Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
Board of Director Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County was held on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 2:00 pm in the Koppers Building, Confluence Room, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15219.

Board Members participating were Chairman Kyle Chintalapalli, Councilman DeWitt Walton, Dr. Diamonte Walker, Jason Markovich and Dora Walmsley.

Attendees: Simone McMeans, Deputy Director; Alan Sisco, Deputy Director; Jim Johnston, Assistant Director, Operations; Veronique Kihumbu Keng, Assistant Director, Finance; Beth O'Donnell, Authorities Coordinator; Steve Papernick, Papernick & Gefsky; Michael Carroll, Public Information Officer; Ray Englert, VPRP Program Manager; Elissa DiNello, Business Development Manager.

Chairman Chintalapalli called the meeting to order, the roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of July 23, 2026, Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Walton and seconded by Director Markovich, the minutes of the July 23, 2026, meeting were approved.

Financial Report/Bills Payable

Dr. Walker reviewed the bills payable for July 2026, along with the July 2026 balance sheet, and statement of revenue and expenses, and found them to be in good and proper order.

On a motion made by Councilman Walton and seconded by Dr. Walker, the board unanimously approved the payment of the bills.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Old Business

A. Programming Updates

1. Main Streets Allegheny: Elissa DiNello reviewed the Main Streets Allegheny Program and reported that, "as of now, over $1 million has been awarded to municipalities for façade work and streetscape green space improvements. It's anticipated that over one million attendees will visit the events funded by these grants. In the near future, small business grants and loans totaling $5 million will be awarded in various Main Street districts".
2. Vacant Property Recovery Program: Ray Englert explained 'a new online portal for VPRP is being developed to improve efficiency, transparency and user experience and applicants will be able to view the status of their application on their own time. There will be informational sessions on September 21 and 29. The program will not receive new applications until October 5; however, submitted applications will continue to be processed. There are currently 94 municipalities participating in the program'.

B. Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program (VPRP) Reauthorization of Condemnation

Request authorization to reapprove a resolution to the Allegheny Vacant Property Recovery Program for one property located in the City of Duquesne.

A motion was made by Director Walmsley and seconded by Director Markovich. The above request was approved as presented.

New Business

A. Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program (VPRP) Certificate of Completion

Request authorization to approve a Certificate of Completion for one property in the Borough of Wilkinsburg, which was transferred through the Allegheny Vacant Property Recovery Program.

A motion was made by Director Walmsley and seconded by Director Markovich. The above request was approved as presented.

B. A to Z Communications Agreement - Extension

Request authorization to extend an agreement with A to Z Communications to serve as communications and public relations support for four months for an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars ($20,000).

A motion was made by Director Markovich and seconded by Councilman Walton. The above request was approved as presented.

Councilman Walton asked if the staff member who does the marketing is still here and was told by Deputy Director McMeans, "Yes, Michael Carroll is still with the department, but with the increase in programming, ACED will extend the contract for A to Z Communications through the end of 2026 to assist Michael".

C. Ratification of Heinz Endowments Grant Request for Act Now Support

Request ratification of a grant application submitted to The Heinz Endowments in the amount of $250,000 to support RAAC's work in advancing ACT NOW, Allegheny County's new clean technology and advanced manufacturing initiative, established through Executive Order 2026-3, and to enter into contract with The Heinz Endowments for a grant in the amount up to $250,000, if awarded.

A motion was made by Director Markovich and seconded by Councilman Walton. The above request was approved as presented.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Director Markovich and seconded by Councilman Walton, the board unanimously approved the request to adjourn the regular meeting of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.

Simone McMeans

Simone McMeans, Deputy Director