



General Board Meeting - Agenda & Notes December 11, 2023 - 7:00-8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83583670169>

Meeting ID: 835 8367 0169

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VHCA Directors: Johnson Bazzel, Melissa Clark, Kim Gnatt, Amy Harward, Karri Hobson-Pape (not present), Lisl Kuegemam Huber, Jess Liddick, Leah Matthews (not present with notice), Scott Nickels, Alex Saucedo, Karen-Jane Wright

Neighbors In attendance: Hannah, Chuck Roberts, Mark Anthony, Debbie Scopczynski, Chip Bullock, Pam Bullock, APD Jeff Davis, APD Sergeant Savannah Berry, Debra T. Katie V., Steph Elsesser, Aubrey Cyphert (AI), Josh Hersko

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

Review Current Agenda - Amy Harward - approved

Guests & Elected Officials

Atlanta Police Department Zone 6 Update - Sgt Savannah Berry and Officer Jeff Davis - Sgt Berry provided an update

- She was previously a beat officer in 2015 in our neighborhood. Received a promotion. Now back in our neighborhood as Sergeant. Happy to be back with our Zone.
- Stats are down 9% YTD, past 30 days down 15%. Highest crime - theft of motor vehicle
- Incident today: homicide they occurred this morning... It was an incident where a homeless male went looking for another homeless male and, in front of other cooperating witnesses, the shooter has possibly been identified and murder warrants will be issued soon.
 - If there is any further information I can provide, please contact me directly
 - Sgt. Savannah Berry, 404-670-5281, SCBerry@AtlantaGa.Gov

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; Harmoni Brangman - Community Engagement Mgr
 - Televised board meetings upcoming - next ones are scheduled for 12/20 and 1/10. Arrive by 9:45 for public comments. Can pre-register at fultoncounty.gov
 - Community kitchen details
 - Proposed budget - will be voting in first meeting in January
 - Fulton county arts grant opened in December. Deadline to submit is 1/18



- **Harmoni contact info:** harmoni.brangman@fultoncountygga.gov, 404-612-8226
- **Please reach out to Harmoni if there are local events for Commission Hall to support. She would love to visit /engage w/ the community**

Planning Committee Variances - **Alex**

- Variance V-23-179 - address 938 Highland Terrace NE - **Alex - motion approved 9-0**
 - Variance #1: Reduce front yard setback from 39 ft to 28.5 ft - make it into a gable. Low height - mainly aesthetic, no functional space
 - Variance #2: Reduce west side setback from 7 ft to 4 ft. building a 2x8 pop out for 2nd floor closet
 - Impervious surface increased from 43% to 45.8% (no variance needed as it is still under 50%)
 - No protect trees impacted, neighbors notified and no comments have been received
 - **Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend support**
 - **Motion to support the variance supported 9-0.**
- Variance V-23-188 - address 924 Virginia Avenue NE - **Alex - motion approved 9-0**
 - Current house will be torn down
 - Variance #1: Reduce front yard setback from 39 ft to 28.5
 - [Here is the link to all the drawings](#)
 - Variance #1: Reduce half-depth front yard setback from 17.5 ft to 4 ft
 - Variance #2: Reduce rear yard setback from 15 ft to 5 ft
 - Variance #3: Reduce westside yard setback from 7 ft to 3 ft
 - Variance #4: Increase allowable lot coverage from 50% to 58.8% (currently at 56.7%)
 - In order to mitigate any stormwater issues from increase in lot coverage, the applicants will be adding an impervious driveway and larger than required water quality structure which has been designed and found to greatly mitigate any excess stormwater to equivalent of 50% lot coverage.
 - One tree will be removed due to DDH (already approved by the city)
 - 4 protected trees will remain
 - Neighbors have been notified
 - **Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend support**

Officer & Committee Updates

- Committee chairs to review priorities, budget, resource needs
 - Committees to decide on their priorities / plans
 - Committees to finalize their members and resource/volunteer needs
 - Submit detailed budget estimate to Budget Committee at budget@vahi.org
 - Update committee members website updates Chairs, Members and Annual Goals on Vahi.org so I can get to Ida for revisions
- Summerfest - Alex & Debra
 - Friday night - tickets/ paid event, John Howell park, with raffle to local businesses
 - Hyper local music



- Minimum revenue - same as 2023. Sell raffle tickets to raise money.
- Artist market applications goes live in the next few days. Decision made to do Jury review.
- Debra sending vendor form out soon for Kids Fest recruitment
- Pricing a souvenir cup.
- Premier has a 15% management fee over top of alcohol sales.
- Food trucks. Aren't expecting to make \$\$.
- Decision made to use VHE lot for KidsFest. Working on vendor selection now.
- Budget - Jess - Review Treasurer's Report (see details below)
 - 2023 actuals updated thru EO November. [VHCA Budget v Actuals through End of Nov](#)
 - Highlights - YTD above where we budgeted. Some events are over, some under. Had a really good year. FRIENDS income coming in . shout out to Karri and KJ for FRIENDS OF VAHI support. Recently \$3k raised.
 - Please have your vendors copy you on the expenses.
 - Budgets do this week to the budget committee
 - Jess created a Transactions list to make it easy for us to manage our \$\$.
 - Budget committee goals are on the website. Let them know of any suggestions.
 - Grants update: \$500 to YWCA, \$500 Ponce Library
 - Concert series recap: last 2 events loss -\$1,629.88. . We need to consider the approach so we can ensure revenue positive.
 - Lead to a good discussion re: getting input from Alex Jones re: Music. Rethinking the table structure. How do we make these events more successful?
 - Melissa, Leah, Scott working together to come back with thoughts in next meeting.
- Communications - KJ
 - KJ out of country 12/18 - 12/27. Megan, Greg, Leah, Amy all have access
 - Final VOICE goes out this week
 - Get volunteer setup in time for January VOICE. All to get Kim final Q1 volunteer by 12/31/23 so we can get Signup Genius linked in the January VOICE.
 - New VHCA Branding & Image - asked designer to update 2 versions and share one more. Awaiting her response. Once ready, they'll share the direction with all to review and provide input.
 - Priorities 2024: #1 rebrand. #2 Social media - consolidate into 1 named profile. #3 Establish regular schedule for posting and engaging. #4 regular look and feel using Canva #5 find another helper on social. #6 Email sponsorships. #7 streamline submissions for posts and VOICE. Will use Google forms in master spdsheet.
- Education & Grants - Melissa & Lisl - no updates



- Priorities 2024, consider an application approach to avoid the current scramble. Most schools have multiple entities. Plan is to standardize the approach.
- Follow APS big changes; do community coffees to engage residents, early conversations before redistricting
- Consider including schools in our community events. How do we plug them in? Get volunteers from schools
- Elections - Kim - no updates, no budget needs 2024
- Exec Operations - Amy, Kim (includes volunteer mgmt, ambassador program, town halls)
 - Shared 2024 priorities:
 - Volunteer mgmt across all events
 - Town Halls - welcome input on agenda. Feb mtg to include VHD and VHCA organization approaches.
 - Ambassador program - Consider mapping the zones. First conversation with Amy's zone to be hosted in January.
https://vahi.org/wp-content/uploads/VaHi_Neighborhood-Association_MAP_6.28.13.pdf
- Fundraising/Events - Leah
 - Melissa walked through the event calendar at a high level.
- Historic Preservation - Karri - no updates
- Parks - Scott
 - Budget has been submitted
 - North Highland Park - Menorah lighting tom 12/12 6pm.
 - JHP & Friends of Orme Park - both doing group clean-ups
 - JHP Tree inventory - counted 200+ trees.
- Planning - Alex
 - Please confirm 10th & Monroe re-design and traffic detour is still early February? Will new Public Storage on Kanuga affect the construction schedule? Planning committee to confirm.
 - Update on Monroe Complete Street From Alex Wan's office end of October:
 - **Phase 1** (10th and Monroe) will be under construction in February 2024.
 - **Phase 3** (10th to Armour Circle) & **Phase 2** (10th to 8th) have had no progress since the concept design (published) was adopted. While the Road Diet is locked, final design elements have yet to be considered at all. The current expectation is that it will move into Final Design either in December of this year or January of 2024. The design period will last for twelve (12) months. ATLDOT would like for Phase 1 to get underway before meetings on the additional Phases. Immediately following the opening of construction on Phase 1, ATLDOT will host a Community



Meeting on the design of the remaining Phases in Early Summer of 2024.

- **Expect a Community Meeting in Early Summer of 2024.**
 - Ponce on Ponce - no updates
 - Amsterdam Walk project - working with Aaron Fortner - will be needing funding for his services
 - Updated Master Plan - mtg with Aaron next week to see what is needed to set a hard estimated cost
 - Planning mtg community meeting possibly to be scheduled for January
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy
 - 2024 priorities - rooted in the master plan. Consistent with what it has been. Bike Lanes, infrastructure in the Master Plan that can be brought to life in 2024.

Old Business

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New Business

- Grants committee to issue \$500 to YWCA and \$500 to Joan P Garner Ponce de Leon Library. Makes a total of \$11,000 donated to the community in 2023
- VHD working on getting VAHI sign relit. Lights got stolen.

Announcements

Calendar (All meetings are public)

- [2024 Calendar](#) All board members please confirm dates

Treasurer's Report - December

- Budget v Actuals through the end of Nov is updated and in the board's inbox.
 - YTD net is positive - great job events committee, nice boost from Friends (~\$3k total so far)
 - Please ask that vendors copy you on requests for reimbursements and invoices
- Budgets are due this week to the budget committee.
 - Transactions list has details on everything you'd need to know to estimate 2024, please leverage them!
- Budget committee goals are the same for 2024 as already on vahi.org
- Grants update
 - Will issue \$500 to YWCA and \$500 to Joan P Garner Ponce de Leon Library
 - Reissuing sponsorships now to Howard PTO and Boosters - mailing address wasn't successful.
 - Will pay out by EOY so that 2023 budgets reflect all \$10k spent.
 - Note 2023 Budget v Actuals includes 2 payments in Jan that carried over from 2022: \$2500 to VHE and \$500 to PDL Library
 - Tony and Keith are points of contact for Boosters



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

- Alison is point of contact for PTO
 - Master list of grants since 2007 will be updated with a contact tab
- Concert Series recap
 - September net is \$624.10 -- that event covered the cost of insurance for all the events
 - November net is -\$2,253.98 since income was not enough to offset costs
 - Total loss to VHCA for September and November is -\$1,629.88.
 - I propose that VHCA cover that cost and not touch the funds raised for JHP.