



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

General Board Meeting - Agenda & Notes January 8, 2024 - 7:00-8:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church
1155 N Highland Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89794061574>

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

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 Zone 6 Update - Sgt Savannah Berry

- Stats for month/year: YTD 17% down in overall crimes, last week -3%. 911 calls are more informational, not crime related. Mostly were audible alarms. Crimes committed 59 this week with 4 against persons
- Update on last month's shooting - arrested on 12/13 and remains in Fulton County jail.

Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -

- City Councilman District 6 - **Alex Wan - Priorities for 2024**
 - Cheshire 'Bridge' - not a sustainable solution in place currently w/ ongoing challenges of fires impacting roads/bridges, etc. City cleaned the encampments last Friday. Need to find places for them to have beds without deterrents incl drug use, mental health, etc. Going to pilot a few things. Need help from the county and state as they both have the funding. Alex is trying to get our district in a pilot program with Intown Ministries. Will dedicate 1 case manager to a neighborhood. Alex has VAHI in mind for that. APD going to layer in support of traffic over next 10 weeks to limit hazards, traffic & road challenges
 - LaVista Walk fire - occurred Thanksgiving time period. Intersection still closed. Pushing property owners to demolish the building as soon as possible. Awaiting next steps. GDOT is actively engaged.
 - Amsterdam Walk - community meeting this week. Alex intends to be there. Asked to relay a message 'Portman representatives will not be there at the request of MLPA'
 - Monroe Diet - Community Mtg will occur before summer, possibly late May. Plans haven't changed much. Road diet, roundabouts are the same as the original plan. Stay tuned for a specific date.



- 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**; Anita Harris - Chief of Staff - **not present**

Planning Committee Variances - **Alex**

- None this month

Friends of Orme Park Accomplishments & Year Ahead - **Mark Arnold & Leigh Wilson**

- Operates under Park Pride. Was dormant for 7 years. Restarted the group in Fall 2022.
- Spent time understanding the invasive species in other local parks and last year worked with 8 volunteer days to remove the species
- Secured a grant for new shrubs/plants, volunteers installed
- 2024 Plan - will be conducting more work days, organizing student work days with Midtown High
- Big Picture - Vehicular bridge is 100 years old in 2025. With it's 100th anniversary, will do a celebration. May do a fundraiser restoration effort. There were sconces with lighting at one point.
- Excellent work being done, appreciated by the neighbors, very much!

Todd Memorial Installation Update - **Robin (shared via email in advance)**

- *Memorial in NHP*
- *Notice of the building permit has been posted for a couple of weeks. We have secured a landscape company to complete the site prep work within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting. Scheduling for finalizing installation plans/dates is in the works.*
- *Historical Sign @ 797 Ponce de Leon Terrace*
- *Scheduling for the installation of the sign is in the works. Note: the sign will be placed within an easement on the northeast corner of the property*

Officer & Committee Updates

- Summerfest - Alex- Bands have been booked
- Budget - Jess / Leah
 - Review Treasurer's Report
 - Review and adopt 2024 Budget found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QjxtO8yh9bkD10vPievnI7kHiwrGzGhI-Cb5kgvTVwQM/edit?usp=sharing>
- Budget approved 8 yes, 0 no's
- Communications - KJ
 - Website Redesign Process - initial discussion
 - Visual Identity Update - Amy
- Education & Grants - Melissa & Lisl
 - Grants delivered to Friends of Ponce de Leon Library and YWCA in Dec.
- Exec Operations - Leah, Amy, Kim, Jess
 - [Q1 Volunteers](#)
 - VaHi Ambassadors



- Town Hall Agenda
 - VHCA Neighborhood Update (Introduce VaHi Ambassadors, Friends of VAHI (donor list), Intro Volunteer Opportunities
 - Summerfest
 - VHCA & VHD
 - Master Plan Update
- Fundraising/Event - Leah
 - Film Shoot Process - Karri
 - Friends of VAHI Update - Karri
- Historic Preservation - Karri
 - Update on VHCA History Tours 2/10 & 2/11 (Karri)
- Parks - Scott
- Planning - Alex
 - Master Plan being updated. Awaiting scope and pricing from Aaron Fortner.
 - Discussed doing a Khan Academy style education of the plan to share with the community
 - Beltline community engagement starting for the Streetcar - Inman Park is first neighborhood for discussion, scheduled for 1/17
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy

Old Business

- xx

New Business

- xx

Announcements

Calendar (All meetings are public)

- [2024 Calendar](#)



Treasurer's Report

We wrapped up 2023 strong and continuing the rebound trend. Without large fundraising events for 2020 and 2021, we are still recovering from a cash-on-hand standpoint. Checking account balance right now is \$55,751.48 and includes one quarter of payments ahead for park maintenance. Reserves are \$100,146.82. Review Budget and Actuals online at vahi.org for detailed records going back to 2014.

Grants Committee delivered checks to the Friends of Ponce de Leon Library and the YWCA in Dec, ending the year with \$11,000 donated to the community for 2023 and \$307,141 since 2007. A handful of Grants issued by bank check in September 2023 were returned uncashed. Jess and Melissa hand-delivered a number of hand-written checks to attempt to get the funds cashed in 2023 and therefore captured in the 2023 budgets.

2024 budget anticipates a strong but achievable Summerfest - Board should coordinate now for the VHCA Booth coverage to promote merch, Friends of VaHi, and manager on duty responsibilities. Please also promote the 5k and Kidsfest to all neighbors and friends.

2024 Annual Budget to be posted to vahi.org once approved - draft can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QjxtO8yh9bkD10vPievnI7kHiwrGzGhICb5kgvTVwQM/edit?usp=sharing>

Summerfest contracts and downpayments are starting to come in, decreasing cash on hand by at least \$20,000 but locking in plans for our large fundraiser (potentially largest - we'll see how Tour of Homes does!). We will monitor cash in checking and may need to move cash reserves into checking to cover until Summerfest profits are received (June/August).

Tour of Homes needs a more detailed budget developed and provided to the Budget Committee.

Reminders:

- Todd Memorial project funding is coming from VHCL and has been a project going back many years. Last year's Orme Park bench also came from VHCL. Please encourage donations to VHCL for any park infrastructure investment interest, John Howell Park, Orme, The Triangle, and North Highland Park all included.
- Any Vendor paid over \$600 per year require an updated W9. Send to treasurer@vahi.org and please copy vhcaweb@gmail.com
- In 2023, the Concert Series proceeds went to VHCL for JHP renovation - VHCA recovers costs from each event and transfers profit above expenses (proceeds) to VHCL.