



## General Board Meeting - Agenda May 8, 2023 - 7:00-8:00 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

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

**Neighbors In attendance:** Jack White, Katie Voelpel, Allison, Aubrey,

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**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 - not present**

### Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -

- City Councilman District 6 - **Alex Wan**
  - Budget hearings started last week. Will be adopted in June. \$790MM is total budget (2010 - was about \$550MM.) With Aviation and other - total COA budget of \$3B. Funding is available. His preference is to focus the funding initiatives against things we can be successful at.
    - Alex's recommendation for focus: Transportation, Buildings, Parks
  - Transportation - thank you to our committee. He introduced a list of recommendations that we supported. Reviewing them in front of the city constituency tomorrow. He expects them to get approved. VHCA to remember to ask for a timeline once the project gets approved so we can be prepared as a community. Consider getting Michelle Olympiadis involved to see if we can get implemented before VH Elementary opens.
  - 10th and Monroe project - met today with the project team. anticipate constructions to start late summer into September. Will be done in 3 phases. Beltline is involved in the process including bikes coming and going. All work must be completed by 2025. Intersection will have a distinct demarcation including a raised pathway above the street.
  - Gun Violence discussion: recent spike and impact to local community
    - City focused on ensuring gun safety in the city. Andre Dickens, ATL Mayor supportive of gun safety. APD has been focused on it for the past 4+ years. Lot of car break ins . APD is trying to solve the crimes as quickly as possible. License plate readers were effective in last week's effort to find the perpetrator. Key lies in the state legislature.



- Get guns out of the cars.
- Pressure on Fulton County for Mental Health programs.
- Advocacy at State Level
- Difficult to change Open Carry but might be an opportunity to focus on exemptions for open carry like Schools.
- Consider De-escalation lessons and conflict resolution at community level
- Strategy: APD is the source of gun incidents. Talk to Zone Commanders and ask for a monthly view. Is there a database of gun incidents? Can we publish on a consistent and clear basis?
- Alex to confirm 'what is status of Buy Back program?', do we have data collection on gun incidents?
- Consider a Town Hall to focus w/ Fulton County to discuss Mental Health, APD to discuss Gun violence/safety,
- State District 57 Representative - **Stacey Evans**; Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff - not present
- US House 5th District - **Nikema Williams** - not present
- District 4 Fulton County Commissioner - **Natalie Hall** - not present

**Variance Reviews - Planning Committee** - not present

**8:00 pm Atlanta Beltline Subarea 6 Master Plan update - Brittany Brewster, Community Engagement Manager, and Lynette Reid, Beltline**

- The purpose of this plan will serve as a policy tool to help guide future growth and development for a vibrant and livable mixed-use community. The draft plan will be open for public comment through the month of June. For questions about the next steps or the plan itself, please contact Lynette Reid or Brittany Brewster at [engage@atlbeltline.org](mailto:engage@atlbeltline.org)
- Original plan adopted in 2011 before the Beltline was built. It serves as a policy tool for land use, mobility, open space and affordable housing.
- Presentation available for review. Aaron Fortner provided input to the document. Will go in front of CDP next year. Community Development. Send feedback and comments to Brittany Brewster by end of June.  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14COjRpF69\\_TgHhWz6jaS2-b3L42XFaf4/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=115418119955883485339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14COjRpF69_TgHhWz6jaS2-b3L42XFaf4/edit?usp=share_link&oid=115418119955883485339&rtpof=true&sd=true)  
The link for review of the plans has been provided for you below:  
<https://beltline.org/the-project/planning-and-community-engagement/master-plan-updates-feedback/#master-plans-ready-for-review>

**Officer & Committee Updates**

- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy
  - Bike Lane Update - working with Alex's office - see above notes. Great progress. Try9ign to get timeline pushed to be quicker and implemented before school open in Fall.
- Budget - Jess / Leah - budget is finalized.



- Friends of VAHI -
  - Website point person
  - Define levels - proofread and confirm number (125 families to buy in at \$250 level) - not tax deductible. Goes towards VHCA
  - Decision on gift with purchase
  - Quality control of the payment transaction
  - Confirm payment transaction methods - Venmo, PayPal, - recurring payments, renewals
  - Logo design - Mike
  - Creative campaign - Mike
- Review Treasurer's Report - shared via email
- Elections - Kim - no update
- Communications - KJ - no update
- Education - Melissa & Lisl - no update
- Fundraising/Event - Leah / Lisl
  - 50th Gala was huge success. Murphy's donated all food and service. Consider doing a post-mortem so we have actions.
  - Atlanta fire Department has reached out to me to ask if they can do a throwback party for Highland Fire Station 19. Targeted for August.
  - Tour of homes has the homes on tour event this Thursday to welcome the families that are participating. Marketing: sponsorship have begun. Targeted through June. Ticket sales to begin late summer.
- Summerfest - Alex
  - Artist market is going well. Raised \$20K.
  - Friday night dinner - Posters to be distributed this week. 20 tickets sold. Selling 400+ tickets.
  - Volunteer recruitment is going well. Have the Midtown Football team (20 kids) ready to go.
  - Music final bands this week.
  - Proof of shirt designs reviewed this week.
  - 5K race - seeking sponsors. 281 sign-ups. Going really well.
- Parks - Jim Long
  - North Highland Park: Will use funding to 1) cut grass more frequently, 2) fix path to reduce water build-up.
    - Trash problem continues - seeking a neighbor interested in doing a 1x/week trash pickup, \$35 per week paid job. Do we know any teenagers looking for cash?
  - John Howell - Estimated \$1.5-3MM investment needed. Can be done in stages. Consider starting with Storm Water as stage 1. Alex Wan has allocated \$300K towards stage 1. Stage 2 could be focused on Playgrounds.
- Planning - Amy & Alex - all updates provided above



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

- Grants- Lisl - no update

#### Old Business

- none

#### New Business

- none

#### 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)