



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**VHCA General Meeting  
Monday, April 10, 2017; 7:00 PM  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1155 N. Highland Avenue**

**Minutes**

Attendees: David Brandenberger, Cindy Kaufman, Jenifer Keenan, Steve Messner, Troy Murray, Robin Ragland, Debbie Skopczynski, Micah Stringer

On Phone: George Zirkel

Excused: Eleanor Barrineau, Kay Stephenson

Guests: Tara Williams - Foresight Augmented Reality

The president called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and board members introduced themselves.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Robin Ragland to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cindy Kaufman and approved unanimously.

**Community Representatives:**

**Atlanta Police Department Major Peek**, Zone 6 Commander, provided update on crime in the neighborhood. Overall, crime is down 12% YTD. There was an incident of reported abduction that was found to be false due to security camera footage from the neighborhood. Parking issues were discussed, particularly problems that arise during festivals. We were encouraged to report issues to 911. New signage to discourage through traffic has been placed by the department of public works in an attempt to alleviate congestion within the neighborhood while we are dealing with the I-85 bridge collapse.

**Councilman Alex Wan** provided update on the I-85 bridge collapse and the impact on our traffic. Signs were put up by department of public works to discourage through traffic in the neighborhood. GDOT is working on timing the lights near the major entrances/exits to I-85, they will not be manually directing traffic. GDOT looking into pulling non-major road construction while we deal with this, and APD is looking into protecting flow of corridor through use of barrels to assist in merging and to block lanes where appropriate. Alex has been actively updating the community on the I-85 bridge collapse via twitter and FaceBook.

Work on next year's budget begins next Thursday (4/19/17) and Alex encouraged residents to contact him with any specific requests that we would like for him to champion for us. Alex plans to focus on our parks given the increase in greenspace in the neighborhood and the decrease in appropriated funds in the past. Contacts for Alex Wan:



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<http://www.atlantadistrict6.com/>

<https://twitter.com/AlexWanforATL>

<https://www.facebook.com/AlexWanforATL>

**Guests:** Tara Williams and others from Foresight Augmented Reality were present. Their mission is to help the blind and visually impaired better navigate to precise locations (i.e. building entrances) through the use of Bluetooth beacons and an app on your phone. App is free to download, businesses pay a subscription. Taco Mac is a business in Vahi utilizing this technology, and we were encouraged to try it out. More information is available at:

<http://foresightar.com/>

**New Business:**

None

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Committee - Jenifer Keenan**

**Variances**

- V-17-067      1062 Rosewood Drive NE      R-4  
Applicant seeks a reduction in the west sideyard setback from 7' to 3' to accommodate a new detached accessory structure (a single-story, 1-car carport) at the back half of this address.

The variance was discussed and both the homeowners and their immediate neighbor were present. There is a modification to the plans that both parties have agreed upon, but it has not been filed yet. The VHCA was asked to update the website to better reflect the timelines and processes involved in obtaining a variance and to provide clarity around the responsibilities of the various parties involved.

Jenifer motioned to support the modified variance dated 4/10/17, with the condition that it be filed prior to the next NPU meeting. Micah seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.



- V-17-077            1085 Monroe Drive            R-4  
Applicant seeks variance to reduce the required south side yard setback from 7 ft to 3 ft and reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 ft to 5 ft to construct a detached garage.

Jenifer motioned to approve the variance dated 3/21/17 and it was seconded by David. It was approved by all except for an abstention by Debbie based on the condition of the site plan being included in the motion

- V-17-078            1069 Rosedale Drive NE            R-4  
Applicant seeks a reduction in the west sideyard setback from 7' to 3' to accommodate a new detached accessory structure (a single-story, 1-car garage) at the back half of this address.

Jenifer motioned to approve the variance, seconded by Robin and approved unanimously

- Liquor Licenses - Jenifer Keenan
  - None
- Update on business district parking - Jenifer Keenan
  - Parking enforcement is being changed from Park Atlanta to a different agency. Jenifer is working on a letter from VHCA to request that some of the paid spaces in the business district be relocated or to at least have some modifications to the current fee model (first hour free, etc.) The contract with the new agency has not been finalized yet.

#### History and Preservation Committee:

R Raglan provided an update

- FS 19 Project Update - Currently reconciling the project's scope with the city. The cost scope of the design exceed the \$600 million of funding from the infrastructure bond.
- Morningside Mile Results and additional 2017 fundraisers currently planned - The last Morningside Mile raised record amount and current fundraising is at \$16K. They met the fundraising goal of \$130K. Upcoming fundraisers include a Summerfest booth for FS 19 as well as breakfast with Santa

#### Budget Committee/Treasurer's report:

Nothing to report



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#### Parks Committee:

D Brandenberger –

Orme Park - GaGa Ball Pit Update. Pit was installed and is operational. This was made possible by a donation from the Friends of Orme Park

North Highland Park - Park Bench that was missing the center armrest has been repaired

#### Fundraising Committee:

J Keenan provided update on Summerfest:

Dates for the event are June 3,4. The annual neighborhood dinner and movie will take place on June 2 and will include a showing of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story. The volunteer link for Summerfest is currently live:<https://vahi.org/summerfest/volunteers/>

#### Tour of Homes - Robin Ragland

All 7 homes and one historical business have been confirmed. Keller Knapp and Inman Park Marble and Granite have signed up as 2 of our 3 Presenting sponsors, and we have pledges for \$15K of the \$28K goal in sponsorships

#### Business District Task Force - Micah Stringer

First meeting occurred on 3/17/17 and they established an email list for business owners and landlords.

#### Safety Committee (Jenifer read Eleanor Barrineau's report in her absence):

##### Recognition for Station #19 Firefighters

Our wonderful firefighters at Station #19 were the first unit on the scene of the I-85 bridge fire and a key part of the outstanding response that prevented injuries and fatalities that day.

We will be honoring them with dinner for 3 nights this week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) so that we provide for all 3 of their 24-hour shifts of firefighters. We will also presenting them with a letter of thanks.

##### Status of Current Initiatives

- Greenwood/St. Charles Security Reviews: The Safety Committee has completed safety walkarounds of these two streets and is currently working with Street Captains, the City, and APD to make improvements in lighting and other environmental issues to prevent crime on these crucial streets for walking, biking, and parking for local businesses and Beltline access. APD's Community Oriented Policing unit has already conducted a review of one apartment complex where a robbery occurred a few months ago and lighting has been improved there. Major Shepherd of that unit met with Kay and Eleanor recently to review those findings and will also look at several other properties.



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- Security cameras: A small group working on this has met to plan outreach strategy, and has developed documents to facilitate discussion with businesses. An upcoming Voice article will make an appeal to both businesses and residents to list their cameras for APD.
- Event impact: There were a few issues reported with parking and traffic for the Dogwood Festival, but the security provider did an excellent job with signage. We are gathering feedback from the closest streets to help with future planning.

#### Communications Committee -

Nothing to report

#### Old Business

- Update on J&J Bourbon Bar and Grill Noise Citations - Debbie Skopczynski  
Owners were cited and did attend the February NPU, but failed to attend the March NPU. The solicitor was unsure of the next steps, but they are acutely aware of the issues.

#### Calendar: (All meetings are public)

- NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside: April 17, 2017, 7 pm
- VHCA Planning Committee at Church of Our Saviour: May 3, 2017, 7 pm
- South Fork Conservancy's annual "Creek Rising" fundraiser, Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Tickets are \$75/person [southforkconservancy.org](http://southforkconservancy.org)
- VHCA General and Board Meeting at Grace Lutheran: May 8, 2017, 7 pm

Adjourned at 8:18pm