



General Board Meeting - Agenda April 10, 2023 - 7:00-9:00 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

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

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

Review Current Agenda - Leah - approved

Guests & Elected Officials

Atlanta Police Department - Sergeant Johnson - Provided the report for the month of May - 5 crimes against persons (1 fondling, 3 simple assaults), 34 crimes against property (17 theft from motor vehicles, 3 burglaries, 6 damage to property), 0 crimes against society. Citywide trend targeting Kia's and Hyundai's - invest in steering wheel club, Take key fobs into your house if you have an electric starting vehicle/electric key. You can buy a Faraday bag which blocks the signal of the key to the car.

[https://www.amazon.com/Upgraded-Faraday-TICONN-Premium-Protector/dp/B07MDF5TX9?th=](https://www.amazon.com/Upgraded-Faraday-TICONN-Premium-Protector/dp/B07MDF5TX9?th=1)

[1](#) Clean Car Campaign - don't leave valuables in your vehicles and/or don't leave in plain sight (laptops, cellphones, tablets), store your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle. Do in advance of arriving at your destination. Several citywide efforts to make big arrests for vehicle criminals. Has been a decline since this effort put in place. Still a lot of work to do.

Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -

- City Councilman District 6 - **Alex Wan** - not present
- US House 5th District - **Nikema Williams** - not present
 - She is supporting HR.1699, Bill proposed in the House for the creation of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- State District 57 Representative - **Stacey Evans**; Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff - will be present to share legislative session outcomes
 - Celebrate No City of Buckhead. Huge win. Battle was mostly won in Senate. Didn't make it to the House. Senator Sonya Halpern and Evans will host a 4/18 Town Hall will go Bill by Bill to review what occurred and got approved during Session via Zoom. Link <http://www.npu-s.org/2023/04/tactical-urbanism-workshop-april-11.html>. Top priorities are Transportation and Unemployment
- District 4 Fulton County Commissioner - **Natalie Hall** - Mr. Harris joined meeting on behalf of Commissioner Hall. Provided an update.
 - Presentation of key highlights of Fulton County and General Assembly occurred recently. Fulton County Commissioner has been advocating for a Mental Health



program to support the City of Atlanta. It was agreed upon and COA was appointed \$6.5MM to start the project. Will be meeting with Health & Human Services this week. With Atlanta Medical closing, Grady is the only Level 1 hospital in the City of Atlanta.

- Board of Commissioners are meeting this Wednesday. Will be doing a mid-year budget review. Will include funding request for Special Election on May 8th.
- Their office is available to assist our neighborhood with the following: (1) Community Cleanups, (2) Ensuring families get fed / food availability, (3) Youth needing employment during the summer. Contact Mr. Harris for information

Planning Variances

- Variance 1 - House on Park Drive - 664 Park Drive - Nina Gentry (Gentry Planning Services), Ben Kundhi (homeowner), existing house that was demolished. Approved for construction. Remaining 1 story garage and existing pool. Recommendation made to approve the proposal for a 2nd story and moving of structure by 3 feet. Unanimous vote to approve by entire board
- Variance 2 and Special Exception - Melissa Gamble - request to build a pool at corner of Virginia Circle and Barnett - adjacent to the street. Variance requires depth setback from 17 to 16 feet. Reduction of rear setback from 15' to 2.5' . Have talked to neighbors. Rear neighbors agreed to it as both neighbors on either side. Recommendation for approval - board all approved yes. Passes 9 - 0

Officer & Committee Updates

- Budget - Jess / Leah - Review Treasurer's Report
 - Concert for JHP raised at least \$3,763.77! Awaiting a refund from A1. Amount above expenses will be transferred to VHCL.
 - For JHP renovation, the invoice on Frawley's work around the playground equipment scoping and stormwater retention coordination was forwarded to VHCL to pay.
 - Budget v Actual through March 31 was distributed to board and will be posted to vahi.org on the Budget Committee page <https://vahi.org/committees/financials/>
 - SF costs are coming in for marketing (Andi) and sponsorship work (Rick) while income is coming in from the 5k registrations - which are outpacing even 2017, which drew over a thousand runners! (\$2,555 deposited so far for 5k March and April deposits)
 - YTD Income minus expenses is -\$12,695.01 as of March 31
 - Discussion around help with sponsorships - consider hiring consultant to assist across all fundraisers
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy - proposal to Alex Wan's office that was reviewed in last meeting. Hoping to report an update next month.
- Communications - KJ - discussed content for upcoming newsletters
- Education - Melissa & Lisl - there will be no rezoning for the upcoming year. There is residency review occurring now for Midtown High. If you have a Kindergartner, registration is open now for Springdale Park and Virginia Highland elementary
- Fundraising/Event - Leah -
 - Concert Series update - fun night. Went well. Need sponsors for future events to boost revenue and engagement. Didn't raise as much as we desired. Financials in above treasurer report



- Easter Egg Hunt update. Easter Egg Hunt was success. About 60 kids in attendance. 525 eggs. Free community event, activated North Highland Park
- Gala is coming up on 4/28. 40% sold through. Max is 250. Band and photographer is set. Step & Repeat is done. Working on 1 raffle basket. Would like 1 additional item. Try to launch Friends of VAHI at the Gala.
- Movie - expecting rain this weekend. Trying to move the date. North Highland Park - new date - Friday, 5/19.
- Tour of Homes - Melissa All 6 homes are selected. October 21st is the new date.
- Summerfest - Alex
 - 5K signup has started. Going really well. Beating last year's numbers.
 - Email blast to 100 email addresses of artist market applicants. Betty is vetting them.
 - Using Fresh Tickets for Friday night event
 - Alex may not be available for the day of Summerfest. Need board to engage as needed.
- Parks - Jim Long - talking to Park Pride this week with Jack
- Planning - Amy & Alex - will begin discussions with Portman team on Amsterdam Walk project. Traffic is highest topic of order. We could do a walk through of the property with the current plan.
- Grants- Lisl - no update

Old Business

City Board - billboard - need to get with Alex's office to understand our opportunity to use it

Announcements

2023 Calendar (All meetings are public)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CVn8ZKN9eMTGaMALX1Vgkx_8gvjIZFn_gcjgPdUOWLY/edit#gid=0