placing of the flags and markers designating all wars involving of our nation and troops. Boy Scouts of America, Troop 348 helped lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was offered by Parker Kantos of the Brighton Heights Lutheran Church. Bryan Kramer and Gene Stapleton led the Patriotic Sing Along. The readings were led by William Haushalter, Gene Stapleton, Donna Kramer, and by Joe Brown. The Benediction by Senior Rev. Brenda J Gregg from Destiny of Faith Church. Termon Ave resident Maria Sassani performed TAPS as a solemn

reminder and offer of thanks to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Maria performed in perfect tune for the nearly 100 neighbors in attendance as neighbors witnessed a C-17 flyover by the 911th Airlift Wing. The flight offered spectators lower than usual flight altitudes, loud engines, and precision flying with a tip of the wing over Legion Park. Thanks to the 911th, and the FAA for assisting in the flyover request application. The observance concluded with the Benediction by Senior Rev. Brenda J Gregg from Destiny of Faith Church.

Thank you to everyone who attended, all who volunteered at the event, and a special thanks to the planning committee. If you are interested in being part of the planning for next year, please contact the BHCF by phone or email with any questions. Planning meetings start in March.

PHOTOS BY FRANKS PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARTICLE BY JENN SKERTICH



Fontana Legislation Helping to Reduce Blight Becomes Law

When land is vacant, abandoned and tax delinquent, properties become blighted and uninhabitable which often impedes the transfer to more responsible ownership. Blight also negatively impacts the rest of a community through lower values on surrounding properties which erodes the local housing markets, poses health and safety hazards, and reduces tax revenue in the region. This is where land banks step in as an essential tool by helping local and county governments take control of such properties, mitigate the blight and turn it into affordable, high-quality homes, gardens or greenspaces, and or new and expanded businesses, offering jobs and industries.

A land bank is a locally created and controlled governmental entity with unique powers that permit the organization to acquire, manage, and dispose of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties and return them to productive use. Often these properties have complicated ownership histories and clouded titles that make them unmarketable or have no market value. These obstacles overwhelm potential buyers and thwart property transfers.

In Pennsylvania, any county or municipality with a population of more than 10,000 may establish a land bank. Two or more municipalities may collaborate to establish a land bank. Currently, the commonwealth has 38 land banks.

Unfortunately, the City of Pittsburgh's Land Bank, which was created in 2014, has not been as successful as other land banks in acquiring and selling blighted properties. One reason is because Pittsburgh's land bank must go through a more tedious and costly process to purchase properties known as a treasurer's sale. This includes going to court to clean the title of the delinquent taxes and neglectful owner - a process that can take anywhere between 12 months to three or more years. Even then, there is no guarantee that the City will own the tax delinquent property since there are no requirements to sell land to the highest bidder.

For two sessions now, I have authored Senate Bill 202 (SB 202) that will extend the more efficient and inexpensive judicial tax sale regulations used by Philadelphia's land bank to municipalities in Allegheny County, including the City of Pittsburgh. At judicial tax sales, also known as a sheriff sale, a tax-delinquent property is sold free and clear of all liens and claims giving it a clean title. Furthermore, under SB 202, Allegheny County's land banks will get priority bid at sheriffs' sales, meaning they would not have to compete with other bidders at a public auction. Lastly, my legislation calls for a much shorter redemption period for homeowners to claim the property before it goes to sale - cut from the current nine months down to three months. This will expedite the

whole process and help get more properties in and out of inventory much quicker and ready for rehabilitation.

I am pleased to report the SB 202 passed both chambers of the General Assembly and was signed into law as Act 4 by Governor Josh Shapiro on July 5.

There are many things the City of Pittsburgh Land Bank needs to be successful and operating at full capacity, but the enactment of my legislation will grant the organization the ability to acquire property through a cheaper and easier process. And the quicker our City's land bank can turn land and property around to responsible owners, the sooner we can fight blight, get properties back on the market and on the local tax rolls.

CONTACT: Senator Wayne D. Fontana,
42nd Senatorial District

PHONE: 412-344-2551

EMAIL: fontana@pasenate.com

WEBSITE: www.senatorfontana.com

TWITTER: @WayneDFontana



PHOTO BY AVERY D'ALESSANDRO ON UNSPLASH

From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello everyone! As fall begins, I have a few updates I'd like to share about projects in Brighton Heights and City-wide initiatives that affect us all.

The Department of Mobility and Infrastructure's (DOMI) Complete Streets project connecting the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to Riverview Park, along McClure Avenue and Woods Run Avenue is slated to begin at the end of August. This project will include speed tables, improvements to pedestrian crossings, shared-lane pavement markings (sharrows), way-finding signage, and other quick-build safety improvements along the corridor. The only bike lane included on this project scope is an extension of the one-way bike climbing lane, currently starting at the intersection of Mairdale Avenue and Oakdale Street. The extension will only affect the east curb in the uphill direction on Woods Run Avenue for 0.3 miles to the curve in the road, but will aid cyclists climbing the hill into Riverview Park. This project is primarily a traffic-calming project with no changes to the road operationally and very little effect on legal parking. For full details, please visit the official project page at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/complete-streets/trail-mairdale-neighborway>.

The Davis Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project will include a new public art project budgeted at \$30,000. This was made possible by the City of Pittsburgh's Percent for Art Program. A development activities meeting was held in July to review and discuss the proposed artwork. To review the preliminary concept and design and to provide your feedback, visit <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/davis-avenue-bridge/davis-avenue-bridge-public-art>.

I'm happy to share that at the start of August, City Council approved my resolution authorizing the City of Pittsburgh's entry into a partnership with R.I.P. Medical Debt (RIPMD) to purchase and relieve medical debt owed by Pittsburghers. At the end of 2022, I had allocated \$1 million dollars from the City's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for this purpose. In Pittsburgh, RIPMD has calculated that an allocation of \$1 million could discharge an estimated \$115 million of health care debt owed by thousands of Pittsburghers. Providing relief at this scale, where \$1 can discharge up to \$115 of burdensome medical debt, is plain common sense. Coming out of a global pandemic, Pittsburghers deserve such direct relief.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 58% of debts recorded in collections were for a medical bill. This makes health care debt the most common form of debt on consumer credit records and the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States of America. Many Pittsburghers with health care debt are uninsured or under-insured and are experiencing financial hardship

in the wake of COVID-19. In addition, black and brown communities in Pittsburgh have been disproportionately impacted both financially and medically by COVID-19 and resulting health care debts.

Now that RIPMD has been chosen as the City of Pittsburgh's vendor for this debt relief program, it can start buying medical debt and relieving it for individuals who qualify, based on my legislation's criteria. First, all potential recipients of health care debt relief must be residents of the City of Pittsburgh. They must also meet at least one of the following three criteria: (1) have a household income less than three times the federal poverty level, (2) have a household income that is at 65% of Area Median Income, or (3) reside in a qualified U.S. Census tract. Beneficiaries of health care debt relief through this program will no longer owe their medical debt and will not have to pay taxes on this discharge of their debt. As we head into fall, I am looking forward to the work that RIPMD will begin doing to provide medical debt relief to Pittsburghers.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the items discussed in this column or any other City issues, please contact us via the methods below. My staff and I look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT: Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1

PHONE: 412-255-2135

EMAIL: district1@pittsburghpa.gov

TWITTER: @Dist1Pgh

FACEBOOK: Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson

INSTAGRAM: @councilmanbobbywilson

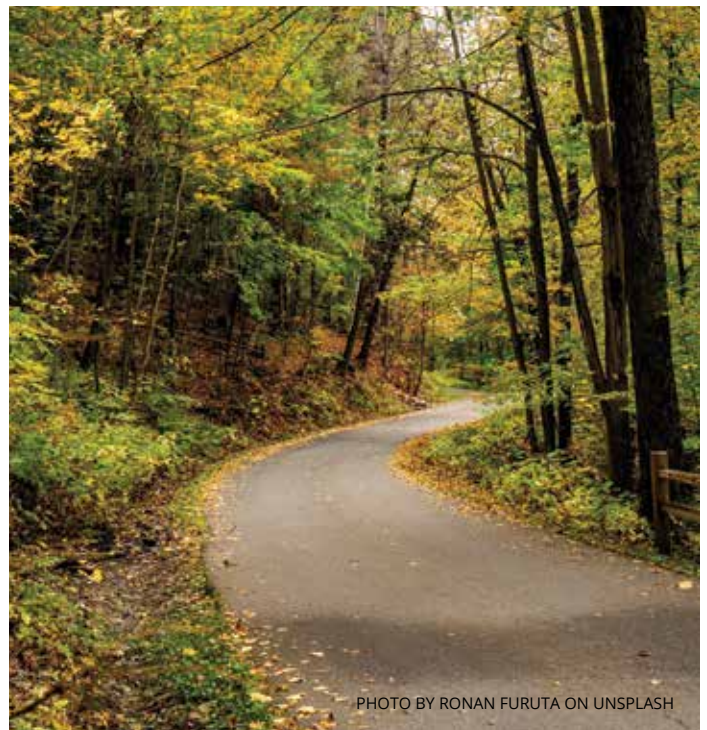


PHOTO BY RONAN FURUTA ON UNSPLASH

MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

May 12, 2023

51 in attendance. Roll taken by sign-in sheet.

Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.

Motion to approve the previous Minutes by Stacy, second by Mike: Motion carries.

Special Guests:

Pittsburgh Police

- Commander Malloy made the report, 16 gun arrests made in the Zone 1 area.
- Donna mentioned appreciation of the police storing the Easter Cross Walk event.
- Coffee with the Cops will be on May 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Elks.

Elected Officials:

School Board Director

Gene Walker

- New strategy planned to come for what a great education looks like.

City Councilman

Bobby Wilson

- Termon Ave. traffic-calming project underway.
- Davis Ave. Bridge is open for bid; will go under contract in July, 12 months to completion in July 2024.
- Healthy living center \$4 million available.
- Discussion about the California Ave. Bridge, bridges slated for construction in 2024, the City will pay 5%.
- Discussion on the burned houses on McClure Ave., whether they will be torn down and the effect on homeowner value.

State Representative

Rob Conroy for Emily Kinkead

- Hosting a shredding event in Ross Township.

Member of the Northside Common Ministries Food Pantry

Linda Ehrlich

- Every Saturday in Northview Heights \$1000 in produce, no proof of income required.

Davis Avenue Bridge artist

Lori Hepner

- Discussion on the sculpture, make plans to discuss the artwork.

Women for Healthy Environment

Amanda Jimcosky

- Discussion on air quality and children with asthma.

Report of Officers and Others:

President's Report

Joseph Glassbrenner

- CPR was paid for by Councilman Wilson.
- Budget discussions will happen on May 18 in Manchester and Saturday at 1 p.m. to everyone virtually.
- Discussion on Termon Ave. Gardens project with PWSA concerns in the permitting process. That process is expected to be concluded and approved by September.
- Will be demolishing of the structures early '24; underground work and construction will end by 2024 .
- Will use BH Real Estate Agency.
- Land Use projects will be handled by the same company developing Termon Ave. Gardens.
- Discussion on traffic around Termon Ave. Gardens work.
- Discussion on fire service and the mutual aid agreement with Bellevue and how long that will continue to go on.

Vice President's Report

- No report.

Corresponding Secretary

- May newsletter went out; next one is in September.
- 419 newsletters went out; 10 new welcome bags.

Treasurer's Report

- \$12,836 in the operating budget.
- \$2,968 in the land use budget.
- Total of \$15,804.
- \$10,000 from the loan will replenish and there are opportunities to get grants.

Report of Committees:

Northside Leadership Conference

- No report.

Gardens and Greenspaces

- The plants have been put in; thank you to all the helpers.
- Plant Exchange in Legion Park on Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Memorial Day

- On Friday, flags will be planted at Highwood Cemetery at 9:00 a.m.
- On Monday, observance at 9:00 a.m.; bring your own chairs; service should last an hour and a half.

Neighborhood Safety

- August 1st is National Night Out.
- Call 911 for tractor trailers parked in the residential areas from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- The CPR class trained 11 people for free.

Neighborhood Watch

- Will set up a table at the Plant Exchange with a tip flyer.
- Will support National Night Out; The Federation will join the National Night Out group.

House Tour

- It is scheduled for Saturday, September 16; more information will be in the newsletter.

Clean Up Committee

- 30+ volunteers for the Spring clean-up.

Build Your Wealth

- Will be this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Free Food Fridge

- Is awaiting the completion of the refrigerator storage unit and pantry; more information in the newsletter.

Land Use Committee

- Brendan stepped down; Nick is now in charge of the Land Use Committee.

New Business:

- May 24 at the Lutheran Church barbecue and outside games.
- St. John's space is breaking ground in the winter of 2023.

Adjournment:

By Stacy Berkebile

Second: Donna

Anything for the Good of the Federation

The next General Membership Meeting will be September 14, 2023.

Minutes by Todd McCollum

MINUTES (Review of Development Activities Meeting on July 13, 2023)

Boards and/or Commissions Request(s):

Public Art Commission approval for Public Art on Davis Avenue Pedestrian/Bike Bridge

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

Approx. Number of Attendees: 12

Lori Hepner is an artist and 17-year resident of Brighton Heights. Lori currently teaches at Penn State and makes artwork for gallery spaces. Light and time to create art. Make art with community. Showed some videos of interactive art with lighting and the community creating the artwork. Showed a few previous interactive art processes/projects. Unable to do a light installation on the bridges due to the Dark Sky Ordinance.

Project title is River to Riverview: Breeze Between. The project is a rotating augmented reality digital mural created with the community to play in the sky above the bridge with the sculptures as the physical anchors. It includes two stainless steel sculptures with the river to Riverview theme. Each sculpture is 14" wide and 9' tall in a vertical column form. When you use your phone and point your camera at the sculptures, there is recognition and it will take you to a website with videos – this is augmented reality (AR). The videos will be made by the community at a few 'making workshops'. Showed example of the concept.

Showed neighborhood map and context, explained process, showed historic images of the former bridge (lots of triangles will continue in new bridge), showed new bridge site plan. Made a model of bridge with Google Earth imagery to figure out locations where art could be placed.

Workshops – Dates TBD in August or September. Would like to partner with other events. The two stainless steel sculptures will be installed as permanent installations. The AR is Temporary Public Art Project and will be removed after 3 years.

Also, Lori is seeking photos of the sky above BH from your part of the neighborhood, and photos taken from the original Davis Avenue bridge. Submit to Engage PGH website.

Questions and Comments from Attendees

Will it be controlled so someone can't put something inappropriate out there?

Has to be made at workshop.

Asked what sculptures say?

"River" and "Riverview" – text is mirrored.

I don't have a phone. Would that disrupt the flow of bikers.

I think normal volumes on the bridge will allow for folks to stop to engage. The bridge is 14' wide.

I wonder if the bridge will change trajectory of the bicyclist.

Several bikers do detour between the river and Riverview now. People that aren't from the neighborhood will get to experience it too.

Benches?

Yes, there will be some benches and landscaping on the park side.

Signage?

There will be official signage directing folks to the park.

May want to do the workshop at the Bright to Night. It's in December when the days are shorter.

Great idea!

Riverview Park Day is in September. It's family friendly, there are hikes and education on foraging. This should be a part of that. Lori's artwork is all over the world! She is amazing.

Great idea!

Reggae at Riverview is August 5th 1-9pm.

Great idea!

Meeting date?

Aiming to attend the Public Art Commission at their August meeting. They would like a letter from the Community Organization.

Our Board meeting is last week of July is meeting. July 27th (not our regular date due to conflicts).

No response from applicant.



Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

While at the Public Library, what daily periodical do moose read?

The Moose Paper.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

ZIP CODE + 4 _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

New Member Renewal
 Membership for _____ years

Family (\$10)
 Individual (\$7.50)
 Senior Citizen (\$5)
 Social (\$5)
 Corporate (\$20)

Additional Donation
 (optional) _____
 for: _____

MULTIPLE YEAR BONUS:

Pay 3 years >>> get 4 years!

Pay 5 years >>> get 7 years!

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

Make checks payable to BHCF, INC.
 Send to: BHCF TREASURER
 PO BOX 99602
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Your membership renewal date will be printed after your name on your mailing label.

Membership is also available online at www.brightonheights.org

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 2023
 MEETING WILL BE LOCATED IN JOHN MORROW AUDITORIUM. VISIT WWW.BRIGHTONHEIGHTS.ORG FOR DETAILS.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED FOR US BY ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL AND WE APPRECIATE THEIR GENEROSITY!

Address Service Requested



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 Pittsburgh, PA 15233