



**General and Board Meeting  
Monday, March 13, 2017; 7:00 PM  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1155 N. Highland Avenue**

**Minutes**

**Attendees: Eleanor Barrineau, David Brandenberger, Jenifer Keenan, Debbie Skopczynski, Kay Stephenson, Robin Ragland, Troy Murray**  
**Excused: George Zirkel, Steve Messner**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Debbie motioned to commence the meeting and Kay seconded the motion. 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 - Sgt J Hines Zone introduced himself as the Zone 6 evening watch. He reminded us not to leave things in eye sight in car.

New Business

- Update on Renew Atlanta Complete Streets - Jenifer Keenan
  - Deadline for comments to Renew Atlanta extended from March 15th to March 29th  
It is important for those who support the road diet to submit comments to Renew Atlanta Complete.

Jenifer read the following statement then motioned for VHCA support of the road diet:

*The safety of citizens who live on and use Monroe has been a primary concern of the VHCA and the City of Atlanta over the last five years. The high number of traffic wrecks, including two fatalities in less than a year, have made the conditions along this road a major neighborhood focus.*

*The Connect Atlanta Plan and the BeltLine Subarea 6 Plan both supported a road diet for Monroe. The consultants who examined traffic data for the Virginia-Highland's Master Plan recommended a Complete Streets approach to Monroe that also included (among other features) a road diet. All these plans were formally adopted by the Atlanta City Council.*

*Renew Atlanta's recently completed study proposes the same idea and estimates a 29% reduction in car accidents with a road diet and a much safer set of conditions for vehicles and other users. Furthermore, the traffic circle at Park and Monroe, which is only feasible if there is a Road Diet, will result in a 60% reduction of injuries at that intersection. The road diet comes with a cost, though – significantly higher PM peak travel times for drivers on Monroe between the freeway and Yorkshire Drive.*

*It would be nice if we had a Monroe Drive that behaves like it did when the number of cars was far smaller. But that's not an option – those days are not coming back. While the road's traffic count dropped by 20% in the recession of the mid-2000's (and may be somewhat variable in the future), the dangerous conditions on Monroe are constant. We can't eliminate traffic on Monroe, but we can certainly make the road safer.*



*With or without a road diet, some levels of growth are likely. But the road diet offers a far safer Monroe, one that is slower and safer for drivers, pedestrians, Grady students, BeltLine users and cyclists – and far more compatible with its residential character.*

*The Road Diet is the best way to improve safety on Monroe. Its design will reduce speed and left-turn blind spots 24 hours a day regardless of volume, and it will promote and safeguard the viability of single-family homes along Monroe. We all regret the delays, but the safety of all the users of Monroe trumps the convenience of slower trips and should be the top priority for the City.*

The straw vote - 4 in favor and one opposed (80% in favor)

The motion to support carried on unanimous vote. Debbie suggested we send the statement to Alex and Kwanza reflecting the vote.

### Planning Committee

- Variances

- V-17-022          568 Park Drive

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required east side yard from 7 feet to 3 feet in order to erect an accessory structure (garage).

The previous house is being torn down and new house and is being built. Planning Committee unanimously approved

Jenifer moved to approve and Debbie seconded

Straw 4 yes, 0 no

Motion carries on unanimous voice vote

- V-17-036          936 Glen Arden Way

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required west side yard from 7 feet to 3 feet and to reduce the required front yard from 35 feet to 30 feet in order to erect a second story addition

Same as 1062 Maryland, this is a building up. There are 3 trees that are in bad shape; Planning Committee approved. Neighbors approved

Jenifer moved to approve and David seconded

Motion carries on unanimous voice vote

- V-17-037          1062 Maryland

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard from 35 feet to 24.4 feet and to reduce the required south side yard from 7 feet to 2.66 feet in order to erect a second story addition.

Variance is for building up and no trees impacted. Planning Comm approved Neighbors have been notified and all approve.

Jenifer moved and Kay seconded

Motion carries on unanimous voice vote



- V-17-038      897 Highland View Avenue  
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard from 35 feet to 18 feet and to reduce the required west side yard from 7 feet to 3 feet in order to erect a second story addition.

Adding second floor heated space over open front porch  
Planning Comm approved Neighbors have been notified and all approve.  
Jenifer moved and Debbie seconded  
Motion carries on unanimous voice vote

- Liquor Licenses - Jenifer Keenan
  - None

#### History and Preservation Committee

- Update on Fire Station 19 - Robin Ragland

The team met with the city to review the construction estimates, scope, and gap in funding. While there is no resolution yet, the city is working on identifying additional revenue sources for the project, and are optimistic we can do the whole project. A checkpoint is expected within the next ten days.

- Morningside Mile – last one

#### Budget Committee/Treasurer's Report

- No Report

#### Parks Committee - David Brandenberger

- John Howell Park Volunteer Work Day Update

15 people showed up and had successful clean up – especially on the runoff issue on the

- Orme Park GaGa Ball Pit Update

VHCA has procured and should be installed in the next 1.5 months

#### Fundraising Committee

- Summerfest - Jenifer Keenan – next meeting is next Thursday

All is on track

Soon to have push for volunteers

Two acoustic stages in lieu of one this year

- Tour of Homes - Robin Ragland

Keller Williams confirmed as sponsor

One historic building

3 houses confirmed and should increase

#### Safety Committee

- Update on 3/4 Street Captain Meeting - Eleanor Barrineau



Great discussion on body cameras

Will be approaching business to see if there are cameras facing street

To register a camera – email [safetyvahi@gmail.com](mailto:safetyvahi@gmail.com) – mention street it faces, name, address location

Tomorrow – street tour of St Charles and Greenwood

We have added one street light

#### Communications Committee

- Website

New Content Submission Form – this will allow neighbors to know of events going on

Community Calendar

Improved Process for Ads Payment

New/Updated pages to support Summerfest

Background fixes (e.g. Facebook form with old logo/graphics)

- VOICE

New Columns – a revived column on Highlander Hoers

- Ad Sales
- Welcomemat Service

Kay asked for any suggestions/edits/comments

#### Old Business

- Todd Memorial settlement - Jenifer Keenan

Settlement was signed by all parties

- Update on J&J Bourbon Bar and Grill Noise Citations - Debbie Skopczynski

Sited two by APD

Judge ordered JJ to attend NPU - they agreed to add compressor

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

- NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside: March 20, 2017, 7 pm
- VHCA Planning Committee at Church of Our Saviour: April 5, 2017
- VHCA General and Board Meeting at Grace Lutheran: April 10, 2017, 7 pm

Adjournment at 8:15 PM