

VHCA Meeting
October 4, 2010

Board members present: Aly Higgins, Pamela Papner, Jennifer Hanson, Allie Coker, Frazier Deworet, Anne Woodward, Katherine King-Metters, Rob Glancy, John Wolfinger,

City/State/Police officials

- Lt. Schierbaum spoke regarding neighborhood crime. He stressed the importance of having all info regarding your vehicle in a place other than in the car - so you can provide this info (especially the license plate #) quickly and accurately to police in the event the car is stolen or involved in an accident. Citizens need to continue to be alert and aware of surroundings, and not to be distracted in the crucial moments when exiting a parked car. - this caution is very important in light of the recent armed pedestrian robberies in VaHi.
- Soon "Street Heat" (proactive policing) will resume for the holidays. These are additional officers. These are additional officers who are recent graduates of APD training academy. This is usually a walking beat assignment to provide additional visual presence. VaHi has formerly received some of this additional support - but assignments have not yet been made for this year.
- He also briefly outlined tentative plans as to how the proposed realignment of APD Zones and Beats will affect us, in that Zone 6 will shed the two beats north of us and we will be the northernmost Beat for Zone 6. Zone 6 will also shed Beat 611, which is the most southernmost Beat (and the one that drained most of Zone 6 resources) and will add Zone 5 Beats 510 and 511 on the west side of the Zone. This realignment will help to make Zone 6 more manageable with available personnel resources.

Committee reports and board introductions

Fundraising (Pamela Papner)

- Construction of the New Highland Park. \$69k raised thus far. Currently, we are in the process of getting bids for the construction.
- Orme Park Renovation joined forces with VHCL. \$188k raised thus far.
- Check our website for more detailed plans.

Communications (Pamela Papner)

- We will continue community communications through the Voice. Next issue is due for late November.
- We are investigating ways to update our website.

AGL Updates (Pamela Papner)

- We are following up with another walk thru with the contractor to review sidewalk replacement, crosswalk lines, and streetscape issues to ensure these items are properly fixed. Meeting was set at the city for Oct. 11th to discuss patches on Amsterdam, Rosewood, N. Highland, Glen Arden & Kentucky. Our goal is to get a commitment to repave streets instead of having so many patches on streets impacted by AGL work.

NC Zoning (Pamela Papner)

- We are discussing an amendment to NC zoning to ensure that outdoor dining would only be permitted on the front, outside areas. (Current dining in rear would be grandfathered.) However, we do not want to be overly restrictive. Aaron Fortner suggested we amend NC so that any outdoor dining in rear is permitted so long as it is more than 60 feet from residential. That might work, but we need to understand the precise impacts and communicate them to commercial owners. It may be that limited, available parking within the nodes (and requirement of regular exception process now that there are 14

eating/drinking establishments in NC-11) could make legislative change unnecessary. We will discuss this idea in more detail at next planning meeting and report back.

Parks (Rob Glancy)

- Met with city to ask for improvements/fixes needed in John Howell Park. We will have to wait until their new Parks staff is in place.
- If you see a problem with one of our parks, please contact either Rob Glancy or Jack White. They will liaise with city to submit our requests.
- Maintenance: Virginia and N. Highland. It's typically a mess, gum on the ground, plants trampled, etc. We've tried to reach out to business owners, and currently they do not have the funds to pay for clean up. Lynn DeWitt offered to talk to the business owners regarding this issue. It was suggested that when we talk to the owners that we propose choice of 1. Cleaning up better themselves 2. Paying "X" and hiring someone to do it.
- Rob has additional plants for the island's fall planting.

Treasury (Jennifer Hansen)

- Transfer of treasurer duties is underway.
- Motion was made to add Aly Higgins and Allie Coker to signature privileges.
 - Board vote: 9-0-0

Street Parking (Frazier Dworet)

- We would like neighborhood participation in a parking study. Details and request for volunteers to follow.

Zoning/Variances

V-10-127: 559 Orme Circle

Planning committee: Unanimous vote (4-0-0) to recommend approval to NPU-F with the following conditions: (1.) inclusion of the 16 ft slab to ridge height on the amended plans, (2.) inclusion of the 1200 gallon cistern on the amended plans and (3.) the grass strip running along the center of the driveway is subject to alternation prior to the October 4, 2010 VHCA meeting.

Motion was made to approve this variance as amended on plans dated 10/1/10.

Straw vote: 14-1-2

Board: 8-0-1

AJC Reach Update: David Eckoff

64 people supported a letter to be sent from the VHCA requesting they stop delivery of this circular.

A motion was made to write a letter to the AJC requesting that the AJC Reach not be delivered to VHCA residents, contingent upon board review and approval prior to sending. Eckoff will provide contact person and address.

Straw vote: 15-0-0

Board vote: 7-1-1

New business:

* Eckoff made several more suggestions for the board:

Scrap current email system. Mail Chimp was suggested.

- It is in the VHCA's strategic plan this year to update our email system.

Fundraising ideas offered by Eckoff:

- Allow memberships renewals to be made by credit card and implement 'automatic renewals, requiring one to cancel membership, else their card will just be charged the annual fee.

- He felt Battle of the burgers was a huge success. Maybe we can learn from that? We had an edible plant sale, silent auction, whole foods day application submitted, brick sales, etc.. We do appreciate ideas, but what is most needed is for Mr. Eckoff (and others) to roll up his sleeves to lead/organize/execute a fundraiser, like the group that organized the plant sale.

* Theater Emory:

Two representatives presented information regarding their theatre and upcoming shows.

* John Wolfinger gave Kudos to the graffiti committee! He also announced his choice for the Aaron Gross Award. PEDS and our Firestation # 19 are the recipients (divided equally) from the \$1000 check accompanying the Aaron Gross award.

*Morningside Mile is October 24, 2010.

* Brian Gross commented on FBAC. Brian will write an article for The VOICE to recruit more interested homeowners in expanding FBAC.

* Eckoff (again):

- Again, Mr. Eckoff offered his services to completely revamp our website, free of charge. Discussion was had regarding his offer, and why the board has not accepted his offer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.