



**General Board Meeting - Agenda & Notes**  
**August 12, 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, Melissa Clark, Kim Gnatt, Amy Harward (absent with notice), Karri Hobson-Pape, Lisl Huber, Jess Liddick, Leah Matthews (absent with notice), Scott Nickels (absent w/ notice), Alex Saucedo, Karen-Jane Wright

**Neighbors In attendance:**

---

Approval of [NOTES](#) from prior month's Board meeting - [Kim approval](#)

Review Current Agenda - [Kim](#)

**Guests & Elected Officials**

**Atlanta Police Department Zone 6 Update - [Sgt Savannah Berry Lt. Carol](#) with APD: big drop in crime. "We're looking good"**  
–discussion/Q from Board member re: homelessness on N. Highland. Lt. said he would have his "quality of life person" Officer Russell Stanio look into it. Officer Stanio covers Zone 6 and handles homeless encampment clean-ups and issues throughout the zone.  
Email address to Stanio in chat (see transcripts) His number is 404-450-4054 and email is [rstanio@atlantaga.gov](mailto:rstanio@atlantaga.gov).

**Elected Public Officials & Municipal Representatives -**

- City Councilman District 6 - [Alex Wan](#) Re: homelessness; he saw Mgr. Webster and chatted about it; it's a staffing issue currently. He also followed up with Intown Cares who is contracted with the city to work on this, N. Highland corridor is on the list. He's aware of the uptick in complaints/concerns. Officer (fr. Intown Cares) on this beat resigned recently, but they're trying to replace him asap. Q from board member: how to file a formal complaint (to whom/by whom). A: LaShondra Burks COO of City of Atlanta is directing the teams to clear encampments.
  - Sandra Spoon/Atkins Park spoke: she always calls 911, who clears the person(s) temporarily, she goes right back. Now she has additional companions living on the sidewalk with her. How to issue a trespassing charge? It's negatively affecting her business.
  - AW: he's not entirely sure. Reach out to the COO of ATL. The permanent solution is to convince people to go into housing, but it's their choice. Keep putting pressure on admin. There has been some success with bridges and overpasses, perhaps due to consistent push on admin.
- Increase in solid waste bills 3.5% (= +2% next and following years)
- 10th/Monroe: no, it's not done. Should be done by the end of the month (Aug.)
- Monroe Complete Streets: comm mtng. In July; moving forward. Also a stakeholders' meeting. It was very productive. Not everything will be included this time around but painted crosswalks and flashing cross lights will. Re: bike lanes—can't be done. He'll



have a white paper go out to explain why. Trying to get final design done by eoy, hopefully breaking ground by fall next year, with a 14-18 month timeline on the project.

- State District 57 Representative - **Stacey Evans**; Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff
- US House 5th District - **Nikema Williams**
- District 4 Fulton County Commissioner - **Natalie Hall**; Anita Harris - Chief of Staff

#### Planning Committee Variances - **Alex**

- V-24-113 on Los Angeles Ave
  - **Reduce the east side yard setback from 7 ft to 5 ft**
  - The applicant has been fined by the City for the tree removal, and they've informed us that they will not be able to attend any additional planning committee meetings between now and Monday (committee can't vote again on this issue without allowing the applicant to be present/respond). They confirmed that they will be in attendance at the board meeting for the vote.
  - Planning Committee **recommends support for V-24-114 (08/07 Meeting)**
  - **Planning committee held an additional vote on 08/11 to consider new information.**
    - **Motion to recommend denial on V-24-114 on the grounds that the protected tree was removed in violation of the tree ordinance rather than to have followed the City's tree removal appeal process.**
    - The motion passed 6-0
  - In attendance: owners Molly and Mr. Long. Applicant chose to defer to next month
    - Community member made comment to support the Longs, their community involvement
    - Board did not vote. Plan is to reconvene the Planning committee to revote if a revised site plan requested from homeowner is submitted that includes new trees for recompense of an appropriate diameter of 30+ inches and equivalent species
- V-24-125 1062 Bellevue Dr Ne
  - **Variance to reduce front yard setback from required 35 ft to 22.1 ft ; Special exception from the zoning ordinance to 1) allow for parking bay within required west side yard and 2) remove requirement that front door shall face and be visible from adjacent street**
  - This variance also required the removal of a protected tree - a 11 in. in diameter Crepe Myrtle.
  - Note: this tree is within 5 feet of a structure that is destined to be subject to damage from a shrub that has grown into a tree after it was planted too close to it in the first place by a former owner.
  - Trees that grow within 5 ft of the foundation of a structure may be removed with a proper application to the City tree arborist despite not being DDH. In this case, the city arborist did deny the application, and the applicant is leaning towards appealing.



- The planning committee voted 3-1 to recommend support on the condition that the existing subject tree be replaced by an approximate caliber of 11 inches of an equally appropriate tree.
- Planning Committee **recommends support for V-24-125 conditional on the existing subject tree being replaced with an appropriate caliber of 11 inches of equivalent species of trees.**
- **Jennifer Salazar/architect in attendance.**
- **Board Passed support for variance: 8 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carries.**
- V-24-143 960 N. Highland
  - Variance from the zoning ordinance to 1) reduce the rear yard setback from the required 15-feet to 2-feet, 2) reduce the South side yard setback from the required 7-feet to 5.5-feet, and 3) increase the lot coverage from the required 50% to 56%; and 4) seeks a special exception to allow for parking bays within required yards.
  - No impacted trees
  - The only issue with this variance was that the lot coverage would have increased from 51% to 56%, however the applicant has submitted updated plans that included rain gardens and permeable surfaces including partial permeable surface for driveway, effectively reducing the lot coverage to under the required 50%.
  - The planning committee voted 4-0 to recommend support.
  - Planning Committee **recommends support for V-23-143**
  - **Barbara Cuson/Architect + Sandra Spoon/owner in attendance**
  - **Board passed recommendation for support: 8 in support, 0 opposed. Motion carries.**

### Officer & Committee Updates

- Summerfest - Alex
- Budget - Jess
  - Friends of VaHi donations are coming in - THANK YOU! to all those who donate. Donations enable us to pay for the park maintenance at NHP, JHP, the Triangle, expert negotiations for Amsterdam Walk, and so much more.
  - Wells Fargo savings account has been reduced by \$10,000 to make sure VHCA has cash on hand for recurring payments. That \$10,000 has been restored with the Summerfest balance now paid as of 8/7.
  - A \$50,000 withdrawal per the July meeting vote has been completed in order to fund an investment in a Certificate of Deposit. Terms are for 4 months at APY 4.75% - Fixed rate and it matures in November. Note to the next Treasurer to reinvest as the future board approves.
  - Budget v Actuals through the end of July has been distributed to the board and will be put into pdf and updated on the website. Financial transparency ensures the ethos of a truly *civic* association.
  - Summerfest reconciliation received from Premier events. Total funds raised significantly under what we had hoped but enough to refill the bank account.



Total earned was \$34,573.50. Budget v Actual includes line item details from past 10 years if anyone would like to dive deeper.

- Grants can be issued once balance from Premier is received: ACH has been requested to speed up that process.
- Proceeds from Friday Night of Summerfest, including the silent auction, raffle, ticket sales, to be transferred to the John Howell Park Renovation budget once ACH is received from Premier. Amount raised: \$5,739.34.
- Tour of Homes financial transactions are well underway including Copper Sky sponsorship received and some ticket sales already – get tickets now, why wait?!
- Need a volunteer to take on the Treasurer role for 2024-2025
- Communications - KJ
  - If your committee(s) has any announcements, reminders, etc. you'd like to get into the Voice or social  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN6J--1mCqtC8ydz037sZe0WXSQA8GxKAuSQ4Eqv3i2Sdavw/viewform>
  - Deadlines for the Voice are 8/19, 9/2 and 9/16
- Education & Grants - Melissa
  - Dr. Bryan Johnson was sworn in as APS superintendent on August 5.
    - Dr. Johnson has agreed to an open community conversation sponsored by VHCA Education Committee. Date/Time forthcoming.
  - Grants
    - Proposed: \$2,500 to each of our VaHi schools (Midtown, Howard, Spark, VHE)
      - Would love to present these at Town Hall and highlight VHCA's grant program for neighbors in attendance
- Election - Kim
  - Complete
    - 7/20 - Website updated with election dates and details
    - 7/29 - Featured upcoming election & need to register in VHCA VOICE
    - 8/1 - Incumbents to confirm if running again
  - Upcoming
    - 8/12 - 8/30 - Open call for board member nominations and resident registrations to vote
    - 8/12 week promote via VHCA Social and VOICE
    - 8/30 - Deadline for member/voter registration
    - 9/3-9/15 - Election / Voting
    - 10/1/24 - 9/30/25 New Board term
- Exec Operations - Kim, Jess
  - Town Hall scheduled for Tues 8/27. VHE secured as location
  - Finalized agenda will be shared this week  
PFH, PAD, IC (all homelessness orgs. Hopefully will be in attendance)
- Fundraising/Events - Karri / Leah



- Friends: Comms creating yard signs; SWAG umbrella coming in, encourage friends to give
- Films: slight uptick this month; interested in insights from Morningside
- Merchandise: Coordinating monthly reports to be sent in, quarterly ACH deposits
- Transitioning efforts to Friends of JHP: work in progress, coordinating structure with local attorney assistance.
- Events
- Historic Preservation - Karri
  - Partnership with Atlanta Preservation Center
    - Exploring walking tours & driving tours with APC via partnership
  - 8/24 - Todd Memorial Celebration scheduled in North Highland Park
  - 10/6 - FD #19 100th, Speakers confirmed, Panel/sign development, Kids activities
    - Kicks off National Fire Safety week
    - Alex Wan will be in attendance, Fire Chief will be in attendance
    - Closing Los Angeles 11-3pm
- Parks - Scott
- Discussion of pushing a better tree ordinance
- 
- Planning - Alex
- Tour of Homes - Kim
  - Recent Progress
    - Website and App have gone live including Ticket Sales. Marketing efforts begin this week - VOICE, Social, P.R.
    - Sponsorship progress being made. Have secured 8 sponsors so far. Need more. Know anyone that you'd recommend. Please email to Kim and Lisl.
    - Secured an Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles partnership - ad & editorial coverage in October issue and digital
    - Finalized agreement with Andi Frey - P.R. partner
    - Securing scopes with Graphic Artist & Social Media lead to assist with Aug-Oct marketing calendar
    - Goal continues to be set at \$40K net profit. Hopeful we can achieve this with our plan
  - Pressing Topics next 2-4 weeks
    - Continue Sponsorship push to secure partners
    - Begin marketing efforts to push ticket sales
- Transportation & Safety - Johnson & Amy

**Old Business**



**New Business**



- [Tree Ordinance Recommendation](#)

**Announcements**

[Social Media Request Form](#)

**Calendar** (All meetings are public)

- [2024 Calendar](#)

Adjourned at 9:22pm