

## Combined Board/General Meeting Agenda

Ponce de Leon Library

Monday, May 5, 2008, 7:00 PM

### Board Members in Attendance

Doris Betz  
Allie Coker  
Hannah Coker  
Joe Krebs  
Pamela Papner  
Rob Glancy  
Charlie LeFort  
Robbie Russell  
John Wolfinger

### Board Members Not in Attendance

Karen Page  
John Peak  
Betsy Nicholas

#### **I. Welcome** Meeting started at 7:04pm

#### **II City/State/Police Officials**

##### a. Pat Gardner, Georgia State Representative, District 57

- Pat regrets not being able to be here in person. Is at a women's conference with her daughter. Her husband, Jerry Gardner, came to the meeting. She loves representing us and appreciates our support. MR. Gardner handed out Pat's summary of what happened in the legislature this year. Will have three town hall meetings this month. One in VA-HI, another in Inman Park – Jeff & Ann Cramer and a third in Morningside. If you have any questions, send them to Pat via phone or email [pat@patgardner.com](mailto:pat@patgardner.com).

##### b. Police Report

- Elaine Dorsey - Handouts that are usually handed out to the community from the police department regarding robbery and prevention ideas. Citation is to remind people to always clean valuables out of your car when parking. Do not enter a person's vehicle, even if they ask. Person picked up on Ponce recently, followed by vehicle. When people stop to ask you questions in a car, when you are walking, remember that most people have a cell phone to help them get to where they are going. Let them utilize other methods to find their way to where they are going. Do not make yourself vulnerable.
- Major Propes – have had a couple of robberies matching pattern going on metro-wide. Has seen (Frederica/North Ave) – approached people walking by themselves. Pull in behind and as getting out of vehicle, force them into their car; meet with other victims; taken to ATMs, withdraw money, let them go and the perps take their cars too. Targeting men so far in Zone 6. Dropped off at Douglas County. Seeing people with audible alarms – don't usually get anything. Multiple 911 calls and witnesses. Recent trend in VAHI – SUVs and golf clubs. 12 GPSs stolen in weeks 16 and 17.
- Lachisa Deamon – Senator Nan Orrock's aide. Nan is running again against two opponents. She would appreciate our support, and a handout was left behind.

#### **IV. General Updates**

- ##### a.
- Thank you for the donation to the Ponce branch last year. They had a very long wish list last year, and wanted to put off some of the new shelving until the renovations if bond issue is approved in Nov. A

couple or years after that will have . Mostly bought new sneiving and equipment to move things around because the library ran out of space. Will give the VHCA a list of what was done with the money. The wish list, that was put on hold with last year's wish list, will be presented again this year.

b. Rebecca Serna, Director, Atlanta Bicycle Campaign (Bicycle Month)

- Been around since 1990, but going through period of renovation and renewal. Have moved downtown to be closer to govt centers. How cyclists can contribute to being happier, healthier, etc. Passed out bumper stickers. Do a lot of advocacy work for better conditions on work and much education. Out of date rr tracks on Dekalb avenue removed and paved over. Dangerous grate campaign. With the recent sewer work, grates have been replaced in the wrong direction, where tires get caught and will flip the bikes. If see one, send a card in and let Rebecca know.
- To increase identification of cyclists, there is a billboard to raise awareness
- Passed out information about GA vehicle code. Bicycles belong on the road. Illegal for adults to ride on the sidewalk. Not clogging up traffic, part of traffic.
- Recently updated website. Much more functional. Atlantabike.org
- Series of classes – confident city cycling. If don't feel comfortable bicycling on the road, consider taking one of these classes. Bikefest on May 19 at Piedmont park.

c. Liquor License - Haynie Restaurant Group (d/b/a "Diesel) Liquor License Application for 870 North Highland (former "Dish")

- Mindy Thompson (attorney); Justin Haynie (owner); Mike Gardner (manager). Business name is Diesel – location used to be a filling session. Brunch/dinner menus were handed out. Alcohol servers will be trained and will ask for proper identifications for all who order alcohol. Lunch/Dinner M-S and Brunch on Weekends. M-F: 11am-2am; S: 10am-2:30am; Sun 10-12. No entertainment, dancing or live entertainment.
- Dish – opened at 5pm and closed based on customer demand. Dish served at night – late night with dj spinning. Would sometimes stay open until 2:30.
- Jack White – issue with Dish – odor from dumpster in summer. If not cleared daily it is a tremendous issue. How often to empty dumpster – 4x per week. New dumpster has been delivered. Owner will do everything possible to take care of this.
- New grease trap, new septic tank put in.
- What is the restaurant experience? First restaurant; has been managing 4 years here and in FL; Mike has 10 years experience. Chef has 13 years experience. 19 spots on site, pay lots around the restaurant. Terms of license stipulate – no requirements for parking spaces; grandfathered use; May not carry over if not in operations for 6 months. Considered change of ownership – had to go through inspections; building dept would govern this issue; they approved it. Zoning has already been through.
- Capacity: 100 people inside and patio together
- Set to open at end of May. Have to procure alcohol license before opening.
- R. Glancy: Check on schedule of trash company comes; sometimes comes at 4am and would wake people up. Try to have on schedule not in middle of night. Other complaints – music late at night. Will have speakers for sporting events/television; music playing. There is a city code after 9pm there is a limit of the volume. Use good judgment when it comes to the noise on the patio. Have neighbors right beside and behind you.
- Motion to approve liquor license. Seconded. Strawvote: 1 for; 1 opposed; 3 abstained. Unanimous board vote.

- Final NPO Meeting – May 19<sup>th</sup>; June 3<sup>rd</sup> is last meeting before Liquor License.

## **V. Zoning and Planning**

**Joe Krebs & John Peak**

- Variance Requests
- There were no zoning requests this month.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

**Committee Chairs**

### a. Summerfest Update (PP)

- Pamela passed out the new design. Neil Bowen did the design. Street banners, signage, brochures, posters, tshirts, postcards, etc. Special events this year – Neighborhood parade being led by Doris. In today's newsletter. Decorate yourself or any non-motorized vehicle. Checking to see if there are any dogs permitted. Yourself and/or your family and any vehicle. There are fabulous prizes.
- Everything is on track. Many people have volunteered. Encourage everyone to get involved to the extent their schedules permit. Have 5 more \$1,500 sponsorship opportunities – include a tent.
- Great headliners – Sister Hazel, Shawn Mullins
- Incremental revenue from sponsorships; over 200 artists and booth fees have increased. Highest ever early sign-up for artists booths. Pamela will provide regular updates between now and the event.

### b. Code Enforcement (John Wolfinger)

- John went to meeting. Held at city hall; supposed to be about judicial end of housing code violation in the city; turned out to be a real commercial for save our jobs. Some good points were raised: two speakers had been let go that day. One of the people let go was the public defender for city court. They are very overwhelmed, and by the time they get there it is too late. Code enforcement is being cut by 2/3 – most in the judicial end of the city enforcement. Two fewer public prosecutors. No reduction in staff of judges.
- House burned down on Ponce Place. John asked Capt Kelly what caused it. About midnight. The alarm turned in by GA power worker. Went to truck to phone 911 and get fire extinguisher out. Chair on front porch burning when first saw it. By time report got to #19, 2 minute response time; entire front and attic engulfed in flames; station 15, 29, 12 also responded. Both houses caught on fire; quickly extinguished. No one was hurt. Couple who lived there got out through basement. No known cause at this time.

## **VI. Other/Announcements**

- Anne fauver holding town hall meeting 7-9 Inman Middle School Auditorium May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the City of Atlanta Budget
- Anne sent an email re: Street Scape II commitment – July/August. Not acceptable because of Christmas impact. Need to start right after Summerfest or right after Holidays. Cannot impact these two events. Settled on the design several months ago. VHCA to follow up with them to discuss the options.
- Lola Carlisle spearheading group to look into feasibility of Historic Overlay. No recommendations yet, still in the process of inventorying neighborhood; asked the board to approve \$800 for payment to two interns to address write story of architectural styles and categorize the historic architectural styles. GSU students with background in this area. Board unanimously approved
- Parks – Gift certificates to Vine restaurant – good through July. Former soux chef from Dish

- Rob sent out email today proposing board send a letter asking for ABG to drop counter-suit of Friends of Piedmont Park. 19/20 NPUs against it. Now ABG is going after tactic that could suppress future public disapproval of actions by city and park and ABG. Counter-suing for legal fees. Deck is being built now on Monroe. Important statement for VAHI to say something public about it. Rob to draft a letter and send it to the board for feedback and we will vote by email.
- Problems at Orme park with paint running through the pipe running through the river in the park; have called parks department/water quality. Be aware of this when in the park.. If see anything call Rob Glancy and/or Jack White. Jack has contracted with a lab to get a sample and have it analyzed for \$125.
- Home Tour – a couple of meetings for this years home tour; selected two homes thus far. Are busy in the planning stages.
- Jack – Orme park – had a great workday. Arborist who lives in neighborhood cut the trees. Looks really good as a result of the work that was done.

Adjourned at 8:10pm