Clean Pittsburgh Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members in attendance: Omoye Aikhuele, Anna Archer, Alicia Carberry, Aftyn Giles, Lori Beth Jones, Chris Mitchell, Rachel Nawrocki (Co-Chair), Myrna Newman, Sarah Alessio Shea (Treasure), Sally Stadelman, Erika Young (Secretary)

Commission members absent: Patty Chavez, Ashley DiGregorio, Erika Ninos, Alphonso Sloan, Kelly Wacker, NaTisha Washington

Guests in attendance: Zach Spodek, Sabrina Culyba, Maureen Faith Hartwell, Emily Potoczny

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:20AM on June 11, 2020.

Motion was made by Alicia and seconded by Sara Shea to approve the March 12, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried with Anna Archer and Erika Young abstaining.

Motion was made by Chris Mitchell and seconded by Omoye Aikhuele to approve the April 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried with Anna Archer and Erika Young abstaining.

May meeting minutes were approved by quorum vote over email on May 21, 2020.

III. Discussion on how to wield CPC power for anti-racism

- Background: The work we do is very closely tied to systemic racism. There is a direct correlation between the work we are doing and the areas that are impacted by these issues.
- The City of Pittsburgh has a contract with Government Alliance on racial equity and has offered different trainings concerning the history of systemic racism in the City. As a commission, the CPC can participate in a similar training.
- Grounded is taking a proactive approach in the conversation and identified two structural importance’s.
  1. Identifying a clear plan of activism in the City for how to deal with vacant and abandoned properties. What can we do as a commission to move the landbank forward and what new plans can we address to find a solution to these abandoned properties in black communities?
  2. Working with the Parks department – where does the tax stand for maintenance and where is it going? It should be going to parks with the most needs first and the communities identified by those studies
- There is currently no map/graphic/visual that the Commission is aware of that shows what lots are being maintained and by whom
- Sheridan Community group is using a tool kit to track nuisance properties
- **Action Item:** can the CPC work with Council to try to identify properties WHAT and can we start to change how the City looks at this or how it is enforced?
- **Next steps in the conversation:**
  - Engaging the Black Environmental Collective and understanding how we can elevate their agenda
  - Inviting City Real Estate and Finance to the next meeting
  - City Cuts: encourage City cuts to be more diverse and use ecofriendly lawn equipment
  - Sally will contact finance – Alicia, Anna, Sarah, Myrna and Rachel will be helping lead the charge in the conversation
  - Procurement – Commissions need to be more transparent with how they allocate expenditures.
  - Can the CPC issue a RFP for cleaning up neighborhoods where multiple vendors can reply, and respondents could subcontract the work to minority individuals that may not have an opportunity to submit a proposal to the RFP (due to no EIN, etc.)?
  - Alicia will discuss what this looks like, spending less than $5K does not require an RFP. Sally, Aftyn and Alicia will be discussing with Mike Strelik prior to the next meeting

**IV. Questionnaire to inform 2-year strategic plan + SWOT analysis**

More structure and information to follow

**V. Newslitter and Litter Index**

- Chris will be editing the Newslitter monthly with an opportunity to include information from each meeting.
- Newslitter will be distributed by the day following the monthly meeting.

**VI. Money Update**

- CPC will receive a PCard – Aftyn is working on obtaining this for the Commission

**VII. Neighborhoods of Focus/Funding Love Your Block**

- Chris has reached out to the neighborhoods to see who is still interested in the project – two have confirmed interest
VIII. Adjourn

Motion was made by Lori Beth Jones and seconded by Omye Aikhuele to adjourn the meeting at 11:49AM on June 11, 2020. Motion carried.

Next Virtual Meeting:
July 9, 2020 at 10AM

CPC Members Call to Action:

Social Media: Follow the CPC Facebook page! Share content with the CPC to use as engagement and empowerment on the platform and other social medial platforms.

Remember: The Clean Pittsburgh Commission is on Social Media!

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cleanpghcommission
Tweet with us: @CleanPghComm