



General Board Meeting - Agenda September 11, 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

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

Neighbors In attendance: Anita Harris, Mark Arnold, Jack White, Katie Voelpel, 2 neighbors whose names we didn't catch

Approval of Minutes from prior month's Board meeting - Leah - approved - vote 8-0

Review Current Agenda - Leah - approved - 8-0

Guests & Elected Officials

Atlanta Police Department - Sergeant Stinson - Crime stats for the Zone. Crime is down. Seeing a drop in car break-ins which they expect was a result of the recent successful arrests that APD made for recent car break-ins.

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
- District 4 Fulton County Commissioner - **Natalie Hall's office - Anita Harris - Chief of Staff - in attendance.**
 - Harmony Brangman will become our new point of contact moving forward. Anita will make an introduction for us over email.
 - Facility is ground-broke. Crisis center . Have received half of the funding. \$6MM of the state. Expecting to receive the other half. Alternative location for the Jails and
 - Mike Lewis - Question seeking updates on Atlanta Medical Center on Boulevard?
 - Jack White - Question seeking understanding on tax relief for property owners above age 65+ - Asked that Anita convey to Mrs. Hall the need to relook at the tax for seniors
 - Promoted October 7th in Grant Park - Joan P Garner Health Fair & Walk (5k) - qualifier for the Peachtree Road Race - looking for local vendors to participate



Planning Committee Variances - Atlanta Police Department - Alex & Amy

- Variance [V-23-124](#) - 1009 Amsterdam Avenue - The Planning Committee recommends support of this variance 4-0 based on the applicant following through and making revisions that make the calculation for the accessory structure-to main structure ratio of the actual enclosed area not counting covered porch area not to exceed 51.4% - Motion to approve. Voted 8-0 in favor

Officer & Committee Updates

- Budget - Jess / Leah -
 - Need expenses submitted for Concert
 - Will distribute Budget v Actuals once Aug is reconciled
 - Reminder budgets are annual. Accounting is on a cash basis.
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy
 - Newest stop signs on Barnett were put in by mistake. Johnson & Amy working with the City to get resolved. Could be 1 week. Could be longer. Not yet fully clear on plan and timing to remove and add the correct ones.
 - Immediate initiatives: Painting crosswalks with a fresh coat of paint. Will prioritize the schools, the business district - any high traffic pedestrian area
- Communications - KJ
 - Great meeting w/ Megan Grady who has great experience with graphics. She has officially joined the committee. Next few weeks, they are going to create templates for posting to make it faster and easier. Will be implementing a schedule.
 - Mike interviewing Melissa for a volunteer artist role
- Education - Melissa & Lisl
 - Great meeting with the new superintendent before the town hall meeting, well attended.
 - Superintendent Battle committed to meeting with the neighborhood chairs and NPU chairs
- Elections - Kim
 - 12 candidates running for 11 spots.. Voting runs from 9/5-9/17.
 - Katie Clark reached out - need to remove the 50% member quorum from the Elections language - Kim to f/u with Ida
 - Motion to add an Alternate so that we can accept all of the candidates running in the 2023/24 election. Voted 8-0 to approve.
 - If and when bylaws are amended: consider how and when the alternate engages, votes, can they be head of committee
- Fundraising/Event - Leah
 - Concert in the Park - fun and raised good money
 - Were given more Music Midtown tickets. Using them to promote FRIENDS of VAHI.
- Summerfest - Alex
 - Deborah and Alex meeting next week to start hashing out ideas. Alex sending an invite for next Tuesday.



- Parks - Jim Long - need to identify the committee chair for Parks with the new board.
- Planning - Amy & Alex
 - Thursday - Portman team hosting a TEAMS meeting for the traffic survey results for the Amsterdam project. Open to public.
- Grants- Lisl - All grants have been paid by the Treasurer.

Old Business

- Town Hall Meeting on 8/29 with 200+ attendees at Virginia-Highland Elementary school. Covered topics incl Membership updates, Summerfest 2024, Transportation updates, Friends of VaHi introduction, John Howell Park Renovation estimate, Parks maintenance work, Budget year in review, Upcoming Elections. And we featured a Panel of expert local speakers that addressed 'People Experiencing Homelessness' in our neighborhood. Alex Wan facilitated the discussion with leads from local organizations and APD present. Notes from meeting to be published on Website to encourage use of 311.
 - MARTA Light Rail discussion around what is our role, how do we navigate it with MARTA? Need to get more clarity to project status.
 - Need to find the right point of contact at MARTA to engage in the plans
 - Johnson made request to have regular updates in Planning section on: Amerstdam project (Mike Green), Ponce Project (Mike Green), LightRail project - Alex to find out who the right point of contact
- On 8/30/23, the board voted 8-1 to approve the following course of action for Planning Committee volunteer and NPU representative Jack White:
 - Probation from serving on the Planning Committee for a period of 3 months, effective immediately
 - Probation from official VHCA representation at the NPU for a period of 3 months, effective immediately
 - Probation from any leadership capacity within the VHCA for a period of 3 months, effective immediately
 - Probation from interacting with VHCA partners (City officials, developers, consultants, etc) on behalf of VHCA for a period of 3 months, effective immediately

New Business

- none

Announcements

Calendar (All meetings are public)

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