

VHCA Meeting
1/03/2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

VHCA Board members present: Pamela Papner, Ann Guy, Kathryn King-Metters, John Wolfinger, Frazier Dworet, Anne Woodward, Holly Kilgore, Charlie LeFort

Officer report: Major Dalton spoke regarding crime in the neighborhood.

- Rosedale Incident: Sex Crimes division investigating
- Noted a 50% decrease in crime from last December
- Concern from a citizen that car break-ins are escalating and people aren't calling in and Major and others re-iterated need for citizens to call and report

City Report: Alex Wan

- Biggest topic is public safety
 - Noted quarterly district 6 meeting with neighborhood assn. presidents and public safety chairs.
 - Police Chief committed 5 new cadets to District 6 in January
- Briarcliff commons (summit) developer advised Alex that for numerous reasons, that apartment redevelopment is no longer happening.
- 2011 committees – Alex continues to be on finance, community development and HR and is now on public safety as well
- Noted new website at www.atlantadistrict6.gov

City Report – Amy Phuong, Chief Service Office, Office of the Mayor

- Amy spoke about her new position, a 2 year role funded through grants. Two key focus areas being developing youth and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Committee Updates:

Home Tour: (Charlie LeFort and Ann Guy)

- Extended thanks for a tremendous Home Tour
- Estimated gross around \$19,000.
- Ann attributed much success to expanded PR campaign.

Safety: (John Wolfinger)

- Shared letter sent to Fulton Co. regarding system and prisoner retention (attached to minutes)
- Courtwatch group is setting up website (info in recent safety report.)

Fundraising/New Park: (Pamela Papner)

Orme Park Project: Total Raised @ 12/31/10: **\$201,448**. Bids are in, and lowest base bid less all deductive alternates was \$176,469. We will go ahead and award the contract to Lewallen Construction Company. Their bid was lowest of 5 bids received. Design/permitting will cost \$18,322. So, we have enough money to do the baseline work. We got another ~\$9K from city parks last week to pay toward remaining design fee (\$3K) and to do extended seat wall in front of playground (\$6,431). We can put drains in for future rain garden, but don't have funds to complete the rain garden at this time. We are still going to Park Pride, Alex Wan, Suntrust for final pitch for funds so we have enough for trees (\$4,000 and for contingency). Construction should start in February.

- From Nov. - Dec., neighbors raised \$5,326.
- Threshold was met for matching \$4K grant from VHCA

New Highland Park Project: Funds raised @12/31/10 (over 2 years): \$78,291. We recently received two \$1K donations.

- Letters were mailed to all Atkins Park residents and commercial owners asking them to contribute NOW

- Tree lighting raised \$257

- NHP design will be on agenda to review/approve at NPU-F meeting 1/17.

- Park Pride grant application is due 2/21, with grants workshop on 1/18 required.

- Requests for bids should go out soon. Target date to construct is ~April 2011.

Fundraising for Both Projects:

- Osteria Dine-Out was successful. We earned \$500.

- We did not get a "Whole Foods 5% Day" yet, but our application will be kept and considered again for the Summer quarter "Whole Foods 5% Day"

- Flyer boxes in both Orme and NHP have been well-received. Sign coming soon for Orme.

Thermometer coming soon for NHP.

Other updates (Pamela Papner)

AGL Matter: I attended a meeting with Loring Heights and other neighborhoods frustrated about the same thing - patches every 10 yards and refusal of AGL to mill/repave. Alex Wan is in process of setting up a meeting with 3 Council Members and impacted neighborhoods to see about what can be done.

Meeting is expected in January. The Dept. of Public Works does not seem to be making headway resolving the matter, but perhaps there is a way to make headway via city council action. More to come.

Trees: Working w/ Scott Stern/Trees Atlanta on idea to plant 7 trees in front of the parking lot on N. Highland at Amsterdam. We may get it done this year. Highland Terrace is also getting a new tree to replace dead one in cul-de-sac.

Web: High Level Requirements are completed and await feedback. Thanks to Brian Gross for his help. Next step is to obtain estimates and propose back to Board.

Summerfest:

- All contracts are complete (Premier Events, Artist Market, Zapplication) or almost complete (DaveFM, Road Race). Kick off meeting is in February.

- Artist Market applications are posted at zapplication.org, and artists may apply online between 1/3/11 and 3/4/11.

Planning and Variances (Frazier Dworet)

V10-194

804 Ponce de Leon Terrace

Applicant seeks variance from zoning regulations to reduce the required front yard setback from 35' to 30' to allow for an attic finish for a second story addition to an existing single family dwelling. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

Planning committee voted to approve, 3 – 0

Motion was made to approve the plans as dated 11/11/2010 with the following stipulations:
Letters of support and/or show of best intent

Straw vote: 9-0-0

Board vote: 8-0-0

SAP notification: New business in space formerly Everybody's Pizza has filed a SAP to move front door to right side and add glass in conformity with NC11. Frazier opened to questions of which there were none.

New Business:

Jack White commented on the Mix and the fact that the building permit expired, but there seems to be some confusion around that fact. Alex is working to get clarification.

Tree removal was reported to City Arborist

Pamela Papner noted that Stephanie Coffin has asked for any information regarding the tree pruning (hacking) done by Belly.

Meeting adjourned 7:50