

**Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Monday, November 14 2016; 7:00 PM; Ponce de Leon Library**

**Minutes**

Attending: Robin Ragland, David Brandenberger, Jess Windham, Jenifer Keenan, Paige Hewell, Debbie Skopczynski, Eleanor Barrineau, Kay Stephenson  
Absent: George Zirkel, Cindy Kaufman, and Steve Messner

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda

APD - Update from Lt. Floyd, Zone 6:

Holiday season trends up, as usual. Use the police precinct as a location for making purchases off of classified sites such as Craigslist. Always be aware of surroundings and not distracted by phones. Secure your windows and doors and activate alarms when you're away. Keep your car cleaned out.

On North Highland Park: If people are breaking a law, police will respond regardless of if a board member is calling or if a neighbor/member is calling. Park is owned by VHCA so to issue criminal trespass warnings, an agent of the association needs to be there (a board member). The officer then documents that it was issued. Need to be warned and told to vacate. The police can't enforce park rules. Atlanta's Park Ordinances don't apply to private property parks.

Fifth Annual Toy Drive: For children within Zone 6, infant up to 14yr old toy, please bring by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. You can leave at John Wolfinger's house. (Event is Dec 17<sup>th</sup>)

Elected Official - Update from Alex Wan:

ParkAtlanta: Contract was renewed last Monday. Will not be adding 1,000 extra parking spaces and explicitly states no additional spaces to be added without council action. Revenue is maintained. Revenue split over \$13M to go to the city in order to de-incentivize from over-ticketing. Penalties are built in for bad tickets and broken equipment in response to feedback from the public. Appeals process is also brought in house rather than going to court. City has 30-day out of the contract. Do maintain the ability to shift the location of parking spaces. Hope to have that conversation and able to share the burden of parking spaces to appropriate places. SPPlus Parking is a joint venture and will be rebranded.

Monroe Dr. Complete Street: Jan 26<sup>th</sup> tentative next public meeting to present alternatives for evaluation.

J&J's Bourbon Bar Noise: Put in a call to 911 so that it would be on the record that there's an issue.

Elected Official - Update from Ali Carter for Andre Dickens (Post-3):

Andre is chair of CDHR, on finance committee, and transportation committee. Legislation in the works for affordable housing. APS joint committee to bridge communication between city council and APS and they've met 8 times thus far.

New cell phone number: 404-227-3592

Vote on 2016-2017 Committees: Approved as listed in attached Agenda

Treasurer's Report - Jenifer Keenan (for George Zirkel)

Planning Committee

- Variance applications for review - Jack White
  - V-16-239 1079 N. Highland - seeks 4' sideyard setback on the north side of property;

- Planning committee recommends approval.
  - Straw vote: 16 yay; 0 nay.
  - Motion to recommend approval of V-16-239.
  - **Board: Unanimously approve.**
- V-16-277 853 Adair - Deferred one month at request of applicant
- V-16-232 834 Clemont - revised application seeks 4' sideyard setback on eastern side of their property to construct a new 2-story accessory structure.
  - Susan Johnson with the city was notified that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> requests for variance on the request are no longer needed. Application will need to be amended.
  - Straw vote: 11 yay; 0 nay.
  - Motion conditioned on filing plan with the city prior to the NPU meeting and for the 1<sup>st</sup> request of the variance application only and not the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - **Board: Unanimously approve.**
- Liquor Licenses - Jack White
  - 8 Arms LLC 710 Ponce De Leon Avenue
    - Jeff Jurgena, business owner and Nhan Lee, chef.
    - Previous violations: no
    - Training: TIPS certification
    - Parking: All on-site and access only via Ponce de Leon Ave
    - Hours: Dinner, lunch, breakfast and coffee place and won't have noise issues
    - Straw vote: 8 yay; 0 nay.
    - Motion: To not oppose at LRB
    - **Board: Unanimously approve.**
  - Tuscany at Your Table 1050 N. Highland Ave
    - Previous violations: no
    - Training: Management training
    - Serving: Wine tastings and bottles only at this time, not pouring.
    - Straw vote: 9 yay, 0 nay.
    - Motion: To not oppose at LRB
    - **Board: Unanimously approve.**
- Update on Park Atlanta contract - Jess Windham
  - Will stay engaged to review improvement opportunities with the new contract (see notes from Alex's update). Hopefully working together with the city under the new contract can lead to a more balanced parking regulation approach for our neighborhood commercial districts. Timing allowed per space, location of spaces and aggression of enforcement would all be part of this consideration.
- Monroe Drive traffic calming process - Jenifer Keenan
  - Guest next month: Regan Hammond, Renew Atlanta Project Manager for Monroe Complete Streets
  - Late January - tentative meeting set and important to have a strong showing to support road diet
- Fire Station #19 Update - Robin Ragland
  - \$30,000 fundraising gap – see Calendar for upcoming events in December; will have another booth at Summerfest.
- TSPLOST Update - Jess Windham
  - North Highland Complete Street identified in the list of projects that will bring improvement to Virginia Highland. The project would be for all of North Highland Ave.

### Parks Committee

- North Highland Park
  - Will be selling bricks to complete the initiative - 45 remain
  - Issues with the littering, defecating, destroying park property brought up by Mark Ruggles and how to resolve.
  - VHCA to check in on legal issues and research remedies.
- John Howell Park grant - David Brandenberger
  - Always looking for inkind assistance for maintenance or donations – open to ideas and please submit to [parks@vahi.org](mailto:parks@vahi.org)

### Fundraising Committee

- Tour of Homes– Robin Ragland
  - Must have 21 more volunteers
  - Buy tickets!
- Summerfest – Paige Hewell
  - Some contracts in place for artists market and others

### Safety Committee

- Update on security cameras – Eleanor Barrineau
  - Different sources of funding – some already approved, some VHCA with Alex Wan matching funding, and any other sources possible
- Street Captain replacements needed– Eleanor Barrineau
  - Will put up flyers and look for new captains
- Holiday Meal for AFR and APD– Eleanor Barrineau
  - For Fire Station #19 and Zone 6 APD, putting together a holiday meal to thank them for all they do.

### Communications Committee

- Survey Update - Kay Stephenson
  - Draft is together and getting board feedback. Wanting to get information on how information is consumed so that people can be reached and set priorities for the board based on feedback from the survey. Aim to have to the community next week.

### Old Business

- Update on Todd Memorial Lawsuit - Jenifer Keenan
  - Motions filed in response to motion to dismiss and countersuit of trespass
  - Received final bill for legal fees for \$7,740 to bring total VHCA legal fees to around \$50,000 from initial review of the merits of the case through negotiations and now litigation. The attorney representing VHCA has agreed to no further fees charged to VHCA.
  - Been engaging in settlement negotiations
  - If no settlement is reached, a hearing will be held on VHCA's opposition to the motion to dismiss. Possibly December but probably January.
  - Could be expenses but no more legal fees will be incurred by VHCA. Would also have to pay damages if defendants prevailed on their trespass claim, although VHCA's attorney believes it is highly unlikely defendants could prevail on this frivolous claim.
  - Lawyers are split on whether legal fees would be awarded if case goes to trial. American legal system traditionally does not award attorneys fees to the prevailing party. Yet the

premiere real estate attorney in the state who serves as an advisor to judges on real estate title litigation has multiple times indicated it would be likely in this case. VHCA's attorney has also recouped legal fees in a past case.

Comments/Questions from Attendees:

- Behavior of the parties resulted in this situation. It's because of their actions, their threat so they should pay us back – hopes VHCA is aggressive in pursuit of legal fees.
- Is the easement still in place? Yes at this time.
- Any personal liability for the board members? The Board has BoD insurance.

New Business

\_\_\_\_\_ None

Calendar of Public Meetings and Events

- Nov 21st NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside @ 7pm
- Dec 3 14th Annual Breakfast with Santa at Osteria 832 @ 8:30am, 10am and 11:30pm
- Dec 3 Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes  
Home Tour @ 10a - 5p; Food Tastings @ Noon - 4p; History Tour @10a - 2p
- Dec 4 Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes  
Home Tour @11a - 4p; Food Tastings @ Noon - 4p; History Tour @ 10a - 2p
- Dec 7 VHCA Planning Committee at Garrison Hall, Church of Our Savior @ 7pm
- Dec 10 Pictures with Santa for Fire Station #19 @11am until 2pm
- Dec 12 VHCA BoD at Ponce de Leon Library @ 7pm
- Dec 19 NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside @ 7pm

Adjournment

## Accepted Committees and Chairs

### BUDGET

**Co-Chairs:** Jenifer Keenan, George Zirkel; **Committee Members:** Robin Ragland, Kay Stephenson; **Contact:** [budget@vahi.org](mailto:budget@vahi.org)

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### COMMUNICATIONS - COMMUNITY WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAILS

**Chair:** Cindy Kaufman; **Committee Members:** John Becker, Ida Centner, Robin Ragland, Kay Stephenson, George Zirkel; **Contact:** [communications@vahi.org](mailto:communications@vahi.org); **Advertising Sales:** John Becker [ads@vahi.org](mailto:ads@vahi.org)

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### FUNDRAISING

**Contact:** [fundraising@vahi.org](mailto:fundraising@vahi.org)

#### Fundraising – Summerfest

**Co-Chairs:** Paige Hewell, John Becker, Pamela Papner; **Committee Members:** Jordan Garcia, George Zirkel;

**Contact:** [summerfestinfo@vahi.org](mailto:summerfestinfo@vahi.org)

#### Fundraising – Tour Of Homes

**Chair:** Robin Ragland; **Committee Members:** Jenifer Keenan, Erica Berg Brennon, Eleanor Barrineau, Karen Murphree, Angelika Taylor, Peter Harrell, Bill Bell, Pam Bullock, Mary Hallenberg, Mandi Robertson, Mande Harris, Kara Stringer, Sean Davey, Jo Ann Zyla, Alison Hutton, Lori Zurkuhlen, Lola Carlisle, Andy Monfalcone, Stephen Cohen, Kitsy Rose, Holle Gilbert, Amanda Lawhorne; **Contact:** [tour@vahi.org](mailto:tour@vahi.org)

#### Fundraising – Other Events

**Chair:** TBD; **Committee Members:** Cindy Kaufman, Steve Massner, George Zirkel; **Contact:** [summerfestinfo@vahi.org](mailto:summerfestinfo@vahi.org)

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### PARKS

**Chair:** David Brandenberger; **Committee Members:** Eleanor Barrineau, John Clark III, Micah Stringer, Jack White; **Contact:** [parks@vahi.org](mailto:parks@vahi.org)

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### PLANNING

**Chairs:** Variances - Jack White & Barry Loudis; Land Use - TBD; Transportation - Jess Windham; Liquor Licensing & Miscellaneous - Jenifer Keenan

**Committee Members:** Chip Bullock, Lola Carlisle, Jenifer Keenan, Barry Loudis, Debbie Skopczynski, George Van Horne, Jack White, Jess Windham; **Contact:** [planning@vahi.org](mailto:planning@vahi.org)

#### Planning – Preservation & History

**Responsibilities:** Identify and educate the community on the historic features and defining qualities of Virginia-Highland.; **Chair:** Catherine Lewis; **Committee Members:** Lola Carlisle, Raymond Keen, Karri Hobson-Pape, Judy Potter, Robin Ragland, Jack White.; **Contact:** [preservation@vahi.org](mailto:preservation@vahi.org)

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### SAFETY

**Chair:** Eleanor Barrineau; **Committee Members:** Jimmy Craig, Sterling Eaves, Jenifer Keenan, Holly Lybeer, Shannon Mehl, Steve Messner, Deborah Schwartz, Kay Stephenson, John Wolfinger; **Contact:** [safety@vahi.org](mailto:safety@vahi.org)