



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**VHCA General Meeting**  
**Monday, January 9th 2016; 7:00 PM; Ponce de Leon Library**

**Minutes**

Attendees: Eleanor Barrineau, David Brandenberger, Jenifer Keenan, Steve Messner, Debbie Skopczynski, Kay Stephenson, Robin Ragland

Excused: George Zirkel, Cindy Kaufman

Resigned: Jess Windham

The president called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and board members introduced themselves.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by K. Stephenson to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by D. Skopczynski and approved unanimously.

APD Cpt. Klotzer ([nklotzer@atlantaga.gov](mailto:nklotzer@atlantaga.gov)) introduced himself to the VHCA. Major crimes being seen in the neighborhood are thefts from autos. Discussed J&J Bourbon Bar being cited for noise problem, discussed body camera use by APD. Officers being trained on cameras beginning this week (1/9/17) recordings being managed by cloud-based service. Cameras not on continuously, need to be tapped on by officer. See article on [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org)

Beth Shapiro and Kay Stephenson discussed survey results. Report published on [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org) Purpose was to measure resident attitudes, perceptions on being informed and where they get information. Awareness of VHCA. Quality of life in the neighborhood. Late Nov - early Dec. Publicized widely via various sources, 393 completed surveys. Key findings: Very informed and engaged community, gain information via neighbors/friends, NextDoor and The Voice; ~60% volunteered or were current volunteers, most knew where to turn to become involved; aware of VHCA; communication, transparency rated high, videotaping meetings rated low; quality of life was very high for the neighborhood. Policy issues were: public safety, commercial district, infrastructure, community parks. Strengths were: walkability, parks/greenspace. Number of respondents thought to be due to reach of the survey, felt that vast majority were notified of survey through the various venues. Plan is to do the survey annually, if not more frequently. Past surveys briefly discussed, but there aren't any similar surveys to compare to. Plan is to use this as a benchmark. Feel approx 7000-8500 adults in the neighborhood, master plan cites 9500 total (including children). Intent is to do more specific surveys, focus groups based on results of this initial survey.

Jenifer discussed plans for exploring business district task force, interacting with other neighborhood associations.

Appointment and confirmation of new board members; Resigned - Paige Hewell (summerfest), Jess Windham (secretary). Jenifer discussed the bylaws section 3.6. New members are:



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Micah Stringer (president of Atkins Park) - director; unanimously confirmed by the board  
Troy Murray - Alternate director; unanimously confirmed by the board

Steve Messner - Nominated by Jenifer Keenan, seconded by D. Skopczynski and unanimously confirmed as secretary.

### **Committee Reports:**

Reports from Robin Ragland were advanced.

#### History and Preservation Committee – Robin Ragland

Met with architects for the firehouse renovations, and it was approved. Upcoming community meetings are the next step for input.

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

2017 Budget circulated by George to the board, will post on website

Motion to approve: R Ragland, Seconded by: K Stephenson  
Voted in unanimously by the board

#### Parks Committee:

D Brandenberger - down to 12 bricks left for the N Highland park, \$100/brick. Board members encouraged to purchase bricks.

Bike share program meeting postponed - there are 3 bikeshares in process of getting permitted: Greenwood/belt line, near 10,000 villages, by Fontains/highland tap

#### Fundraising Committee:

Wed 1/11/17 is kickoff meeting. George and Jenifer have been working with Pamela Papner to understand the workings of Summerfest. Identified areas of need are:

- Vendor management for 5K road race
- Operations manager for local market
- PR vendor oversight and advertising/printing
- Bike Valet
- Local business partnerships

Artist market will soon be accepting applications online. Juried selection to occur in March

\$59K in festival sponsorships to date



Tour of Homes - Robin Ragland  
Article in The Voice

Safety Committee - Eleanor Barrineau

Body cameras discussed earlier

Plan to have early March meeting for street captains. Details to be posted on The Voice, [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org)

Greenwood (Barnett to N Highland), Greenwood (by beltline), Barnett, Park

Street captain - communicates with their street. Obtain email addresses for the neighbors, they forward the safety reports and add information specific for their street. Communicate back to the safety committee, organize block parties. Question raised about updating lists, use welcome packets, discuss best practices at the street captain meetings

Communications Committee - Kay Stephenson

Cindy stepped down as chair, will remain on committee. Kay is new chair. Transitioning from paying John Becker managing/editing website, will use Stephen Cohen after next issue of The Voice. Working on an editorial calendar for the year with themes, future articles, etc. Recruiting for regular columns (president, safety, business focus). Use of social media to engage more neighbors, use this to drive content in The Voice and on website.

New Business - Jenifer Keenan

Vote on Committee Goals 2016/2017 - motion to approve by D. Skopczynski, seconded by K Stephenson - voted to approved unanimously approved by straw and board votes

Todd Memorial Lawsuit - Agreement in place, waiting on signed settlement agreement. This will be published on the website to share the terms of the agreement. VHCA Committee Open House 1/29/17 3:00 - 5:00 (note start time was incorrect on the agenda) at DBA BBQ - appetizers provided! Purpose is to introduce the neighborhood to the various committees on the VHCA. Information on the business district task force will also be presented.

Renew Atlanta meeting moved to 2/28/17 at Ebenezer Church to discuss the Monroe Road Diet. Public input will be heard at this meeting regarding the Monroe/Boulevard complete streets. All are encouraged to attend and voice your support.

Calendar: (All meetings are public)

- NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside: Mon., January 16, 2017
- VHCA Planning Committee at Garrison Hall, Church of Our Savior: Wed., February 8, 2017
- VHCA General and Board Meeting at Ponce de Leon Library: Mon., February 13, 2017

Adjourned at 8:18pm



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