



General Board Meeting - Agenda & Notes July 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: Melissa Clark, Kim Gnatt, Amy Harward (not present), Lisl Kuegemam Huber (not present), Jim Long, Leah Matthews, Alex Saucedo, Karen-Jane Wright, Mike Lewis, Johnson Bazzel (not present), Jess Liddick (not present)

Neighbors In attendance:

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

Review Current Agenda - Leah - approved

Guests & Elected Officials

Atlanta Police Department - **Sergeant Johnson**

Last 30 day report - 6 crimes property (4 motor vehicle theft), impersonation.

Biggest concern/recommendation: Don't leave valuables in your vehicle. If you must, store them in your trunk. Don't leave spare keys/key fobs in vehicle.

Targeting Kias and Hyundai vehicles. Take all measures to secure/guard property. Purchase steering wheel club is recommended. Giving away for free at Zone 6 precinct - 2025 Hosea Williams Drive - provide home address and name.

Asked for APD representative in the August Town Hall. Will follow-up.

Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -

- City Councilman District 6 - **Alex Wan**
 - Just passed City's budget, largest in city's history.
 - Key Points: increase in parks - \$16MM yearly. Designated towards maintenance and capital improvements incl security incl lights and cameras.
 - \$7MM decrease in transportation. Found another \$12MM approved for new paving and resurfacing of streets. (\$1mm per district)
 - Monroe Drive is next big project for Alex. Scheduled to start 10th/Monroe intersection this fall - possibly September. Will include the southern end of Monroe to Ponce.
 - Able to get funding for staffing in Violations/ APD permits/inspections/alcohol licenses. Working with ATAG to do some reform work. Making recos to the City this summer incl alcohol licenses.
- 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

Field of Dreams Pool Proposal - **John Closs**

- John presented initial presentation incl Site Plan. He has lived in neighborhood last 7 years.
- Vahipool.org, email address, email newsletter
- APS currently owns the land. They can lease the land to a non-profit to build and develop the pool and manage it. Garden Hills, Piedmont Park and Chastain all operate in this manner. 55 of APS's properties are excess. They sold 16 and kept the remainder in a hold bucket. Open to co-developing with the neighborhood. No formal proposal has been given to APS. One pool across APS at MLK center.
- Shared current site plan done by local landscape architect including covered pool during winter months. 10 lanes of swimming. Lessons, Swim team, swim meets (5-6 per year), pool house incl locker rooms. 2 stories incl meeting rooms, garden space. Could tuck in Pickleball courts. Bus loop to handle APS buses. 3 parking spots.
- Could use VHE parking lot during summer. In talks with APS.
- Working through conversations with GA Power and VH church to address the parking situation
- Around same shape and size as Garden Hills pool.
- Sell memberships. Mix of members and non-member hours.
- Goal - get it out into community and get feedback incl design.
- Next step - start to apply pressure/advocacy to APS to confirm their lease of the land
- Open questions from meeting attendees:
 - parking is biggest question/concern. Raised concerns about need for parking for new soccer
 - Funding: foundations and private organizations is top funding source idea. Memberships would be 2nd funding source. Lake Claire & Inman Park charge an upfront \$3K capital investment.
 - Estimate \$5MM to build the facility.

Planning - Zoning Code Variances

- The Dirty Tea: Rita & Brittany Campos - opening afternoon tea lounge on St. Charles. **The Dirty Tea**. Been in ATL for 7 years. Waiting on permits from City incl alcohol - martinis, champagnes, Not advertising itself as a bar. High tea experience and cocktails. 55 capacity, requiring 4 spaces. In the old Ten Thousand Villages space. Donna Matthews helping them with the permitting.
 - No decision to be made today. Be prepared to vote in upcoming meeting. They need to get the right allocation of parking spots in the Neighborhood Commercial District (NC-12)
 - Expecting an August opening. Hours: Mon/tue - closed, wed-sat 11-7, sun 12-6
 - Are making valet parking available at the church
 - Will let the NPU know the confirmation of the 4 parking spots before a decision will come before the board.
 - Motion to approve via email once parking details are shared. 7-0 approved.
- 885 Highland Terrace - reduce sideyard setback to 1ft vs 3ft. Planning committee is recommending against it.
 - Recommend motion to deny approval 7-0 to recommend to deny



Officer & Committee Updates

- Budget/Treasurer's Report/note - Jess
 - YTD we have spent \$6,975 more than we have raised.
 - Midyear review time! All Budget vs Actuals have been updated. Please review your committee income and expenses for any efforts you are responsible for in 2023. [LINK](#)
 - I will post the actuals through June on Vahi.org, aiming to update the website quarterly. (Vahi.org financials are currently through end of March)
 - Budget committee will meet in August to review VHCA's financial situation. I'll also write an article for the Voice. Short story is COVID years put us back about \$100k.
 - No information from Premier Events on the balance we earned with Summerfest, though they did provide a valuable summary debrief to consider. I recommend a debrief with key interested folks for leading 2024 once we know how much was earned and where.
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy - no update
- Communications - KJ
 - Reminder 1st and 15th are email sends. Require content 5 before hand.
 - Greg is point person for Social media.
 - KJ will share the folder so it's accessible to all
- Education - Melissa & Lisl
 - 8/1 start. All schools looking for volunteers.
 - APS started their search for new superintendent.
- Elections - Kim
 - Reminder of dates [BOD Election Overview .docx](#)
 - 8/10 open call for nominations & registration
 - Confirm which existing Board of Directors will run as incumbents
 - Melissa Clark - yes
 - Kim Gnatt - yes
 - Amy Harward - yes (need to confirm)
 - Lisl Kuegemam Huber (need to confirm)
 - Jim Long - no
 - Leah Matthews - yes
 - Alex Saucedo - yes
 - Karen-Jane Wright - yes
 - Mike Lewis - no
 - Johnson Bazzel (need to confirm)
 - Jess Liddick - yes
- Fundraising/Event - Leah -
 - Concert series update - 9/9 and 11/11 - Mike working on lining up next 2 bands - Ruby Velle, Sailing to Denver
- Summerfest - Alex



- Premier team meeting - a lot more people bought from the artists. Kidsfest performed really well. LY was a headliner band versus this year was spread out thru day (not as successful as LY). Consider 2-day push next year
- Need to have a recap of 2023, a decision made to the scope/focus of the event in 2024
- Goal - get Premier report by end of July. Have an in-person meeting with board members by mid-August to prepare story for Town Hall to let neighbors know of the challenge/what's in store for 2024
- Parks - Jim Long - Saturday workday at John Howell
- Planning - Amy & Alex - none
- Grants- Lisl - none

Old Business

- [Friends of VAHI](#) marketing - Kim/Leah
 - Letter from President - printed as handout at Town Hall
 - VOICE - 8/1 teaser, 8/20 launch
 - Social, A frame signs, Posters, website
- 8/29 [Town hall agenda/preso](#) - Kim (start promoting 7/15 teaser, 8/1 details)
 - **VHCA Membership Update - Leah**
 - YTD success & membership
 - Announce elections
 - FRIENDS OF VAHI
 - Membership recruitment
 - Fall event calendar incl volunteer opportunities - ??
 - Summerfest Recap and challenge for 2024 - Alex
 - Safety & Security with Atlanta PD - APD - focus on homeless population
 - Transportation News - Amy
 - Some things to know about but get more details - Street Car
 - Parks incl John Howell Renovation - Jim to confirm

New Business

- none

Announcements

Calendar (All meetings are public)

- 2023 Meeting Calendar
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CVn8ZKN9eMTGaMALX1Vgkx_8gyjIZFn_gcjgPdUOWL/edit#gid=0