

Allegheny County Retirees Association
Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2017
10:00 AM

Present: Cassie Brandon, Angela Conte, Pamela Long, Marge Lubawy, Joan McMahon, JoAnna McQuaide, Connie Przybyla, Pete Schepis, Guy Tumolo

Absent: Janet Norkus

Attendees: None

Approval of minutes from September 20, 2017 with spelling and numerical corrections- Moved Marge Lubawy Seconded Pamela Long Passed

Financial Report and Approval of Expenses –

Motion to accept the financial report with a balance of \$49,063.48 in our checking/investment accounts. Moved Joan McMahon Seconded Connie Przybyla Passed. Motion to approve the payment of expenses (including Big Hippo's annual \$59.40 cost of hosting our web-site. Moved Pamela Long Seconded Joan McMahon Passed. The postage account at the post office needs to be replenished when it gets down to \$1000 and we do this automatically. Banksville Printing used to notify us. Now the Post Office sends us a monthly notice.

Committee Reports

Newsletter -Connie Przybyla reported the next edition is ready for printing next Monday. It only needs the obituary list from the Retirement pension check schedule for 2018 Board. Included are articles on the Wigle Whiskey Distillery Tour, Bayernhof Museum tour, a history of AC Jail, election of new officers, profile of Lenny Garlicki, County retiree who has sang the national anthem for 40 years in his community of Bloomfield, and lunch speakers. Next issue is to go out in March, 2018. Upcoming articles include: save the date for 2018 ACRA meetings; history of AC Police Dept.; an article of the new vaccine for shingles; Marge Lubawy, who is a master gardener, will be highlighted; and the holiday party. Trivia will be included if there is room.

Program – Update on Luncheon Speakers

November 2017 – we do not have a designated speaker from APPRISE. Pamela Long will contact Bill McKendree to schedule a speaker.

Holiday Party entertainment (Two Guys Named Moe) reduced their fee for us to \$320. They will present a lively fun filled 50 minute show for seniors. Connie Przybyla created a PowerPoint presentation of all the meetings and activities for playing during the party. We will need to rent a screen from the hotel. All approved the expenses for the entertainment and the screen.

Holiday Party Chinese Auction – limit gifts to \$25 in value and reimbursement to board members up to \$50 or 2 gifts per person. Attendees to get 5 free tickets each with no provision to purchase more.

Special Events

Wigle Whiskey tour was a success from the feedback and good enough to repeat in coming years.

Suggestions for next year – PPG Paints arena (Connie Przybyla to check), Heinz Field, Botanical Gardens, Carrie Furnace, Phipps Conservancy for spring flowers in April, (Marge Lubawy to check), Ducky Tours and/or Gateway Clipper (Pamela Long to check) and the picnic in June. Other parks to consider are Squaw Run in O'Hara, North Park and Boyce Park for June 20th. March's speaker is Judy McClelland who will talk on Alzheimer's, April's speaker is Ed Keleman and May's speaker is Mary Lou Kosis. If speakers don't ask for a stipend we will not offer one. We will offer them a free lunch.

ACRA will only subsidize members on these outings, not non-members.

November and December 2018 meetings are being changed from the traditional third Wednesday to the second Wednesday due to the holidays. The dates are November 14 and December 12, 2018.

Nomination –Ballots were sent.

Election – Bob Muessner is Chair and the ballots are being sent to his home which may make tallying easier. The committee will do the count at the hotel Monday November 13. The room rental and refreshments will be put on our bill for November 15.

Discussion of Open Issues

Telephone Voice mail update - Pete Schepis reported that the cost is around \$30 monthly. No Pittsburgh firms could meet the price. A Philadelphia firm, Answernet, is willing to bill us semi-annually. They waived their \$25 activation/programming fee. There is a \$10 account deposit. A phone message will activate an email to notify us that there is a message. President or Vice-President are to take the calls and answer or redirect. Motion to accept Answernet as the new phone provider payable semi-annually. Moved Pamela Long Second Marge Lubawy. Passed.

New business

Guy Tumolo suggested that board members only get a \$5 discount on activities and lunches instead of the usual \$10 cost. Discussion ensued that we give a lot of our time to the organization and a discounted lunch is a small reward. Motion to set the luncheon rate for Board members at \$10. Moved Angie Conte Second JoAnna McQuaide Passed.

Guy Tumolo wants one form for the renewal/new member application. Connie Przybyla volunteered to draft a new form that combines both. Discussion ensued to add a check box for new or renewal; the year; a donation line; and remove the offer of a free lunch to new members on the new letter. When is a member a member? If someone joins after September 1 they will be a member for the balance of that year and all the next entitling them to a 15 month membership. In 2018 we will not send our usual request for renewals in November. The renewal request will be in the September 2018 newsletter with a due date of January 31, 2019. We will remind the ones who have not renewed in February 2019. Orientation packets for new retirees need to be printed up and we will included the new form in the package.

Adjournment 11:20 Moved Pete Schepis Second Marge Lubawy. Passed.

Luncheon Meeting

President Guy Tumolo reported to the membership about the upcoming meetings for the balance of the year, and planned activities for 2018. He also reported on the pension board meeting he attended. The Board had released the following information for the January to September year:

- \$22.1 Million employee contributions
- 22.1 Million County Contributions
- 70.1 Million Investments
- 63.2 Million pay-Out to retirees
- 3.8 Million refunds to former employees
- 0.8 Million Expenses
- 903.8 Million in Total Funds

Louise Sturgess, Executive Director, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Society, gave an formative presentation entitled "Anticipating the Future" tracing Pittsburgh's architectural history from pre-WWI to the present. She not only showcased buildings but private homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe, Tasso Katselas and other famous architects with local connections. The 50/50 drawing was held for \$45 and two \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards were raffled.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnna McQuaide
Secretary

Allegheny County Retirees Association (ACRA)

Officers & Board of Directors Guy Tumolo, President Peter Schepis, Vice President JoAnna McQuaide, Secretary Janet Norkus, Treasurer Angela Conte, Director Marge Lubawy, Director Pamela Long, Director Joan McMahan, Director Connie Przybyla, Director		LIST OF PAYMENT REQUESTS OCTOBER 2017	
NAME	DATE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Janet Norkus, Treasurer	10/16/17	Gift Cards - \$40.00 Postage - \$12.18	\$52.18
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation	10/31/17	October meeting speaker, Louise Sturgess	\$150.00
Katherine Brandon (Cassie)	8/8/17 - 10/23/17	Deleted 2016-2017 delinquent members (62), changed 42 addresses from September newsletter and ballot mailing, added new members (24) and (21) renewals sent in, checked the 80 returned newsletters sent from the Retirement Board to make sure they were not on ACRA database, prepared database for ballot mailings and ACRA November meeting postcard mailings and miscellaneous updates. 19:45 hours @ \$15/hour	\$296.25
Pete Schepis	10/31/17	Annual bill – Big Hippo	\$59.40
Reimbursement & Invoice Totals			\$557.83