



## General Board Meeting - Agenda & Notes December 12, 2022 - 7:00-9:30 PM

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1155 N Highland Avenue NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

**Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83583670169>  
Meeting ID: 835 8367 0169  
+13092053325,,83583670169# US

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**VHCA Directors:** Johnson Bazzel, Melissa Clark, Kim Gnatt, Amy Harward, Lisl Kuegemam Huber, Jim Long, Leah Matthews, Alex Saucedo, Karen-Jane Wright, Mike Lewis, Jess Liddick (absent with notice)

**Neighbors In attendance:** Peter Joerss (neighbor), Marc Nevitt (Neighbor, Park committee), Mark Huppert, Adam Stillman (Architect for 571 Park), Robin Ragland, Catherine, Mike Green (Portman representative), Kate Voelpel, Sam, Debbie S., Aaron Fortner

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**Approval of Minutes from prior month's Board meeting - Leah - approved**

**Review Agenda - Leah - approved**

### **Atlanta Police Department - Lieutenant White**

- Provided following update: She will be leaving this post in next few days. Chris Butler will be replacing her as the new Evening Watch officer.
- Last month - 35 crimes in last 30 days. 1 crime agst person, 1 agst society, 33 agst property. Still seeing issues with death from automobiles and auto thefts.
- Advice - Don't leave valuables inside the vehicle. Don't warm your cars and leave them unattended - high risk for getting stolen. Kia & Hyundai thefts continue to be most stolen vehicles. Recommendation to use the Club to prevent stealing.
- Crime down 11% this period
- Increasing patrolling this month due to holiday period

### **Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -**

- City Councilman District 6 - **Alex Wan** - not present
- State District 57 Representative - **Stacey Evans**; Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff **not present**
- US House 5th District - **Nikema Williams** - not present

### **Planning Variances Discussion - Planning Committee**

- 571 Park Drive - presented by Adam Stillman. Proposing lot coverage change from 52% to 59.4% and Setback from 15%. Using a permeable drain system.
- Planning committee conducted a site visit and recommended approval. Board approved 7 to 1. 1 negated. 2 abstained.
- Discussion around criteria we are using. Discussion around if permeable drains are the effective route for lot coverage.
- Request made by board to Planning committee to bring criteria forward in 2023 for discussion and review.



### City of Atlanta Zoning & Atlanta Botanical Gardens Update - Aaron Fortner

1. Zoning Update: We have an opportunity to advocate on behalf of VHCA. City of Atlanta Zoning laws were set in 1980. Up for revision next year. Recc to work with Alex Won's team to ensure VHCA neighborhood requests are considered. Aaron to provide dates for 2023 public meetings that City of Atlanta will hold so we can ensure VHCA advocacy
2. Monroe Self Storage / Atlanta Botanical Garden Update: Meeting occurred today with ABG and Aaron. They can do exactly what they are proposing to do. It is a live application to be approved by City in the next 3 weeks. In meeting today - Aaron on behalf of VAHI made requests listed below:
  - a. Requested they slow down. Take time to hear from the neighborhood so it's a joint process - ABG agreed. We will have until the end of January to work with them on the proposal.
  - b. Requested no curb cut access on Cooledge. Eliminate turning Right on Cooledge. ABG agreed to look into accommodating.
  - c. Improve our Architectural design - ABG agreed
  - d. Better ground floor activation on Monroe - initially resistant. Shifted to more open. Will come back with their thoughts.
  - e. Consider bringing garden element to this site - provide long-term civic value ie. garden on the roof. - Will come back to see if they can incorporate green space.
3. Next steps: get architectural recommendations to Mark and Chip for input. Make sure we're getting their response to our request and review by the first week in January.
4. Willingness to ensure Zoning precautions are made for future to ensure Beltline commercial areas have zoning laws that we support. Alex Wono's office is leading the effort. Aaron recommended we engage Alex's office that we want to be a part of that effort.

### 2023 Committee Priorities & Budget - Committee leads to share

- Committees to continue sharing their priorities & budget needs for 2023  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19ecYeurFZ4zVWDcy\\_whUc6iGh-HvtF7uIcmrcv60IQQ/edit#gid=36807363](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19ecYeurFZ4zVWDcy_whUc6iGh-HvtF7uIcmrcv60IQQ/edit#gid=36807363)
  - Transportation & Safety: Their 2023 priorities will include: the new Virginia Highland school due to fact that VH students will not have APS transportation - ensure walkability of school is top priority for neighborhood children - **Amy & Johnson**
  - History & Preservation - Fire Station reopening event in January on 1/7 ribbon cutting. Discussion around Todd Memorial in progress.
- Summerfest 2023 Recommendation - **Leah & Alex**
  - June 10th Summerest - one day event for cost purposes.
  - Will have a Friday night event.
  - LY \$200K budget. Will keep \$200K for 2023 as baseline
- Ball Budget - **Leah**
  - Working on 50th anniversary Ball/Gala. Friday 4/28

### Committee Updates

- Budget - Jess Liddick / Leah Matthews
  - Treasurer's Report (see below report):
    - VHCA operates at 93% to the community (admin and communication 7%)



- Compiling \$ from the FS19 event - some funds to VHCA for raffle proceeds, some funds to VHCL's FS19 holding and some to VHCL general for merch that Lola donated
- Communications - KJ Wright
  - Voice submissions: we put out VOICE on 1st and 15th with some exceptions. Deadline for submission is 5 days prior. Provides much heads up and as much information as possible & social media post requests. Due to KJ on 24th and 10th.
  - Please send email newsletter inclusion requests to the Communications email group.
- Education - Melissa Clark & Lisl Kuegeman Huber - announcement: information about new school - Town Hall in Inman Auditorium w/ Principal Harness and PTO Tuesday, 12/13
- Fundraising/Event - Leah Matthews & Mary Peck
  - Winterfest & FireStation #19 HouseWarming Event - hit their budget. Huge success in the community. Good partnership with Winterfest.
    - Firehouse: They need household items and furniture. Neighborhood can contribute items through SignUp Genius and/or Amazon Wishlist. Will share details once meeting occurs with Station and they provide input.
- Parks - Jim Long
  - John Howell - 163 surveys completed . Survey respondents really liked basketball, pickleball, and lighting. Questions raised about noise, cost. New good ideas were shared including a covered picnic area. Next step: Peter coming back with a cost estimate.
  - North Highland Park - Learning about homeless population and trying to establish ways to make progress on improving the space. Making progress on removing the foliage and the platform, electrical recommendations incl breaker box, outlets.
    - Successful Park Cleanups last 2 Sundays. Park looks a lot better.
  - Orme Park - no updates
  - Other - none
- Planning - Co-chairs Amy Harward & Alex Saucedo - no updates
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson Bazzel & Amy Harward - no updates
- Grants - Lisl Kuegeman Huber
  - Friends of Ponce de Leon Library request - motion to donate \$500 - approved
  - Motion to donate \$2,500 to the YWCA - approved
  - Motion to donate \$2,500 to the new Virginia-Highland Elem. - approved
  - YTD - ones in green below are proposed but not yet voted on

2022

Midtown High CCC College & Career Center	\$1,000
Midtown High School Foundation	\$1,250
Midtown High School Foundation	\$1,250
David T. Howard Middle School Foundation	\$1,250
David T Howard PTO	\$1,250
Springdale Park Elementary PTO	\$2,500
Virginia Highland Security Patrol	\$5,000
Friends of the Ponce de Leon Library	\$500



YWCA	\$2,500
Virginia-Highland Elementary	\$2,500
	<hr/>
	\$19,000

- Updating records going back to 2007, VHCA has donated **\$295,641** to the community!
- Secretary Update:
  - Website update requests  VHCA Website Edits.xlsx
  - Ida Centner has been updating committee email distribution lists
  - VAHI Community Meeting / Town Hall - date (Wed 1/25, Mon 1/30), location Dad's or Virginia Highland Church

### Old Business - none

### New Business

- Membership Dues - Leah - would we consider dues from neighborhood residents? Leah proposed putting it on the table to explore. Research done: only neighborhood association that doesn't charge dues. Ansley Park, Inman Park, Lake Claire, Druid Hills, Midtown. Only two organizations that don't take dues.
- Leah will craft proposal and come back to group with recommendation

### Announcements

#### Calendar (All meetings are public)

- 2023 Meeting Calendar  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CVn8ZKN9eMTGaMALX1Vgkx\\_8gyjIZFn\\_gcjgPdUOWL/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CVn8ZKN9eMTGaMALX1Vgkx_8gyjIZFn_gcjgPdUOWL/edit#gid=0)
- Dec 14 - Ponce and Ponce Meeting at Virginia-Highland Church 6-8pm
- January 8 - Second Sunday! hands on parks day - bring your own rake, shovel, etc



Treasurer's Monthly Report

As of the end of October, our budget performance is +\$31,036 net for the year. A summary of actual income and expenses is below. The details behind each grouping is included in "2022 Income" and "2022 Expenses of the VHCA Budget Template and available to anyone wanting more details.

This month's financial items to note:

- Organization is operating at net \$31,036 for the year
- Concert Series ticket sales went to VHCL as tax-deductible, John Howell Park specific donations. That income is not reflected here.
- Frawley and Associates are to be paid from VHCL since they are working on the John Howell Park specific project. That expense is not reflected here.
- Still a few expenses to hit in November for Halloween fun but those don't appear to be significant
- The profit margin on Tour of Homes was about 88%.
- The profit margin on Summerfest was about 9%.
- If we did no events at all, the organization would need about \$35,000 to keep the lights on, service the parks, and consult for planning.

**Virginia-Highland Civic Association  
Transaction Report**

**January - October, 2022**

Thursday, Nov 03, 2022 10:47:12 AM GMT-7 - Cash Basis

Income	Amount
General	\$ 14,085.52
Tour of Homes	\$ 56,861.44
Summerfest	\$ 217,273.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 288,220.02</b>
Expenses	Amount
Administration	\$ 12,566.20
Communications	\$ 4,323.36
Grants/Donations	\$ 17,269.79
Tour of Homes	\$ 9,319.71
Social Events (Concert 11/5)	\$ 2,830.50
Parks Committee	
Total for General	\$ 1,475.25
Total for John Howell	\$ 3,315.82
Total for N. Highland Park	\$ 3,285.59
Total for Orme Park	\$ 88.42
Total for Triangle Park	\$ 1,860.30
Total Parks	\$ 10,025.38
Planning	\$ 3,815.00
Summerfest	\$ 197,033.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 257,183.29</b>
<b>Income Minus Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 31,036.73</b>