



General Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2025 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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

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

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

Community Members In Attendance:
Approximately 12

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Alex B. Jones. A Quorum was established. All board members in attendance.

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:
(A B Jones/Clark) Motion to approve the agenda.
Motion Passed 11 in favor/ 0 opposed.



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

Kenneth Herring shared that due to personal reasons, he needs to move out of Virginia-Highland and withdraw from the VHCA immediately. The board conveyed the outstanding work he has done to date and the valuable contributions through Summerfest and more.

Consent Agenda

Motion #2:

(A B Jones / Cronin) Motion to approve the consent agenda, including

- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes - May 16, 2025 Board Meeting 2025
 - Minutes - May 16, 2025 - June 8, 2025 Electronic Minutes
- Planning - Residential Variances
 - V-25-106, 916 Virginia Circle (Planning Committee approved 3-0)

Motion Passed 11 in favor/ 0 opposed.

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

Guests & Elected Officials

- City Councilman District 6 - Alex Wan - Not in attendance
- Atlanta Police Department
 - May, 2025 - June, 2025 - Lt Carroll (Zone 6)
 - 1 burglaries (3 previously)
 - 1 robbery



- 37 car break ins
 - 9 auto theft
 - High this month; hoping to see the numbers go down. Most around North Highland.
- City Councilman District 2 - Not in attendance
- State District 57 Representative - Stacey Evans (Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff) - Not in attendance
- US House 5th District - Nikema Williams - Not in attendance
- District 4 Fulton County Commissioner - Mo Ivory (Anita Harris - Chief of Staff) - Not in attendance

Summerfest Report

- Thank you to Committee & All Key Volunteers
- Proclamation celebrating 40th Anniversary & Honoring Warren Bruno
- Financial Review (Total outgoing: ~ \$125K)
- Vendor Review
- Subcommittee Review & Opportunities for Improvement
 - Artist Market
 - Music
 - Sponsorship
 - Communications
 - Volunteers
 - 5K
 - Tot Trot

Motion #3:

(Hobson-Pape / Jones) Motion to approve Summerfest date for 2026 to be June 6-7, 2026; Friday Night Neighbor Celebration June 5, 2026

Motion Passed 11 in favor/ 0 opposed.

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

Officer & Committee Updates

- Planning Committee
 - Concern about Green Dot Box near FS#19 (see Appendix for photos) (Robin Ragland)
 - Virginia-Highland Pool Association - Information from Atlanta Public Schools
 - Request by Planning Committee to remove the parking meters on North Highland in Atkins Park



- New Tree Protection Ordinance Legislation
- Atlanta Rezoning 2.0 Next Steps

- Executive Committee
 - Update re Friends of John Howell Park, LLC
 - Update re Virginia-Highland Conservation League & VHCA Bylaws; Proposed schedule
 - July 2026: Subcommittee to make formal presentation to board
 - August 2026: Board vote
 - September 2026: Membership vote
 -

- Finance Committee:
 - Ed Westreicher continuing review of financial processes; planning demo of bill.com

- Parks Committee:
 - Update on JHP / Orme Park / North Highland Park - painted the wall in NHP, continued monthly clean ups at Orme and JHP.

- Safety & Transportation:
 - Tactical Urbanism Proposal Update - City Approved the Plans & Fundraising Next Steps - over half way through fundraising goal. City approved. Seeking \$12K which includes insurance.

- Communications Committee
 - VHCA website refresh & Committee Audit of pages to look for outdated information, missing information, or broken links. Doing a bare budget update to the website.

- Elections Committee - nothing to report

- Fundraising Committee:
 - Summerfest Update (Kenneth)
 - Need more volunteers (80 shifts) - Sign up Genius on website
 - 40 for 40 mailer out this week
 - Friday night event , including jazz band and food specials
 - Need more 5K runners and Tot Trot runners
 - Kenneth to be on TV local Atlanta Morning Show (CBS) to promote Summerfest
 - No current plans for VHD to promote Summerfest at Porchfest; swag bags for 5K (200)
 - Tour of Homes Update (Melissa)
 - Postcards ready; several homes committed; 2 days for first time in many years.
 - Strong but small committee
 - Friends of VAHI (Karen, Karri)
 - Hoping to get more Friends of VAHI through Summerfest
 - Films in VAHI - none since last VHCA meeting (Mary Frances)
 - Merchandise - Request to add to comms rotation (Miguel, Karri)
 - VAHI Yard Sale - Target Date for 2026? (Amy)
 - Concepts:



- FS #19 Electric Truck Unveiling - Parade - TBD from Atlanta Fire & Rescue (Karri)

Old Business

No new business.

New Business

Alex Jones announced the tentative date and time for the VHCA Annual Meeting is Sept 8th, 7pm, pending Mayor's availability. Hobson-Pape confirmed availability at Virginia-Highland Elementary.

Upcoming Townhall cancel, was replaced by Pool Townhall - plan for September Annual meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Karri Hobson-Pape

Appendix: Alex Wan Report - VHCA Transportation Committee Crosswalk Tracking

Tr Crosswalk Location	📍 Status	Tr Notes
Virginia & N Highland	Critical ▾	All 4
N Highland in front of YWCA	Critical ▾	Acts as a school crossing
N Highland in front of Ace/CVS	Critical ▾	Major crossing along a busy street
Los Angeles and N Highland (in front of Paper Source)	Critical ▾	Major neighborhood crossing and school route
Greenwood and Ponce Place	Critical ▾	Major crossing point to The BeltLine-cracked
Barnett and Virginia	Critical ▾	Major artery to VHE
Park Dr/Ponce Pl and Virginia (western and northern crossing)	High ▾	
Todd and Virginia	High ▾	Faded and dangerous to cross
Virginia & Rosedale Rd	High ▾	Route to SPARK Elementary school and completely faded at a 3 point intersection with lots of of traffic for Ash Coffee
Both Crosswalks on North Highland on St Charles Place NE	High ▾	Faded and dangerous
Crosswalk on North Highland at Briarcliff Place	High ▾	Faded and dangerous to cross
Glen Arden and N Highland	Medi... ▾	Totally faced, major crossing point
Crosswalk at Kentucky Ave and North Highland Ave - severely faded crosswalk and stop line	Medi... ▾	
Crosswalk on North Highland at Greenwood	Medi... ▾	Faded and dangerous - I cross this routinely to go to yoga, and 80% of cars don't stop
Crosswalk on North Highland at St Louis Place	Medi... ▾	Faded, and dangerous
Crosswalk on North Highland and Highland View NE	Medi... ▾	

Appendix: FS#19 Concern re Green Dot Box

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ratner, Jeremy** <jtratner@atlantaga.gov>

Date: Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 7:37 PM

Subject: Green dot box

To: Karri Hobson-Pape <karrihp@gmail.com>, Castronova, Joette <JCastronova@atlantaga.gov>

Cc: Stewart, Chad <cstewart@atlantaga.gov>, robin ragland <robin_ragland@bellsouth.net>, Lola Carlisle <lola@rupertandwenona.com>, Jess L. <jess.liddick@gmail.com>

Good evening yall,

I was wanting to see if you could help me brainstorm and see how we can come up with a solution for this weekly problem we are having. As you are probably aware we have a green dot donation box next to the station. I know it helps out the community to donate to the less fortunate and for those less fortunate receive the gifts donated. But today this is what our station looks like. I am asking our members to bag these things up weekly and call the company to have them pick it all up. It is meant for clothes but as the box fills up neighbors place dishes, rugs, housewares, along the sidewalk in the rain as it is a Goodwill. I am extremely thankful for our neighborhood and don't want to sound insensitive as our jobs are community outreach, service providers and public servants. But maybe a few signs can be placed to discuss the parameters and maybe some further discussion is in line with the members of VHI? Attached is a couple pictures and please offer some input on how you think we should go about correcting this issue.

Cordially,

Captain Jeremy Ratner

Station 19 A Shift





Appendix: Residential Variances

V-25-106, 916 Virginia Circle

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning ordinance

Planning Committee Vote 3-0 in Favor

- V-25-106, 916 Virginia Circle



Appendix: Safety & Transportation

We have slightly modified the [presentation](#) to incorporate ATLDOT's pre-application suggestions and modified timeline. The suggestions were:

- Add stop lines for vehicles at the Park intersection
- Show min bike buffer design
- Show Beltline access along Monroe and through Midtown Promenade

Modified Timeline

- 1/15 Submit Application and during this time:
- 2/1 ATL DOT Application Review Complete + Submit Road Closure Application
- 2/28 Right of Way Granted
- 3/7 Install

Appendix: Communications

We invite all committee members to contribute stories for *The VOICE*, VHCA's bi-monthly e-newsletter. If you or someone in your committee has Virginia-Highland neighborhood-related news to share, we'd love to feature it! Submission Details:

- *The VOICE* is distributed on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month
- Submit your stories using this form: [HERE](#)
- If the form isn't for you, you can email content to communications@vahi.org
- Links to the form are also included in every issue of *The VOICE*

In addition to stories, we are also looking for advertisers! We are especially focused on supporting small, local, and home-based businesses. If you know of any businesses that might be interested, please encourage them to review the attached rate sheet for pricing and details.

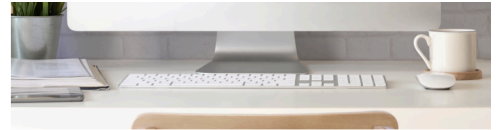


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2025 PUB DATES

The Voice publishes year round on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Upcoming dates include:

- Feb. 6
- Feb. 20
- March 6
- March 20
- April 3
- April 17
- May 1
- May 15

RATES

1 issue	\$100
2 issues	\$180
3 issues	\$270

If your needs don't fall precisely into these categories, let us know