



## General Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2024 - 7:00 - 10:00 PM

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

**Zoom Meeting**

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

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**VHCA Directors:** Alex B. Jones (President), Melissa Clark (Vice President), Karri Hobson-Pape (Secretary), Miguel Barrios (Treasurer), Johnson Bazzel, Kevin Cronin (virtual), Amy Harward, Kenneth Herring, Karen Isenberg Jones, Tim Langan

**Community Members In Attendance:**

Approximately 7 community members in attendance in person and 10 community members in attendance on zoom

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#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm by Alex B. Jones. A Quorum was established. There was a delay due to transition of the Zoom account from a board member who chose to resign from the board the same day.

Jones read the following prologue to begin the meeting:

*Welcome, everyone, to the Virginia-Highland Civic Association meeting. As we gather here, we'd like to first express our gratitude to each of you for joining. This association has proudly served our neighborhood for over 50 years, powered entirely by dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy to help shape a stronger, more vibrant community. Together, we work on initiatives that support our parks, guide thoughtful planning, and bring neighbors together in meaningful ways.*

*We know that Virginia-Highland is home to a diverse group of voices, and with that comes a wide range of perspectives. While we may not always agree, we hope that everyone feels comfortable to share their thoughts in a way that is both respectful and neighborly. Disagreement is ok. Disrespect will not be tolerated. Let's continue to build on our legacy by focusing on what connects us and working together for the future of our community. Thank you for being here and for being part of this ongoing work.*

#### Approval of Agenda

**Motion #1:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed 7 in favor/ 0 opposed.



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>		

**Nomination and Vote for New Directors**

Jones shared that due to some personal resignations from the board, there are several director positions to be nominated and elected. We included the bios from three other candidates who originally ran for the board in September.

Melissa Clark nominated Kenneth Herring. Herring accepted.

**Motion #2:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to elect Kenneth Herring as director of VHCA board.

Motion Passed 7 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>		

Amy Harward nominated Tim Langan. Langan accepted.

**Motion #3:**

(Jones/Harward) Motion to elect Langan as director of VHCA board.

Motion Passed 8 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>

Melissa Clark nominated Karen Isenberg Jones. Jones accepted.

**Motion #4:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to elect Karen Isenberg Jones as director of VHCA board.



Motion Passed 9 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>		

Alex Jones shared that due to the resignation of Jackie Brown, there is a need to replace the Vice President. Hobson-Pape nominated Melissa Clark. Clark accepted.

**Motion #5:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Melissa Clark as Vice President of VHCA board.

Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

**Guest and Elected Officials**

Atlanta Police Department - Lieutenant Carroll (Zone 6) shared that in last 30 days period

- 22 thefts from auto (near North Highland). This is an increase from the prior 30 days.
- 3 burglaries.
- 2 auto thefts (3 total in last 30 days)
- 0 armed robberies
- No information about Christy on North Highland.

Thank you from Alex Jones to Zone 6 team.

**Approval of Minutes**

The September 2024 minutes were not available at the October 2024 meeting.

**Motion #6:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to approve the September 2024 minutes.

Motion Passed 7 in favor/0 opposed.



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	

**Motion #7:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to approve the October 2024 minutes.

Motion Passed 7 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	

Jones explained that the board conducted business electronically between the October and November meetings.

Cronin requested that Jones explain why business was conducted electronically and not at an in-person public meeting.

Jones shared that in November 2024, there was a change in President and Treasurer of the VHCA board, as six other board members shared concern about (1) significant impolite behavior toward neighbors and (2) actions taken by the President and Treasurer without board approval. Jones emphasized that it was unfortunate but it was the best for the board and for the community. Jones continued to share that we had hoped that these individuals would choose to remain on the VHCA board and serve as directors. Instead, they decided personally to resign, as did two other directors. Jones shared that we now have a Board of volunteers, both veterans and new perspectives, that are committed to the future of VAHI.

Hobson-Pape shared that all actions were conducted by the bylaws.

Clark shared that there was also a variance that needed to be done electronically.

**Motion #8:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to approve the minutes of board business conducted electronically between October 7 - November 11, 2024.

Motion Passed 7 in favor/0 opposed.



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	

**Planning Committee**

**Motion #9:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to elect Kevin Cronin to serve as Interim Planning Chair of the Planning Committee.

Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Cronin shared the information about the variance with Katherine King. Mark Arnold, architect, was also on the board. Adding on a second story. Katherine confirmed that she currently has letters of support from her neighbors.

Hobson-Pape shared that the planning committee was unanimously supporting this.

**Motion #10:**

(Cronin/Clark) Motion to approve Variance V-24-207 at 911 Adair Avenue.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>



## Committee and Subcommittee Structure for 2024-2025

Jones shared that there has been a lot of discussion about committee structure.

### **Motion #11:**

(Jones/Barrios) Motion for the following committee structure, where we will have 6 primary committees and 5 subcommittees. Subcommittees will have voting power and budget for the subcommittee. The only difference is that only primary committees will have to report out at board meetings, unless the subcommittees have something specific to report. Committee and Subcommittee chairs will determine the size of their committee and the # of voting members on their committee.

The primary committees will be:

- Budget
- Planning
- Parks
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Elections

The subcommittees will be:

- Grants under Budget
- Safety & Transportation under Planning
- Education under Communications
- Historic Preservation under Communications
- Summerfest under Fundraising
- Tour of Homes under Fundraising

The Committees and Subcommittees Structure for 2024-2025 to be:

- Budget
  - Grants
- Planning
  - Safety & Transportation
- Parks
- Communications
  - Education
  - Historic Preservation
- Elections
- Fundraising
  - Summerfest
  - Tour of Homes



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

**Committee and Subcommittee Chairs for 2024-2025**

Jones nominated Miguel Barrios to serve as Chair of the Budget Committee. Barrios accepted.

**Motion #12:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Barrios as Chair of Budget Committee.

Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Kevin Cronin to serve as Chair of the Planning Committee. Cronin accepted.

**Motion #13:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to elect Cronin as Chair of Planning Committee.

Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Amy Harward and Johnson Bazzell as Co-Chairs of the Safety & Transportation Subcommittee. Harward and Bazzell accepted.



**Motion #14:**

(Jones/Clark) Motion to elect Amy Harward and Johnson Bazzell as Co-Chairs of Safety & Transportation Subcommittee.

Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzell	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Miguel Barrios and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Parks Committee. Barrios and Jones accepted.

**Motion #15:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Miguel Barrios and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Parks Committee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzell	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Amy Harward as Chair of the Communications Committee. Harward accepted.

**Motion #16:**

(Jones/Barrios) Motion to elect Amy Harward as Chair of the Communications Committee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzell	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>





Jones nominated Melissa Clark as Chair of the Education Subcommittee. Clark accepted.

**Motion #17:**

(Jones/Harward) Motion to elect Melissa Clark as Chair of the Education Subcommittee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Karri Hobson-Pape as Chair of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee. Hobson-Pape accepted.

**Motion #18:**

(Jones/Barrios) Motion to elect Karri Hobson-Pape as Chair of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Tim Langan as Chair of the Elections Committee. Langan accepted.

**Motion #19:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Tim Langan as Chair of the Elections Committee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Kenneth Herring and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee. Herring and Jones accepted.

Cronin asked if John Howell Park fundraising would fit under fundraising or parks. Hobson-Pape shared that it would need to be collaborative. Bazzell mentioned that last year it was a completely separate effort and should likely continue that way. It was discussed that JHP would require further conversation.

Bob Tallili, who completes the VHCA taxes, would need to know if we have any on-going initiatives for Orme Park because it is necessary for tax filings to be distinct. Mark Arnold shared about Friends of Orme Park and current work to remove invasives (anything green in the park in the winter is typically an invasive). Barrios answered Tallili that it is ongoing maintenance, not a major renovation.

**Motion #20:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Kenneth Herring and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones nominated Kenneth Herring and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Summerfest Subcommittee. Herring and Jones accepted.

**Motion #21:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to elect Kenneth Herring and Karen Isenberg Jones as Co-Chairs of the Summerfest Subcommittee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>



Clark mentioned that some individuals for the Tour of Homes Committee were discussing their interest in doing it again next year.

**Motion #22:**

(Jones/Hobson-Pape) Motion to table the vote for Chair(s) of the Tour of Homes Subcommittee. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

**Virginia-Highland Conservation League (VHCL) Board Election**

Jones shared that we need to sit down with the VHCL board to better coordinate and understand their current scope of work. Also, we would also like to have a report at VHCA twice a year with any updates. Jones also mentioned that it looks like we have to improve some confusion in the bylaws.

Cronin asked for clarity if the bylaws would be at the VHCL level or VHCA level. Jones clarified that would need to take place at the VHCA level.

Barrios recommended a full review of accounting processes.

**Motion #23:**

(Jones/Harward) Motion to review and improve the bylaws of VHCL in the next 3 months and review of compliance with VHCL board. These specifics can be reviewed in a future board meeting. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

Jones shared that per the VHCL bylaws, the VHCL board is elected annually at the VHCA November board meeting. He emphasized that for the VHCL board, we would like to include as many volunteers as possible to



support the fundraising work and ideally an odd number of people. The bylaws state that VHCL requires 5 or more directors, but do not state a maximum. The Pres, VP, Sec, Treasurer are elected by VHCL, not VHCA.

Discussion concluded that Scott Nickels, who was previously nominated by John Craft, was not interested since he resigned from the VHCA board. Intention to reach out to Scott Nickels after this meeting to see if he is interested.

Cronin encouraged VHCL to report to the VHCA quarterly.

Community member, Lola Carlisle, emphasized that the more transparency, the better.

Hobson-Pape shared that the fundraising has been quiet for the past 4+ year since COVID and is more important as we move forward with a fundraising campaign for JHP.

**Motion #24:**

(Jones/Harward) Motion to elect the following slate for VHCL board 2024-2025.

- Miguel Barrios (VHCA Board Member & Treasurer)
- Tim Langan (VHCA Board Member)
- Chip Bullock
- Jim Coe
- Mary Frances Jones
- Catherine Lewis
- Jess Liddick
- Barry Loudis
- Pat Penn
- Paul Burks
- Peggy Berg

Motion Passed 9 in favor/1 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Oppose</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

**Officer and Committee Updates**

- Jones shared expectations of Committee Chairs - Review timeline or committee review and approval
  - December 9 VHCA Board Meeting - Committee & Subcommittee Names Proposed
  - December 15 - Strategic Goals and Proposed Budget (Bylaws)
  - January 13 - VHCA Board Vote to Approve Budget and Committee members



- Budget Committee:
  - Jones shared that Budgets due December 15
  
- Parks Committee:
  - Barrios shared an update on John Howell Park Renovation. Met with Jim Coe & Mary Frances Jones and got an update on the fundraising status.
  - Barrios shared a North Highland Park Planting this past week. Good feedback. Clark shared that we will share the next planting via social media.
  
- Safety & Transportation:
  - Harward & Bazzell presented a Tactical Urbanism Proposal.
  - Temporary plan under City of Atlanta's tactical urbanism program; encourages neighborhoods and citizens to pilot installations.
  - Midtown Neighbors has been spearheading a cycle track installation to connect Beltline and Monroe to Virginia-Highland Elementary. This would create a safe bike path for students and parents.
  - Bazzell emphasized that this is consistent with the VH Master Plan; this would just span along the southern side of Virginia Avenue to VHE. This would not block any residential homes, only VH Apartments.
  - Bazzell shared that this could be installed as early as the spring and we could see it in action.
  - This is a letter of support that we are being asked to provide. VHE has provided a letter. Midtown Neighbors have provided a letter of support. VH Church has provided a letter of support.
  - Langan asked how many parking spaces would be lost. Harvard indicated that the exact # isn't included. Would eliminate parking from Beltline to VH Apartments. Cronin conveyed concern that Virginia Avenue residents may be upset.
  - Harward conveyed that improving cycle safety is a priority; a Grady student was killed on a bike. Strongly believe that what we 'lose' in parking, we gain in safety, especially for our youngest neighbors. It is viewed as a treacherous path now for bikers.
  - Harward conveyed that this is an opportunity to test this and see what the impact is.
  - Cronin conveyed concern that this is not going in front of neighbors; Harvard clarified that this is in the Master Plan, which involved significant neighbor input.
  - Harward emphasized that this would be accompanied by a significant communications plan.
  - Barrios questions how we measure success. Harward conveyed how important that will be.
  - Community member Bob Tallini emphasized that the City of Atlanta must do something that is more accommodating and safe for bikers and starting near school is an excellent idea.
  - Carlisle asked if this went through planning committee; thought they may have additional insights or thoughts for things that have not been considered. Agreed this concept was part of the Master Plan.
  - Harward shared that this would be part of the "ATL Trails" plan.
  - Harward fundraising will require big effort; plans to work with Virginia-Highland District as well.

**Motion #25:**



(Jones/Harward) Motion to send a letter of support for the City of Atlanta Tactical Urbanism Proposal. (See letter in appendix.) Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

- Communications Committee:
  - Harward - nothing to update today.
- Elections Committee
  - Langan - nothing to update today.
- Fundraising Committee:
  - Tour of Homes update - success report shared in agenda packet.
  - Friends of VAHI yard signs - Harward shared that the fundraising signs are in her garage.
    - Barrios shared to hand out at the Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Education Committee:
  - Clark - nothing to update today.

**Old Business**

- Community Liaisons
  - Debbie Skopczynski requested that we have an NPU F representative identities to address NPUF meetings.

**Motion #26:**

(Jones/Harward) Motion for Alex Jones and Kevin Cronin be VHCA liaisons to NPUF. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>

Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>
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**Motion #27:**

(Jones/Cronin) Motion for table other liaisons until future meeting. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

**New Business**

- Volunteer Appreciation Event. Jones shared the need to have an event to thank people. Purpose is to get people together and say thank you. This is an opportunity to engage more people in initiatives.

**Motion #28:**

(Jones/Cronin) Motion to approve \$3500 for Volunteer Appreciation Event. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

- Holiday Decoration Contest Proposal. Celebrate homes in several different categories + Best Street. Diverse panel of 5-7 judges. Judging December 8-14. Budget for yard signs +
  - Harward requested to Find way to highlight the houses that are great so people can do a tour in the evenings.

**Motion #29:**

(Hobson-Pape/K.Jones) Motion to approve \$900 maximum for Holiday Decorating Contest. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.



Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

- Summerfest
  - Jones felt that we are very far behind for planning and dates. We need to make some decisions quickly. Decision to have a Summerfest Planning meeting, bring in Deborah, Leah, Alex, etc.
  - Voted in June to have 2 days + Friday night. “Always” the first weekend in June.
  - Conveyed that VHD Porchfest is putting Summerfest out of business
  - Summerfest 40th Anniversary this year!
- October 2025 Board Meeting and Planning Meeting Date

Hobson-Pape shared that October 13, 2025 is supposed to be the VHCA Meeting

- It is also Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day - Federal Holiday (a lot of people have a day off work and take long weekends)
- It is also during APS Fall Break - many with kids at APS may not be able to join. (Last year it was a challenge to get a quorum - and also may be challenging for some neighbors in the community to join our meetings)

If we move it to the week before, we will also need to move the Planning Meeting up a week. We will have to communicate it better on our website and with the NPU to make sure we don't have similar problems to this year.

While I know this will be the next VHCA board of directors to deal with, I think it's a responsibility of the current board to help plan ahead since the transition doesn't take place until Oct 1st each year.

**Motion #30:**

(Hobson-Pape/.Jones) Motion to move the October 2025 meeting as below. Motion Passed 10 in favor/0 opposed.

	Sequencing	Current Date	Proposed Date
VHCA Planning Meeting	Wednesday before the VHCA Board Meetings	Wednesday October 8th	Wednesday October 1st
VHCA Board Meeting	2nd Monday of each month	Monday October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday October 6 <sup>th</sup>





NPU F Meeting	3rd Wednesday of each month	Wednesday October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday October 15 <sup>th</sup> (no change)
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Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>	Kenneth Herring	<i>Approved</i>
Johnson Bazzel	<i>Approved</i>	Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>
Melissa Clark	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Isenberg Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>	Tim Langan	<i>Approved</i>

- Bob Tallini requested a traffic circle at the intersection of Rosedale Drive and Virginia Avenue, near Ash Coffee.
  - Barrios noted that is was included in the VH Master Plan.
  - Bazzell thinks the options would be to submit it for a traffic study. Bazzell will follow up to put it in the queue. That is the standard request from Alex Wan.
  - Tactical Urbanism approach is the right idea. It would be hard to get in as a permanent installation quickly.

**Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Karri Hobson-Pape



## Appendix:

### Bios for New Directors of VHCA

<https://vahi.org/elections/elections-ballot/>

<p>Karen Isenberg Jones</p>	<p>Karen Isenberg Jones is a 15 year resident of our beloved Virginia Highland neighborhood. Karen is a government relations professional and a television news veteran (CNN). She has also enjoyed a successful career in public relations and marketing including heading two of her own firms, Karen Jones PR and Changers + Makers.</p> <p>Karen currently serves on the Executive Board of the Midtown High School PTSO and as a team parent for the Midtown High School Boys' Lacrosse team.</p> <p>Prior to her current volunteer roles, she served on the Executive Board of Rehabilitation Enables Dreams, a nonprofit dedicated to ending recidivism, Atlanta Road Trotters Kids Running Club and Jewish National Fund. She is also a graduate of the ADL Glass Leadership Institute and a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Award from the Atlanta Jewish Times.</p> <p>Karen graduated from Emory University with a degree in Political Science. She and David Jones, her husband of over 20 years, have raised their two sons in Virginia Highland. Both sons attended Springdale Park Elementary and Inman Middle School/ David T. Howard Middle School.</p> <p>Karen is very excited to run for a position on the executive board of the Virginia Highland Civic Association! She hopes to continue to serve her community in this role.</p>
<p>Tim Langon</p>	<p>I am interested in serving on the VHCA Board for 2024-2025. I have been an active resident of Virginia-Highland since 2008. I helped found Keep Virginia-Highland Beautiful, a group that organized 20 group clean up projects. I continue to do significant regular cleanup across the commercial nodes weekly. I have served on the Inman Local School Council (Chair) and Springdale Park Go Team, as Committee Chair for the Springdale Park Playground Committee, as an annual Summerfest volunteer, and as our long-time block captain for Rosewood Drive. I also served on NPU-B and bring and President of the Ridgedale Park Civic Association in Buckhead.</p> <p>I would bring good experience and enthusiasm to the VHCA Board.</p>
<p>Kenneth Herring</p>	<p>Kenneth Herring is currently the Executive Director of River and Rail Theatre Company in Knoxville, TN. Having recently moved to VaHI this past June to be with his son, Rayne, who began kindergarten this August. In addition to his current role with River and Rail (R&amp;R), Kenneth also served as the Executive Director of Scarboro Learning Center in Oak Ridge, TN. Kenneth has been served as a board member for the Young Professionals of Oak Ridge, Junior Achievement of East Tennessee, Girls Inc. of Tennessee Valley, the Trinity Outreach Center of Hope (TORCH), Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee, Men of Tomorrow, Keep Anderson County Beautiful, and Knoxville Habitat for Humanity. In addition to leadership roles on these boards, Kenneth was heavily involved with the American Cancer Society, serving for 8 years as the Chairperson for the Oak Ridge Relay for Life, and 4 years as a fundraiser for the organization's Real Men Wear Pink campaign. Kenneth has also gone through multiple community leadership programs as well, specifically Leadership Oak Ridge and Introduction to Knoxville. Additional nonprofit and community organization experiences includes being a member of the Old City Neighborhood Association (Knoxville, TN), Citizen Review Panelist for the United Way of Anderson County and fundraiser for Random Acts of Flowers and Friends of Literacy. And recently, Kenneth joined the Winterfest committee for Virginia Highland District Association. Kenneth is a champion for diversity and is passionate about community service and development.</p>

## Appendix: Planning

V-24-207, 911 Adair

**Kathryn H. King**  
911 Adair Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
404.202.1676  
Khhking1811@gmail.com

November 4, 2024

Victoria S Bradsher  
915 Adair Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

re: 911 Adair Avenue, NE 30306

Dear Vicky,

As I noted in my recent letter, I am planning to add a second floor to my house. Mark Arnold notified me of your concerns regarding the distance the new second floor will be from our shared property line.

In lieu of how close our homes are, I requested that Mark design the second floor to be set back from our shared property line. I didn't wish for this addition to be too close to your home. As you can see on the enclosed copy of my site plan, the new addition will be 7'8" from our shared property line.

In speaking with the Planning Committee for the VHCA, they indicated that they would like me to get a signed letter from you that shows you received this notice and have no issue with my addition and variance request.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could sign this letter below. I will leave one copy of this letter and a copy of the site plan with you.

Thank you,

*Kathryn King*

Kathryn King

*Victoria S. Bradsher*  
Victoria S Bradsher

*11-07-24*  
Date

I have received Kathryn's variance request information and have no issues to report.

*my concerns about addition seem to be resolved  
after discussions with Mark Arnold, and shared  
with John Croft and you —  
thanks and Best wishes  
Vicky*

**Kathryn H. King**  
911 Adair Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
404.202.1676  
[Kbking1831@gmail.com](mailto:Kbking1831@gmail.com)

November 4, 2024

David Sylvester  
905 Adair Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

*re: 911 Adair Avenue, NE 30306*

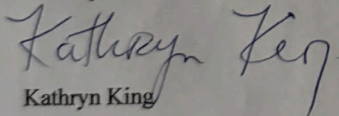
Dear David,

I hope this finds you well. As I noted in my recent letter, I am planning to add a second floor to my house. In order to give me a second-floor exit, I wish to build an outside stairway on the west side of my house. It will be a simple open, wooden stairway.

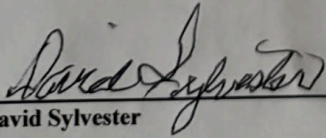
In speaking with the Planning Committee for the VHCA, they indicated that they would like me to get a signed letter from you that shows you received this notice and have no issue with my variance request. If you do have issues, please feel free to call me at 404.202.1676 at your convenience.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could sign this letter below and return it to me at your convenience.

Thank you,

  
Kathryn King

I have received Kathryn's variance request information and have no issues to report.

  
David Sylvester

  
Date

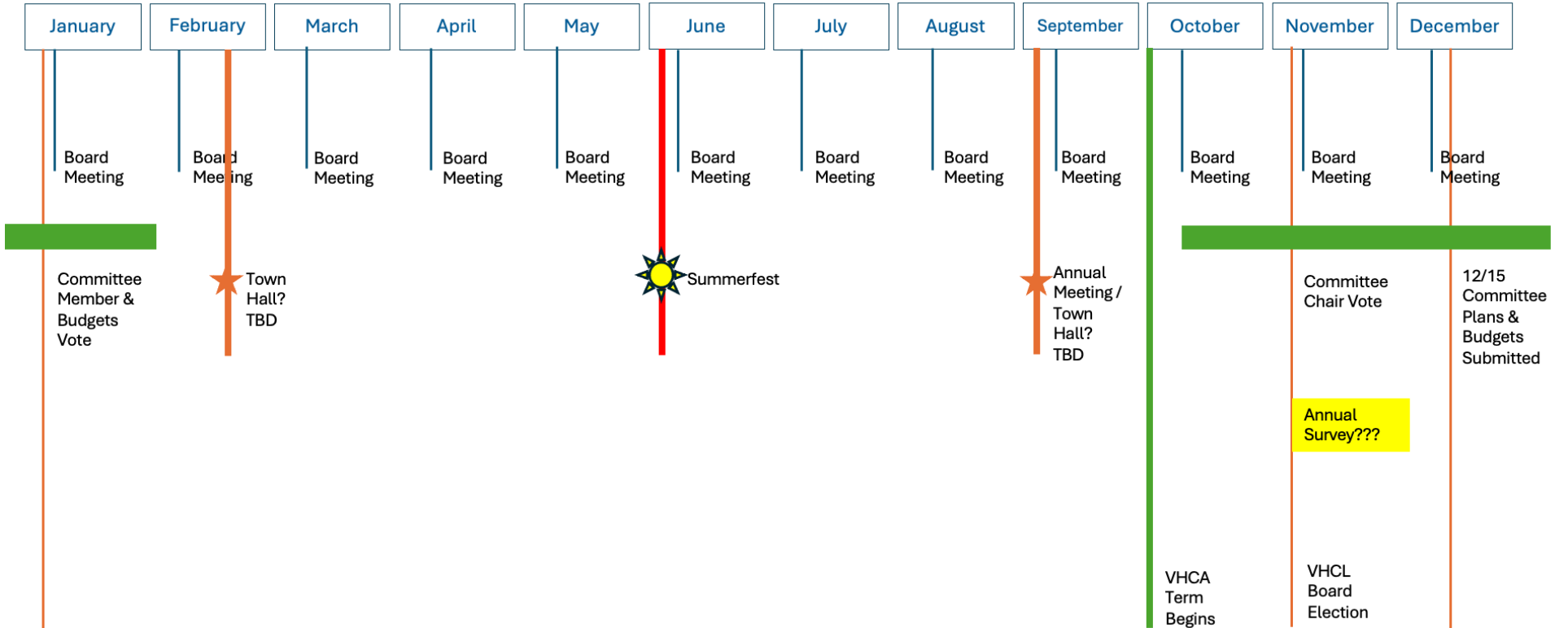


Appendix:

Expectations of Committee Chairs



# Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Planning





## Appendix:

### Bios for Nominees for Virginia-Highland Conservation League Board of Directors

<p>Peggy Berg</p>	<p><i>Provided by Peggy Berg:</i> Peggy Berg is a business professional whose background includes consulting as the founder of the Highland Group, Hotel Investment Advisors, Inc. and as a partner with Pannell Kerr Forster, CPAs. As a consultant she established the Extended-Stay Report, the CapEx Report, and served as chair of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants. She has been a franchisee and owner of Comfort Inn with Choice and Hampton Inn with Hilton. Developing the next generation of hoteliers, she taught hospitality accounting at Georgia State University and served as Conti Professor at Penn State University. She is on the hospitality program advisory boards of PSU, GSU and MSU.</p> <p>In 2016, Peggy founded the non-profit Castell Project, now part of the AHLA Foundation. Castell advances diversity in industry leadership including leadership development for women, research benchmarking diversity in hospitality industry leadership, encouraging women in university hospitality programs, and promoting women on the podium and in hotel ownership. For the AHLA, she also chaired the Council of Inns and Suites, the Extended-Stay Council, and served on the ForWard and Research Committees.</p> <p>She is treasurer of the non-profit Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. and chairs the advisory board for Georgia Tech's Public Policy Advisory Board. She is a director on the board of Tandem Bank. A CPA, she holds a BS from Michigan State University in Business and a MS from Georgia Tech in Public Policy.</p> <p>Peggy served on the VHCA board many years, and was treasurer for several years during that time. For VHCA she implemented a sidewalk program that repaired or replaced well over \$1 million in neighborhood sidewalks. She also served on the Safety Committee. She has been on the board of VHCL for several years, including a stint as treasurer.</p> <p>Peggy and her husband, Randy, live in Virginia-Highland where they raised their 3 sons.</p>
<p>Chip Bullock</p>	
<p>Jim Coe</p>	<p>While I'm a relatively new member of the Virginia-Highland community, I've quickly integrated myself into many local organizations. As a father to 7 and 8 year old boys, I've been a room parent and regular volunteer at Virginia Highland Elementary School. I've also volunteered my time as a youth soccer, basketball, and baseball coach at Inter Atlanta FC, Haygood Hoops and Druid Hills Youth Sports, respectively. Finally and most importantly to this audience, I've passionately supported and led the effort to renovate John Howell Park as a member of the VHCA Parks Committee. I've had a few chapters in my professional career, first in insurance and finance and later as a cook in Michelin starred restaurants in New York City. Currently, I'm a stay at home dad leading (and cooking for) a busy family.</p>

	<p>I feel strongly that John Howell Park holds great potential as a hub for our community. Unfortunately, in its current state of disrepair it is underutilized and often forgotten. It needs our collective love and attention. As a member of the VHCL, I'd continue to push this project forward, completing the design phase and championing a significant capital campaign to bridge the gap between the City of Atlanta's funding and our neighborhood's ambitions.</p>
<p>Mary Frances Jones</p>	<p>Professionally, I'm an entrepreneurial leader in Atlanta's start-up community, specializing in marketing, communications and venture fundraising. I have a BA in English and an MS in Human-Computer Interaction — truly a chocolate + peanut butter combination. My passion has always been simplifying complex ideas into simple, engaging stories. While much of my 25-year career has been spent launching and scaling tech companies, my experience in go-to-market planning, fundraising, and data-driven storytelling spans multiple industries and audiences. Looking ahead, I hope to add non-profits to the list.</p> <p>Outside my work in tech, I served for a decade as a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor and worked as a policy advocate with CARE, along with other impactful volunteer roles. Currently, I'm on an extended sabbatical, pursuing my interest in sustainable urbanism, transit and public spaces that foster livable and equitable communities.</p> <p>Having lived in nearby neighborhoods for decades, always coming to Virginia Highland to enjoy restaurants, shops and Summerfest, I'm thrilled to now call this community my home. In 2022, my partner and I bought a fixer-upper on Virginia Circle. The house was built in 1983 on a lot cleared for the I-485 freeway project but not incorporated into John Howell Park. Preserving its history was important to us, and we painstakingly renovated the house within its original footprint (except for adding a front porch).</p> <p>Since getting involved with VHCL, it's been fun to learn more about the history of the park and this activist neighborhood that brought it to life. Likewise, I've enjoyed spearheading our Park Pride Grant submission and hope to continue working on funding to renew this wonderful community asset. Prior to this project, I collaborated with VHCA Officers on an Invest Atlanta Resurgence Grant in 2022, and more recently, helped to build out the Association's small business database and secure sponsorships for the Summerfest 5K. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow my involvement in this awesome community for years to come.</p>
<p>Catherine Lewis</p>	<p>Dr. Catherine Lewis has been a historian, museum director, and university administrator for more than two decades. She is the Associate Vice Provost for Museums, Archives &amp; Rare Books and University Libraries at Kennesaw State University and works closely with communities who are interested in preserving their history through archives, exhibitions, tours, and oral history projects. She is the author, co-editor, or co-author of 17 books and has curated more than 40 exhibitions around the nation and world. Dr. Lewis's research interests are varied and include World War II and the Holocaust, Atlanta history, Jewish history, public history, sport history, leadership and business history, African-American history, women's history, and museum studies. A resident of VA-HI since 1998, she has also been an active member of the VHCL for many years, helping to preserve and disseminate the neighborhood's history.</p>

<p>Jess Liddick</p>	<p>I have a passion and patience for serving my community through mindful progress on lasting improvements. To date, the projects I have supported include the Virginia-Highland Master Plan, the preservation of Todd Memorial, and the renovation of John Howell Park. I cut my teeth on the work of VHCA through the rigorous public engagement process in 2013 needed for the Virginia-Highland Master plan to be adopted by council in 2014. After supporting the tedious Todd Memorial preservation project throughout 2015 and 2016, I took time away to add a tiny new member to our community. My engagement and work for VHCL has persisted throughout the last decade: conscientiously providing oversight of donor-provided funds to VHCL to execute on projects for the Virginia-Highland community. These projects include the purchase of New Highland Park, Fire Station #19 renovations, Todd Memorial preservation, Orme Park infrastructure, and John Howell Park reimagining.</p> <p>I rejoined the VHCA board in 2022 specifically to support the reimagining of John Howell Park. Having taken a pause after the abrupt death of David Brandenberger, I continue to support the project through project management, communication, and collaboration. My intentions for the next term of service with VHCL is to continue my support of the John Howell Park renovation efforts, including strategic fundraising and project management.</p> <p>Professionally, I work for Georgia Power as a manager of energy efficiency for residential customers. Morally, from my MBA from The Citadel to my service with VHCA, I bring a commitment to never compromise on integrity, treating people with respect, and as Jack often reminds me when things are challenging: do the right thing for the right reasons. In overseeing funds from donors, I find this mantra to be essential in any nominee to the VHCL board. I have served on the VHCL board for 10 years.</p>
<p>Barry Loudis</p>	<p>If allowed the privilege of continuing service on the VHCL Board, my primary goal is to maintain our positive financial status with our neighbors, vendors and the VHCA.</p> <p>Moving to VaHi nine years ago from New York City, my family and I knew right away that we wanted to not only have an address but a home. Virginia-Highland afforded this opportunity and I've been fortunate to meet and speak with many neighbors and city officials through my participation on the VHCA Board, Planning Committee and other community activities.</p>
<p>Pat Penn</p>	
<p>Paul Burk <i>Nominated by Scott Nickels and John Craft</i></p>	<p><i>Provided by John Craft:</i> Paul was the founding CEO (along with CFO Pamela Papner and SEC Frazier Dworet) of the Virginia-Highland Conservation League, Inc., and played a significant role in identifying the original financing leading to North Highland Park.</p>
<p>Scott Nickels <i>Nominated by Kay Stephenson, Kevin Cronin and John Craft</i></p>	<p><i>Provided by John Craft:</i> Scott has a long association with Virginia-Highland parks, which is a major focus of the Conservation League. He's a past VHCA Parks Committee Chair, and is a nominee to serve as VHCA Parks Committee Chair in the 2024-2025 term.</p>





## Appendix:

### Tactical Urbanism Proposed Letter



Cole Smith  
Vision Zero Manager  
Atlanta Department of Transportation (ATLDOT)  
Atlanta City Hall  
55 Trinity Avenue SW, Suite 4400  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
cusmith@atlantaga.gov

Mr. Smith:

We are proud to submit our proposal for a tactical urbanism project aimed at improving cyclist safety along the Virginia Ave corridor, stretching from Monroe Dr. to Park Dr. This project seeks to address the chronic issues of speeding and irresponsible driving that pose significant risks to bicyclists frequenting this route.

Our initiative involves temporary physical interventions to promote adherence to traffic laws and enhance the safety of bicyclists. Given the frequent use of this route by students traveling to Virginia-Highland Elementary School and Midtown High School, our youngest and most vulnerable community members stand to benefit immensely from these improvements.

This temporary project aims to quickly increase cyclist safety while a long-term solution can be designed and procured. This tactical urbanism approach not only aims to swiftly bolster cyclist safety but also aligns perfectly with our commitment to creating a safer, more accessible, and inclusive city for all road users, as envisioned in Virginia-Highland's Master Plan.

We urge you to thoroughly consider this project and extend the requisite support and resources for its effective implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with you in enhancing the safety and welfare of our community members.

Signed,



## Appendix:

### Tour of Homes 2024 Report

VHCA Board,

We are excited to share that this year's Tour of Homes was a huge success. We beat our revenue goal - coming in at \$22,250 of Sponsorship Revenue and \$ of Ticket Revenue \$24,711 - totaling \$46,961.

Our homeowners across the 7 homes were wonderful to work with. Our sponsors were happy with their coverage and support. And our Food partner, Cookconnect was enthusiastic about the turnout.

We did some new things this year that we are pleased with:

- We developed an impactful sponsorship presentation/package with new tiers that enabled large, medium and small sponsorship opportunities that resulted in \$22K of direct revenue (\$6K higher than the previous year) and ~\$10K in in-kind value with Home Cleanings and Food
- We brought food back into the homes - thank you to [@Erica Tuggle](#) and her team at **Cookconnect** for bringing rock star chefs into all 7 homes to make delicious bites for our tour-goers
- We partnered with a strategic P.R. partner to assist us with getting the word out - thank you to [@Andi Frey](#) and her team at **Launch Atlanta** for working with us tirelessly these past few months. They helped with Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles placement and swag
- We moved the Info Booth/Restroom location from the YWCA to the **Church of our Saviour** on North Highland. We had 40+ people visit us there for ticket purchases and questions and tours of the 100 year birthday of the church. Thank you to Reverend Melanie and all of the church volunteers for their participation and engagement
- We printed high quality double-sided **Tour Maps** with a featured sponsor which all tour goers really appreciated

This event took lots of time, energy, heart and soul. We were making initial decisions on this event back in Dec 2023. Lisl and I partnered together to determine the event date and the formation of the committee. And what a committee it was!!!!

Our first committee meeting in March included our incredible ROCK STAR committee - Betsy, Browning, Jenna, Alison, Amanda, Pam, Sabrina, Dylan, Brooke, Lisl & myself.

#### Special thanks to:

- **KJ** for consistently helping us get into the VOICE and making sure TOH was prioritized on the calendar.
- **Morgan** for being our social media guru - consistently posting and sharing social content with our community
- **Megan** for her awesome design and graphics work - banners, emails, signage, maps - all beautiful executions (leveraging our new VHCA branding/logo - thx you KHP)
- **Lisl** for being an incredible co-chair - easy to work with, flexible, always wanting to jump in and help, even on international time zone changes and vacations
- **Alison** who helped raise \$22,250 in sponsorships !!!! She rocked it, often on her own



- **Betsy** for being our chief marketing guru - making all the marketing elements happen, on time, and on point. We had 20+ weeks of activity with Betsy leading the communications helm
- **Browning & Jenna** for being great liaisons with our homeowners. Lots of back and forth detailed conversations and all were very content and grateful for the experience. They also worked hard with our watercolor artist who did magnificent renderings of the homes as gifts for our homeowners
- **Amanda** for being our incredible Volunteer extraordinaire. Thank you for managing 100+ people over the past 1-2 months. The event was a success because of your/their commitment
- **Brooke** for spearheading our PR efforts with Launch Atlanta
- **Jess** for helping us organize all of our expenses and keeping us tight with our money
- **Pam, Sabrina, Amanda, Browning, Julie, Jenna** - for the time and commitment - and great design eye in selecting our 7 gorgeous homes that ended up on the tour. This group talked to 50+ houses and toured 15+ houses -
- **Christy** for the 7 beautiful watercolor paintings that our homeowners will cherish forever
- **Katie & Lindsay & the VHD Team** for the partnership with VHD throughout our TOH promotion - social posts, North Highland signage partnership and placement at the VAHI Farmers Market

Giant thank you to all who participated, volunteered, attended and enjoyed. Our VAHI neighborhood was on display in a wonderful way.

Overall, we are very pleased and are so grateful for everyone involved in making this event a success.

Your TOH 2024 Chairs,  
Kim & Lisl



## Appendix:

### Holiday Decoration Contest Proposal

#### Contest Categories and Judging Criteria

- Best Overall Display: Combination of creativity, effort, and visual impact.
- Most Creative: Unique, imaginative designs and use of materials.
- Best Traditional Design: Classic, traditional holiday decor.
- Kid-Friendliest: Fun, whimsical, or family-oriented displays.
- Best Decorated Street in VAHI: broad spirit displayed on the street

#### Prizes

Minimal Budget: Focus on simple, low-cost prizes to honor winners:

- Award Signs: Design and print small signs or banners (e.g., “Winner: Best Overall Holiday Display”) for each winning yard.
- Recognition in the Voice: Winners will be featured in the next edition of the \*Voice\*, the VAHI community newsletter.
- Social Media Announcement: Post winners on VAHI social media channels.
- “The Honor”: Emphasize the pride and recognition of winning within the community.

#### Establish a Judging Panel

- Ideally, aim for a diverse panel of 5-7 judges.
- Request Volunteers: At the Virginia-Highland Civic Association meeting on November 11th, announce the need for volunteer judges. Explain time commitment (evenings of December 8-14). Hopefully we can get volunteers that evening.
- Backup Call-Out: If needed, post a call for judges on VAHI’s social media on November 12th.

#### Contest Timeline

- November 11: Announce and recruit judges at the VAHI meeting.
- November 12: Post on social media if additional judges are needed.
- November 23: Announce contest to neighbors via social media and posters
- December 8-14: Judging period; judges tour the neighborhood in the evenings to evaluate displays.
- December 15: Judges submit their scores
- December 16: Announce winners on VAHI social media and submit for the next \*Voice\* newsletter.

#### Promotion Plan

- Newsletter: Include a notice in the \*Voice\* to reach residents who may not follow social media.
- Flyers: Create simple flyers or posters with contest details, categories, judging dates, and announcement plans. Post these at local businesses, coffee shops, and community boards.
- Social Media: Use VAHI’s Facebook, Instagram platforms to spread the word:
  - o Initial announcement: Outline contest categories, judging dates, and prizes.



- o Reminders: Post on December 7th reminding residents that judging will occur Dec 8-14.
- o Final reminder on December 15th about the upcoming announcement of winners.

### **Coordinate Judging Process**

- Judging Criteria: Provide a simple rubric for each category to help judges rate displays consistently.
- Judging Schedule: Encourage judges to coordinate their schedules to cover all areas of Virginia-Highland during the judging period (December 8-14).
- Final Tally: On December 14<sup>th</sup>-15th, collect scores from all judges, tally the results, and determine the winners for each category.

### **Announce Winners**

- Social Media Announcement (December 16): Post winners on VAHI social media with photos of each winning display (if possible) and a congratulatory message.
- Feature in the Voice: Submit a write-up and photos of winners for the next edition of the Voice newsletter, celebrating their achievement and sharing a bit about each winning display.
- Award Signs: Deliver award signs to each winning yard, so neighbors can see and celebrate their accomplishment.

### **Budget**

- 10 Award Yard Signs - \$245 + tax + shipping = \$325. (Imprint estimate)
- Promotion = Printing of flyers/posters = \$30
- Street award = \$500 for street party
- TOTAL = \$855

### **Collect Feedback for Future Improvement**

After the contest, gather feedback from judges, residents, and participants to refine the process for next year. Ask for ideas on judging, promotion, or additional categories that might improve for future.



## Appendix:

### October 2025 Board Meeting and Planning Meeting

October 13, 2025 is supposed to be the VHCA Meeting

- It is also Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day - Federal Holiday (a lot of people have a day off work and take long weekends)
- It is also during APS Fall Break - many with kids at APS may not be able to join. (Last year it was a challenge to get a quorum - and also may be challenging for some neighbors in the community to join our meetings)

If we move it to the week before, we will also need to move the Planning Meeting up a week. We will have to communicate it better on our website and with the NPU to make sure we don't have similar problems to this year.

While I know this will be the next VHCA board of directors to deal with, I think it's a responsibility of the current board to help plan ahead since the transition doesn't take place until Oct 1st each year.

Proposal:

	Sequencing	Current Date	Proposed Date
VHCA Planning Meeting	Wednesday before the VHCA Board Meetings	Wednesday October 8th	Wednesday October 1st
VHCA Board Meeting	2nd Monday of each month	Monday October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday October 6 <sup>th</sup>
NPU F Meeting	3rd Wednesday of each month	Wednesday October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday October 15 <sup>th</sup> (no change)

Proposed:

# OCT 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01 VHCA Planning Committee	02	03	04
05	06 VHCA Board Meeting	07	08 VHCA Planning Committee	09	10	11 APS Fall Break
12 APS Fall Break	13 APS Fall Break VHCA Board Meeting	14 APS Fall Break	15 APS Fall Break NPU-F	16 APS Fall Break	17 APS Fall Break	18 APS Fall Break
19 APS Fall Break	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

