

Combined Board/General Meeting Minutes

Ponce de Leon Library

Monday, February 4, 2007, 7:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance

Doris Betz
Allie Coker
Hannah Coker
Joe Krebs
Karen Page
John Peak
Rob Glancy
Charlie LeFort
Betsy Nicholas

Board Members Not in Attendance

John Wolfinger
Pamela Papner
Robbie Russell

I. Welcome

Pamela Papner

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

II. City/State/Police Officials

Police Update

Louteninent Peevey

John working with the police department very well. Appreciate his support. Appreciate him greatly. Ruby Naylor, Crime Preverntion, Zone 6. Crime – people more blatent, and don't care. Having problems with juveniles. Encouraged to contact mayor and city council, da, etc. Said the document handed out at the meeting is excellent. If not at home, then go to work with crime. Please be aware. Give people with guns what they want, but don't go anywhere with them. Jjuveniles are under 16 years of age. 12 point system on juvenile system. Can commit felony crime, can get up to 12 points before you don't just go back to your parents. Kids 18 and up are driving them around. Older teenagers are aiding the younger criminals. Can call 911. Now Zone 6 has community prosecutor's office at 777 Edgewood Avenue

Attendee handed out article on

Talked about juvenile point system, and many crimes are perpetrated by juveniles.

City Council Update

Anne Fauver

Send letters because emails get blocked out

Deborah – prosecutor

Go sit in court. Midtown has a court watch to try to have influence over point system and toughness of crime determent

Security patrols are effective, and might be something that VAHI should think about. Morningside has an effective one. Watch to ensure that Juveniles aren't stashing things in any vacant houses in the neighborhood.

At council today, (1) city deficit – passed resolution to set up a committee (accountants, auditors, etc) to work with CFO to add some outside expertise, (2) Historic designations –

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takes 10 people to start the application, but no benchmark for how many people you have to have support it to pass a historic district. 10 people initiating application unless department ; have to have 50% +1` to take it to the next level and apply for historic district status. Could be changed to 50% at town hall meeting.

Thursday, final design report for VAHI intersection next to Chicos. Design people and city people have done good job incorporating feedback from the neighborhood into the design. Trees Atlanta will take over recommendation of tree selection for the site. The latest plans are on the VAHI website, for those who are interested in reviewing them.

Ann introduced today for a Midtown property, on 13th street in middle of high-density residential properties, one parcel zoned high-density commercial. It made no sense. 2nd time found in Midtown. When land-use, keep eye out, and if something want changed for zoning, let Ann know and she will start the process. John Peak mentioned that they had identified changes with NC, and his understanding was that changes that could be made quarterly. Individual properties can be handled outside of CDP process individually. John to send information directly to Ann

Victims Assistance Group (part of courts system) is adding to identity theft to its list of crimes. If you have experienced this, contact Ann and she will connect you to the resources.

Midtown Community Meeting had a session with their police officer – Reminded us of things supposed to do when see suspicious activities. Also talked about Pepper spray, how to use it, Civic Assn sold some pepper spray. He said do not use Mace b/c can be immediately wiped off. Pepperspray takes several hours to wear off. Don't spray directly, but spray in a circle to have the best chance of reaching the person. Didn't carry it for a while, took it out when in an unsafe place near the World Congress Center., and made her feel more protected.

911 – There is a hierarchy of calls. Frustrating if have to wait several hours. Closing down city hall east, and relocating everything. 911 is in CHE, and has archaic equipment. To properly set up a 911, it takes \$35M. Tried to go in with Fulton County, and not interested. Found space in the old Macy's building. Space with internet operation built up infrastructure and went bankrupt. He has leased this space. Infrastructure to operate 911 is already there. Timing: Police putting in new mobile phone system; 911 system can't go in until tested out (end of Nov). 911 will start installing first of Dec; by mid-Feb will have all new 911 system. Have already hired person in charge, person to do training and supervisor. Have a number of sworn officers on this. City Hall East – vacate by mid to end of 2009. Have extension of date they have to be out. Moving piece by piece. Parks & Rec will move south of Braves Stadium where Atlanta workforce authority is. IT will go to the Macy's Center. Many departments are in leased space, and so are trying to consolidate things to minimize external rent costs.

Deficit – (1) when took over, had \$80-90 deficit in 2002. Deficit was grossly under figured; closer to \$150M. Hidden b/c have been on a cash system. Moving to an accrual system of accounting. (2) Had put in a new system called Oracle. Until now the depts. Haven't talked to each other at all. Finance on an old system that hasn't been supported in a # of years. Airport sophisticated; doing payroll, downloading and providing a paper copy that is keyed in by Finance. Many old practices catching up to us. Current deficit is \$70M. There will likely be cuts in personnel. Aim is to not cut services. Public works is switching so on the same day of the week will have garbage, yard waste and recycling once a week. Should make us look cleaner. Can get in habit of putting yard waste out with the others.

Ebony no longer works with her office. Sheila and Ann in the office. If Ebony working with you on something, call and make sure they have been able to pick it up

Phone: 404.330.6049 and email is afauver@atlantaga.gov

Combined Board/General Meeting Minutes

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Monday, February 4, 2007, 7:00 PM

III. General Updates

Pamela Papner

- a. **Liquor License** - It is proposed that Miss Qs, a pool hall at Amsterdam Walk will become "Bellissima", a small bites Italian restaurant. Owner is Anna Ragghianti. This is simple change of ownership for a more upscale-type place.
- b. **Change of ownership;** nicer, cleaner, non-smoking; restaurant lounge serving Italian small plates; hours will be by what is legal; during week: close by midnight, later on weekends. Stop serving at 10pm. She has not had a liquor license before. Will keep one of the pool tables. Removing the others for increased restaurant seating. More tables and chairs; does licensing differ for a pool hall? Said it was difficult to get license for a pool hall. Previous license was not for a pool hall, but was for a restaurant. She is applying for the same type of liquor license. Will go to NPUF then liquor license board of the city. Hours listed 4-3am weekdays, weekends until 3am with last call at 2:30. Although they can be open that late, they will not plan to be. Motion to approve liquor license for Bellissima as stated on the agenda, seconded; straw vote: favor 7, no abstentions, no opposed; Board Vote: Favor:8 1 abstention. No paperwork here, signed at NPU mtg
- c. Neighborhood Commercial Update John Peak
 - Neighborhood meeting at Charlie's house two wed from now; focus on Arlington and Rosedale residents. 1060 Rosedale Drive 7pm on 13th of Feb. Notice to streets in next couple of days. To get feedback and discuss open issues. Working on this for a year and putting together draft ordinances. Will decide how strip will be developed over coming years. No questions.
 - One motion: motion to defer go/no-go meeting to march meeting; seconded, unanimous approval
- d. Library Lots Status John Peak
 - Looking to buy library lots; corner of St. Charles place and N. Highland. Residential lots; library used to be there. Are tentatively planning on making offer.
 - May be a good idea to come to agreement with owner to work out a 12 month plan to take it off the market and give us the oppty to hold fundraisers to pay for the property
- e. ING Marathon Peggy Rogers
- f. Community Outreach director for ING. In final stages of finalizing route. Goes through VAHI similarly to last year. Changes in park did not impact last year's course. Not as large an event as events typically in part. Sun, Mar 30th, week after Easter. Neighborhood challenge is structured similarly last year. Four NPUs and Decatur – official cheering zones. Other neighborhoods wanted cheering zones. In addition to original 5, we will allow up to 5 addl neighborhoods to nominate themselves, if they wish. Up to 10 cheering zone competing for top 3 prizes: \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500. Funds spent on neighborhood fitness initiatives (equipment, team fitness, etc). Contact for each cheering zone. Declare what would spend the funds

Combined Board/General Meeting Minutes
Ponce de Leon Library
Monday, February 4, 2007, 7:00 PM

on up front. Last year took 3-4 weeks to determine what to spend the money on – took punch out of announcement. Form to send in just like last year. Is leaving guidelines and form. Be out there, be noisy, have a good time. Community update email once a month being sent out with more detailed information.

- Last year issues – better plan for people to get out of the neighborhood during the race. Number of changes in course. Only half marathon crosses Ponce. By 10:30-11am, all half-marathoners will have crossed Ponce, allowing free traffic on Ponce. Last year there were two places where marathoners crossed Ponce. Last year N/S on peachtree, blocking people coming off connector. This year starting at Centennial Olympic Park, will have signs on interstate.
 - Last year there was an issue with clean-up. Last year used volunteers and rented trucks; inconsistent performance. This year are working with a logistics company to send their trucks to the hydration stations to remove supplies. Will park on a side-street, and as last runner passes, they will remove the trash. Atlanta Solid Waste services will pick up garbage bags and sweeping the streets right after the last runners/walkers pass by.
 - Recycling Plan: will recycle gallon jugs that the water and Gatorade come up. Recycling will come by day after race.
- g. Virginia Highland Streetscape Improvement Project, Phase II
- The Department of Public Works will conduct a public information meeting to provide an update on the Virginia Highland Streetscape Improvement Project, Phase II. Thursday, February 7, 2008, 6:00 pm -7:30 pm, Church of Our Savior, Garrison Hall, 1068 N. Highland Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

IV. Zoning and Planning

Joe Krebs & John Peak

- Variance Requests

V-07-372

Applicant Name	Lucy Ward
Address	747 Elkmont Drive NE
Date Filed	12-27-2007
VHCA Point-of-Contact	Jack White , 404-454-6892 (c)
VHCA Planning Committee Review	01-30-2008
VHCA Board Review	02-04-2008
NPU-F Review Date	02-18-2008
BZA Hearing Date	03-07-2008
Planning Committee	Planning committee recommends approval of plans as presented, stamped 12-27-2007, and conditioned on no electrical or plumbing utilities.
Board Outcome	
Conditions	

Combined Board/General Meeting Minutes
Ponce de Leon Library
Monday, February 4, 2007, 7:00 PM

For shed to be built into the side setback. Coverage is still not in line. Is reduction in side setback to 7 ft required to 2 ft for construction of shed. On the North side. Planning committee viewed plans and recommended unanimous approval, conditioned on no electrical or plumbing on shed. Planning committee only had 2 members represented. Has letters of support from contiguous neighbors. No opposition. Motion to approve VO7372 subject to drawings stamped 12/27/07, no electrical or plumbing. Seconded. Straw vote – 4, not opposed. Board vote unanimous approval.

V-08-006

Applicant Name	William Gilmore
Address	768 Elkmont Drive NE
Date Filed	01-17-2008
VHCA Point-of-Contact	Joe Krebs , 404-874-3958 (c)
VHCA Planning Committee Review	01-30-2008
VHCA Board Review	02-04-2008
NPU-F Review Date	02-18-2008
BZA Hearing Date	03-21-2008
Planning Committee	Planning committee recommends approval of plans as presented, stamped 1-17-2008.
Board Outcome	
Conditions	

Appliant seeks variance front depth from 17.5 to 8 ft to allow for addition to single-family house. Is a corner lot – have double front setback. This is the “side” front they want to build on. Does affect footprint of the house, is a kitchen pop-out. Existing corners come out 10 feet. Lot coverage is fine have to come out b/c stairs on the other side of the kitchen. Now existing brick wall now, will have decorative relief. From front, view is exactly the same. Received letters of approval from everyone except one who is out of town.

Planning committee recommends approval of plans as presented. Motion to approve, seconded. Straw vote – all for. No opposition. Board Vote – unanimous 7, no opposed no abstentions.

V. Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

- Parks – Tress Atlanta tree planting weekend before last (annual event) 50 trees put in on Drewry, Highland View, VA, Hudson, etc. Had many volunteers from GA Tech and Norcross HS, etc. Had initial meeting for trees at neighborhood arboretum. Project is funded. Will be a walking tour of specimen trees and varieties of trees in neighborhood. Other neighborhoods who already have this are on the TA website. At Inman Park MS, people take dogs to lots over there. Have a leash law in city. Have bag dispenser over there. More dogs over there.

Combined Board/General Meeting Minutes

Ponce de Leon Library

Monday, February 4, 2007, 7:00 PM

Arrangement could end at any time. On greenwood where Christmas trees are sold. Trees Atl does plantings around city from Oct-Mar/Apr. In the summer they go around with trucks with water containers to help maintain the trees. Have continued with plans despite water restrictions.

- **Home Tour** – In process of starting to prepare for 2008 tour, Dec 6th & 7th. Need help planning, email at tour@vahi.org.
- **Orme Park Committee** – Will meet later this month on Orme Park plan; On VHCA website. Have submitted budget for project. (John White). Will work this year on fundraising for the park – next one in April. Will need grants and hiring landscape firm to create more detailed conceptual plan.
- **Summerfest** – 25th anniversary of the event;
- **Historic** – majority of those who come out and vote in general vote. Board should consider letting Ann know that we

VI. Other/Announcements

Yard signs saying Stop the Horns. Turn lenox road crossing into quiet zone; I put in quad gates to CSX horns won't blow. www.stopthehorns.com. there are quiet zones across the country (Smyrna and Vinings) have more money than Atlanta. City of ATL limit of liability on vehicular incidents is \$1,000. When crossing is quiet zone crossing, they turn over liability to municipality that crossings reside in - no longer CSX's responsibility to maintain the tracks in the crossing or liability if cars are hit. Is an NPUF matter, group has gotten with AF's office; have started to obtain funding to support changes. Once it happens, becomes city not CSX crossing.

Adjourned: 8:35.