



VHCA General Meeting
Monday, February 13th 2017; 7:00 PM; Grace Lutheran Church

Minutes

Attendees: Eleanor Barrineau, David Brandenberger, Cindy Kaufman, Jenifer Keenan, Steve Messner, Debbie Skopczynski, Kay Stephenson, Micah Stringer, George Zirkel

On Phone: Robin Ragland

Excused: Troy Murray

Guests: Alex Wan, Andrew Hughes, APD Lt. J D Patterson

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.

Community Representatives:

Councilman Alex Wan spoke about the public safety forum and the complete streets project. There has not been a decision made yet about the Monroe Road Diet. They are seeking public input. TSPLOST will begin being distributed in April, 2017.

Community Prosecutor Solicitor Andrew Hughes came to assist in mediation of neighbors and owner of J&J Bourbon bar, however, the owner was not present at the VHCA meeting. There was an offer made to the court on 2/10/17, however, the judge did not accept the fine and conditions. Part of the conditions are that the owner attend the NPU meeting (2/20/17 @ 7pm, Hillside Center). It was advised to continue to call the police for any complaints.
ahughes@atlantaga.gov

Lt. Patterson introduced himself and asked about the noise complaints from J&J Bourbon Bar, advised he will look into the complaints. New to patrol on Zone 6, but familiar with our neighborhood. Working 3pm-11pm. There is a new robbery unit that is investigating the recent armed robberies. Lt. Patterson advised that they will be using blue lights during his shift, and is placing additional patrols in our neighborhood as much as possible. Encouraged clean car campaign to minimize crimes of opportunity, having house numbers clearly visible, reporting damaged street lights. Last 28 days, 24 larceny from vehicles, 1 commercial, 2 pedestrian robberies, 6 larcenies from vehicles this past week. jpatterson@atlantaga.gov

Dan Murphy from Relay Bike Share brought handouts about the upcoming stations in Vahi, Atkins Park. Launched on 6/9/16 expand from 100 to 500 bikes in mid to late April. Will be ~8 stations around Vahi. TSPLOST will help to double the amount by late 2018 to 1000 bikes. #4 is proposed at Virginia and Highland at loading zone space, plan to put 10 bikes, essentially in front of Fontain's, #7 is proposed for St. Charles and N Highland, parking spot west of driveway to Atkins Park, plan to put 10 bikes. Encouraged us to come up with artistic work to put on the bike sites. George Zirkel discussed the challenges that arose with trying to put a bike share in



North Highland Park due to zoning. There will be daily and monthly rates for the use of the system, and the flexibility to lock bikes up outside of the stations if the entire station is full. Current bikes are a “demo fleet” and will be taken off the streets when new bikes arrive. New fleet will have 8 speeds as opposed to demos that were 3 speeds. Lifespan is estimated to be 5 years, they have maintenance program. www.relaybikeshare.com

New Business:

Jenifer discussed the upcoming Renew Atlanta meeting that will be held on 2/28/17 from 6pm to 8pm at Big Bethel AME Church. 3 Separate plans recommend a road diet on Monroe/Boulevard based on data looking at safety. There is an article in The Voice and we are encouraging residents to attend the meeting and support the road diet. Copies of the article will be brought to the NPU and Renew Atlanta meetings.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee - Jenifer Keenan

- Variances
 - V-17-015; 944 Los Angeles NE; R-4. Applicant Michelle Moody seeks reduction in the south front yard setback from 35' (required) to 16' (existing) to construct a second-floor addition entirely in the current footprint. Lot coverage will be <35%

Michelle discussed the project and Jack White advised that the planning committee recommended approval unanimously

Motion to approve made by K Stephenson, seconded by C Kaufman and unanimously approved by the board

- Liquor Licenses - Jenifer Keenan
 - None

History and Preservation Committee:

R Raglan provided an update on the firehouse renovation. Currently working within the design budget of \$120K, however, additional expenses may be incurred. There is still \$15000 to raise.

About 20 circa 1980s editions of The Voice are going to be uploaded to the website

A second book on the history of Vahi is in the works by Lola.

Budget Committee/Treasurer's report:

2016 overview report given by G Zirkel.

Parks Committee:

D Brandenberger – complaints by neighbors that people using the outlets to charge their devices, so power was cut off. Electrician coming to fix one of the lights in the park. The triangle was cleaned up and mulched. Contract with Evergreen Landscaping put in place to



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continue to maintain the triangle. Stuart Meddin, the owner of the commercial property on the northeast corner of Virginia and N. Highland is donating \$500 to offset these landscaping costs.

J Howell Park and N Highland Park both have a bench with missing middle arm. City will replace once materials are in.

Expecting bids for masonry and brick work at J Howell Park. 3/11/17, Saturday, having clean up event at J Howell Park

Orme Park – Friends of Orme Park are going to fund a gaga ball pit and will be likely be installed in the next few months. Similar to dodge ball played in hexagonal or octagonal pit, hit like a handball. Plan is to be made of cedar.

Fundraising Committee:

J Keenan provided update on Summerfest: Second committee meeting is this Wed, 2/15/17. Working with P Papner. 2 acustic stages - one hear Park Drive entrance and one at N. Highland entrance.

Kids Fest being moved to along Arcadia – looking into other activities such as sand castle contest, etc.

S Messner will be organizing the local market

Tour of Homes - Robin Ragland

Working on finding sponsors, interest shown, but no one signed up yet. Looking for an overall chair of the tour.

Safety Committee - Eleanor Barrineau

3/4/17 – Neighborhood Watch Meeting – Updates on video integration center, we have 9 cameras in our neighborhood, will have body camera demo. Effort to link business cameras to the system. Working on getting residential camera footage to the police when necessary.

Working on lighting – identifying dark areas and areas of high pedestrian traffic to identify where landscaping needs to occur or lighting updated.

Piedmont Park events – D Skopcynski working on communication plans with residents when events are occurring that impact parking.

Communications Committee - Kay Stephenson

Recruited 2 new writers and a photographer from the open house. Met with Ida and Scott about website. Plan is to refresh the template to increase efficiency and standardization to improve performance. Working on content submission form. Finance pages redone. Social Media – cross posting set up between the various platforms, goal is for comprehensive social media. C Kaufman is working on creating official instagram account for VHCA. K Stephenson met with Gusto owners and they are interested in engaging with neighborhood – summerfest, tour of homes. There will be a story in The Voice. Posted 16 articles, 2 newsletters. Had tremendous engagement with new social media strategy.

Old Business - Jenifer Keenan



Todd Memorial Lawsuit – Final Settlement Agreement signed today by J Keenan, anticipate all signatures in next few days. Once final, Jenifer will do an article and post a copy of the settlement agreement on the website.

Joint VHCA/MLPA Security Forum on 2/6/17 was a huge success. Jenifer met with MLPA president and they anticipate more collaboration with Morningside.

Open house 1/29/17 provided by K Stephenson - ~35 new volunteers identified, some signed up for multiple committees. DBA provided 2 gift cards. Plan to have quarterly events with the next one being more social in nature.

Business district task force – Micah said there was a lot of interest at the open house and they are planning to meet and work on the business task force

Transportation/sidewalk task force – Jenifer provided update. Troy will be heading up this task force which will look at infrastructure (traffic calming, crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.) Robin reported neighbors getting sidewalks repaired by calling 311 to report damage due to trees that are in the right of way

Calendar: (All meetings are public)

- NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside: Mon., Feb 20, 2017 @ 7pm
- VHCA Planning Committee at Garrison Hall, Church of Our Savior: Wed., March 8, 2017 @ 7pm
- VHCA General and Board Meeting Grace Lutheran Church, 1155 N. Highland Ave: Mon., March 13, 2017 @ 7pm

K Stephenson informed us that Inman Park is doing a pop-up about the successful neighborhood fight to keep the highway out of the neighborhood on 2/24 & 25 in Inman Park, in the alley by King of Pops – details will be on the website

Adjourned at 8:46pm