



*Dr. David Karpeles  
(1936-2022)*



*Karpeles Library Museum  
of Pittsburgh*

Augusty 6, 2025

Daniel Scheppke, Principal Planner  
City of Pittsburgh  
Department of City Planning  
412 Boulevard of the Allies  
Suite 201  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
[daniel.scheppke@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:daniel.scheppke@pittsburghpa.gov)

RE: Permit Number OOP-2021-10751  
Zoning Approval DCP-ZDR-2021-10785  
3021 Landis Street, Pittsburgh, 20<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Parcel ID 42-L-00305

Dear Mr Scheppke

I write on behalf of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum to ask that the Zoning Hearing Board approve an amendment to the Certificate of Occupancy to permit Saturday and Sunday hours.

As the City's records will show, the Certificate of Occupancy for our property was approved subject to a limitation of our hours of operation to Monday through Friday, with occasional use on weekends and weeknights. The City's records would also show that the current approved use is classified as a general cultural use, namely, a museum that exhibits manuscripts of significant historic value.

Notably, the manuscripts exhibited at Karpeles Manuscript Library have, on occasion, included items of particular interest to Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania. Those items have included a handwritten arrangement of *Babes in Toyland* by Victor Herbert, the second conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and a record of the deliberations of the Pennsylvania General Assembly with respect to the Stamp Act.

Our current operations are limited to Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our museum is free to the public. Attendance typically ranges between 5 to 10 individuals per day, but there are weekdays in which we have no visitors. Visitors arrive alone or small family-size groups. In the past year we have had no groups of visitors in excess of 10 persons. We have no plans to solicit such group visits, although we would accommodate school groups.

We have ample on-street parking immediately outside our building and sufficient off-street parking space to accommodate our typical number of visitors on a Saturday or Sunday. We do not serve food or beverages. We provide leaflets to guide visitors inside the museum.

In brief, our candid evaluation is that the current use has a very limited burden on the neighborhood of Sheraden in terms of traffic, parking, noise, or other similar factors. The current use provides significant benefits to the neighborhood by maintaining a very large building in a structurally sound and occupied condition. Our use also attracts potential customers to the Sheraden who may patronize local businesses.

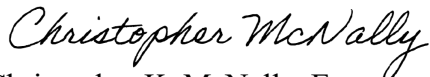
Also of note, our building is 101 years old this year and was a church for 92 years before it closed in 2016. The museum has been open for the past three years without any discernible impact on the neighborhood.

Under the prior use the building was open seven (7) days a week, including holidays. Even in its final years the church would have generated substantially more foot and vehicular traffic than our current use. Accordingly, we respectfully suggest that permitting Saturday and Sunday hours would have no material impact upon the immediate neighborhood, and may be beneficial to the wider neighborhood and community in Sheraden.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum of Pittsburgh, I respectfully request that the Zoning Hearing Board amend the Certificate of Occupancy for Permit Number OOP-2021-10751 to include Saturday and Sunday hours of operation between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I am available to appear before the Board in person, if that would be helpful to your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher McNally".

Christopher K. McNally, Esq.

Director

Karpeles Manuscript Library of Pittsburgh