

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Present: Ginny Bowman, Angela Conte, Marge Lubawy, Janet Norkus, Peter Schepis, Joseph Scorpion and Guy Tumolo

Absent: Roger Westman

Guests: JoAnna McQuaide, Cassie Brandon

Guy Tumolo called the meeting to order at 9:40 am at the DoubleTree by Hilton in GreenTree, PA.

Minutes of February 18, 2016

The minutes of the Board Meeting of February 18, 2016 were approved upon a motion by Ginny Bowman and seconded by Joe Scorpion.

Board/Secretary Vacancy

Guy Tumolo discussed the two Board positions that are open and introduced JoAnna McQuaide who had expressed interest in the Board member or Secretary position and he invited her to come to the meeting to observe.

Financial Reports

Pete Schepis passed out the Monthly Treasurer's Report and Janet Norkus stated that she didn't have a breakdown on the checks received, but as soon as she receives the bank report she will be able to categorize because she didn't know if the checks were for the luncheon, dues, etc. **Marge Lubawy moved to accept the Monthly Treasurer's Report and Joe Scorpion seconded. Joe Scorpion moved to approve this month's expense report totaling \$107.30 (Cassie Brandon) and other miscellaneous invoices to be paid and Ginny Bowman seconded the motion which carried.** Other monthly invoices paid by Pete Schepis for Banksville Printing, Image Box, etc., do not need Board approval.

Cassie Brandon said that she received a total of 17 renewals and new memberships from Angela Conte from the old post office box and Janet Norkus had six renewals which were not entered into the database yet. Guy Tomulo stated that the Newsletter will be mailed by the end of the week and suggested that the newsletter should include the County Manager, Retirement Board, etc. Marge Lubawy said that the newsletter should also be sent to all County Council members and maybe we'll get new members that way? Timothy Johnson, Executive Director of the Retirement Board, is on the database to receive meeting notices and Newsletters but is not charged the yearly membership fee. Ginny Bowman stated that she needs ideas for the Newsletter by the middle of May that will be sent out in June.

Programs and Outings for 2016

Guy Tumolo passed out the list of the Programs and Outings for 2016. Todd Wilson will talk about Bridges of Pittsburgh at the luncheon meeting today. Timothy Johnson will speak at the April 20 meeting about the Status of the Pension Plan. Ginny Bowman reserved April 28, 2016 for an outing at the Raccoon Creek State Park and there is no fee but the charge of \$5 to the attendees will be put on the postcards. The Park said they will be happy to accept a donation instead to Friends of Raccoon State Park. Denise Schreiber from the Parks Department will speak about gardening at the May 18, 2016 meeting. Marge Lubawy will check prices for a History Center tour for late May but the fee when she checked for an April outing was \$10 for ages 62 and older and the center will have to be notified a couple of weeks beforehand for reservations. The June meeting will be a picnic and Ken Bell will take care of the arrangements

Ginny Bowman talked to Lynn Heckman about the September 29, 2016 outing at the Botanic Gardens. The fee is \$10 but they may lower it to \$8. Roger Westman was to investigate the Frick Historical Center and will report at next month's meeting. At the February meeting he stated that The Frick Mansion has a fee of \$8 per person and three weeks notice in advance is required. Roger Westman also suggested, at the meeting in February, the Depreciation Lands Museum for an outing and, in addition, said he would talk to someone at CMU to speak at the September meeting. Angela Conte suggested an outing at the Zoo and will report at the next meeting prices, etc. Marge Lubawy said that she will contact Len Barcousky who wrote a book about Pittsburgh History of Cemeteries (1st) and Guy Tumolo said he will call Bob Cramner to speak about Haunted Houses (2nd). Other yearly monthly meetings, include November 16th the Annual Business Meeting and Barbara Veazey, Medicare, (the plans will have more information in November) and December, the Christmas Party.

Old Business

Website – AC retirees.org – JoAnna McQuaide volunteered to work on the website but said that she does need training. Presently Imagebox updates the website at \$25 an hour.

New Business

Guy Tumolo moved to appoint JoAnna McQuaide to the Secretary position of the Board and Marge Lubawy seconded. Guy Tumolo stated that JoAnna McQuaide's name as Secretary of the Board should be in the next Newsletter.

The next Board meeting will be held April 20, 2016 at Doubletree Hotel in Green Tree, PA, at 10:00am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am with a motion made by Marge Lubawy, which was seconded by Joe Scorpion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Brandon
Acting Secretary

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

LUNCHEON MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Vice President Guy Tumolo opened the meeting with comments about ACRA events scheduled for the year, outings at Raccoon State Park, Botanic Gardens and other events that members will see in the next quarterly Newsletter and stated if anyone has any ideas for speakers and outings, please let any Board member know.

He introduced the speaker, Todd Wilson, a graduate from Carnegie Mellon with a degree in engineering and who is presently employed with GAI Engineering in Pittsburgh as a transportation engineer. He has written a book, about the Bridges in Pittsburgh with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks.

Todd Wilson's talk and slide show introduced the first bridges built in Pittsburgh around 1758-1761 constructed by Fort Pitt and he talked about Pittsburgh's first river bridges in 1818, the Monongahela, and 1819, the Allegheny. Pittsburgh's first wooden aqueduct was built in 1829 but there were problems because the barges had to be pulled by hemp ropes but they broke easily. In 1845 John Roebling built the first suspension bridge but a fire destroyed most of downtown Pittsburgh around that time. In downtown Pittsburgh around 1847 the first railroad bridge was built and in 1903 the PA Department of Highways and the State Highways Department were purchased by the government. In 1959 the Fort Pitt Bridge was built and in 1970 Penn Dot was established.

In 1880-1883 the oldest bridge in Pittsburgh was built, the Smithfield Street Bridge, and by 1911 the bridge was widened and the portals were removed. In 1875 the Union Bridge was built over the Allegheny River but was removed in 1907 due to obstructions. The Point Bridge over the Mon River was built in 1877 but was demolished in 1927. The Manchester Bridge was built in 1915 over the Allegheny River but the steel tresses were banned because they obstructed views. In 1948 cable supported bridges were built with 1000 foot towers but ended up being too expensive. The Fort Duquesne Bridge was built (Allegheny River) and was subsequently named the bridge to nowhere. The St. Clair Bridge was built in 1893 (6th St. Bridge), the 7th St. Bridge was built in 1884 and the 9th St. Bridge, 1890 (supported electric trolleys). The Allegheny River Bridge had problems because of low clearance and was built without regard to transportation barges. The Ohio River Bridge was built in 1890, the West End Bridge, 1932 and the McKees Rocks Bridge, 1931.

Todd Wilson had his books for purchase for anyone interested in learning more about the history of Bridges in Pittsburgh.