

Clean Pittsburgh Commission January 8, 2026

Members in attendance:

Omoye Aikhuele (Co-Chair)
Lyssa Eberhardt (Co-Chair)
Aftyn Giles (Co-Treasurer)
Larson Scheller (Co-Treasurer)
Halena Procopio Ross (Outreach Coordinator)
Debbie Steinberg (Secretary)
Anna Bagwell
Emily Embrey
Pat Kelly (pending)
Kelsey Ripper
Ben DeVore (pending)

Members absent:

Sanjeeb Manandhar
Joshua Schuneman
Paul Scott
Erin Tobin (pending)
Katie Wettick

- I. Welcome, Introductions, & Reading of Mission
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am on January 8, 2026.
- II. Agenda Review & Minutes Approval
 - A. Motion was made by Larson Scheller and seconded by Lyssa Eberhardt to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- III. New Administration Intro
 - A. The new Mayor was inaugurated in January. As a Mayoral Commission, they have a representative from the Mayor's office on the CPC. Aikhuele to meet with the new administration to align goals and seek a Commission member.
 - B. Keywords mentioned during inauguration speech, "red up". Also, the Bob Awards are named in honor of Mayor O'Connor's father. Let's use this momentum to uplift the work of the CPC.

IV. Suggested Committee Structure

A. Suggestion to shift to a committee structure for the Commission to disperse the work of the commission. Opportunity to work in parallel to CPC member day jobs.

B. Committee Descriptions (also [see Eberhardt's suggestions notes](#))

1. Governance Committee

- a) Include Co-Chairs and Chair of each subcommittee.
- b) Monthly meeting to set agenda for Monthly CPC meeting

2. Membership Committee

- a) Recruit and facilitate CPC commission members
- b) Meet on demand, when needed
- c) Need membership to include a City County building employee for follow up work.

3. Finance committee

- a) Exists
- b) Initial review of funding requests
- c) Set and maintain an SOP on funding requests and approvals

4. Neighborhood of Focus committee

- a) Exists
- b) Takes lead on NoF projects
- c) Create structure and process for the program
- d) Coordinate education opportunities and activities

5. Advocacy committee

- a) Group dedicated to spreading the word and educate communities

C. Should Outreach be renamed as Advocacy? Outreach overlaps with community engagement, but not the primary task.

- 1. Outreach Coordinator - social media, website, annual report
- 2. Potential to add an Outreach Committee

- D. Reminder: [Clean Pittsburgh Commission Member Bylaws](#)
 - E. Follow up on committee membership via email
- V. Finance committee update (Aftyn Giles)
- A. New fiscal year, balance of \$30,000
 - B. Project approvals held over from 2026:
 - 1. No need to retain yard sign project funds – will be managed externally
 - 2. Supplies for Litter Library for community groups, \$5,000
 - C. Roughly \$11,000 available from 2025 budget to use for Neighborhood of Focus in-class education programming, in coordination with CleanWays and Pittsburgh Public Schools.
 - D. Interest mentioned about funding more Baggu Bags in 2026. About 50 remaining from last purchase. Very popular giveaway at Farmers Markets
 - E. Reminder to put forward requests and ideas for funding proposals. Submit to Giles or Scheller before Tuesday the week of the Thursday CPC meeting (2nd Thursday of the month). Requests can be made by attending the meeting (CPC members) or emailing the Treasurer or Chair.
 - 1. Funding not restricted to CPC members. The Finance Committee will develop a procedure for making and funding from external requests.
 - 2. All requests in by October, so we can have final votes at the November meeting. Pcard purchases are preferred payment, so under \$5,000
- VI. Outreach Coordinator updates (Halena Procopio Ross)
- A. Share out updates publicly - DPW/ES, members orgs, outside partners
 - 1. What is the best way to collect updates or remind members to send updates?
 - 2. Marketing calendar or annual activities, dates for certain orgs, etc.
 - 3. Lots of work that the City is doing that is good information to share. Especially with the upcoming Draft and the red up work associated with that.

- B. 2025 annual report to focus on success on the year's program. Procopio Ross to look through minutes for highlights. Garbage Olympics statistics. Focus on NoF efforts.
 - 1. Intend to release by mid-2026.
- VII. Member organization updates
 - A. City of Pittsburgh - EPA SWIFR grant awarded. 1.6 million to modernize yard waste collection, including new equipment to host year round yard waste curbside collection. Also looking at an Environmental Education certification program, as a way to improve staff as subject matter experts (through Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE))
 - B. Allegheny CleanWays: continuing weekly cleanups. Pittsburgh based team out now through the end of March, out 2-3 days/week. Weekly cleanups in neighborhoods of focus also continue. Also northside and district 3.
- VIII. Adjourn
 - A. Motion was made by Omoye Aikhuele and seconded by Lyssa Eberhardt to adjourn the May meeting at 11:11 am. Motion carried.

Next Virtual Meeting: February 2026