



General Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Virginia-Highland Elementary School
 Virginia Avenue NE
 Atlanta, GA 30306

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

Community Members In Attendance:
 Approximately 70

6:30	Tables: Opportunities to Volunteer & Engage in VAHI	
6:45 - 7:00 pm	Young Voices from our Community Springdale Park Elementary School Advanced Chorus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two wonderful songs with choreography were performed by the SPARK 3rd - 5th graders 	Brianne Turgeon, Music Teacher SPARK
7:00 pm	Welcome & Call to Order Introduction of VHCA Board Members 2024-2025 Highlights from the VHCA Year-End Report 2025 Welcome to Legislators and Representatives Welcome to VHCA Board Candidates 2025-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encouraged attendees to share their thoughts and opinions through the QR codes on table. ● Join Virginia-Highland Civic Associations' Friends of VaHi membership program to show off your support and pride of our Virginia-Highland neighborhood. All Friends of VAHI donations and contributions will be directed towards our general fund which supports our annual operating costs and community development. We truly appreciate your support. 	Alex Bevel Jones VHCA President
7:10	The Virginia-Highland Neighbor of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barry Loudis was announced as the most 	Karri Hobson-Pape, VHCA Secretary

	<p>valuable volunteer for the VHCA in 2025-2026 for his assistance with our accounting and finances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barry received “The Top Banana” award 	
7:15	<p>State of Infrastructure in Atlanta Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nan Orrock, Georgia State Senator, District 36 ● Alex Wan, Atlanta City Council, District 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panel discussion about management to improve the water systems, roads, traffic and sidewalks in the city. 	Alex Bevel Jones (Moderator) VHCA President
7:45	<p>Community Vote: VHCA/VHCL Consolidation & Revised Bylaws</p> <p>Peggy Berg presented highlights shared from prior public meetings regarding Structuring VHCA and VHCL for the Future: Why are we doing this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Simplify operations & donations ●Make the most of valuable volunteer time & talent ●Take advantage of evolving 501c3 and 501c4 regulations ●Allow VHCA donations to be tax deductible <p>Bringing the VHCA and VHCL together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Transfer assets and operations of the current VHCA (c4) to VHCL (c3) ●Rename VHCL as VHCA, retaining c3 status & taking on all functions of both VHCL and VHCA ●Rename the old VHCA (c4) as Virginia-Highland Resident Association; largely dormant but available if needed <p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●VHCA & VHCL engaged Jeff Woodward, Attorney to take us through the process ●VHCA shared details to the community through the Voice, discussions at VHCA and VHCL board meetings and a community meeting August 26 ●VHCA & VHCL Boards voted unanimously to approve ●Sept 8, 2025: Membership votes on 4 resolutions ●Sept 9 - 30, 2025: Implement legal changes <p>VHCA Virginia-Highland Civic Association – a 501c3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<u>Membership</u>: Virginia-Highland residents, member controlled ●Takes tax deductible donations ●Lobbys within limits 	Peggy Berg, VHCL Mary Frances Jones, VHCL/VHCA Jeff Woodward, VAHI Attorney

- Fund-raises for Virginia-Highland: Summerfest, Tour of Homes
 - Planning - variance review
 - Neighborhood information (pool, schools, candidates, etc.)
 - Maintain & improve parks (NHP, JHP, Orme Park, Triangle)
 - Park Pride: Friend of Parks organization
 - Neighborhood workdays & maintenance
 - Safety initiatives
 - Special projects - Firehouse, JHP renovation
- VHRC Virginia-Highland Resident Coalition – a 501c4
- Membership: VHCA sole member, VHCA controlled
 - Dormant unless needed for major lobbying effort (expressway)
 - Could hold North Highland Park to offset liability

Four Resolutions:

Membership vote September 8, 2025

Resolution 1. To approve the consolidation of VHCA and VHCL for the purpose of changing the name of the VHCL to VHCA, combining the activities of VHCL and VHCA, and continuing the operations of VHCA as a 501c3 in accordance with the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended and Restated Bylaws (the “Consolidation”)

Resolution 2. To approve the name change, Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the (renamed) VHCA c3 entity in the form presented

Resolution 3. To approve the gift and transfer of the assets and liabilities of the VHCA c4 entity to the VHCA c3 for the purpose of continuing the activities of VHCA

Resolution 4. To approve the proposed name change, Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the VHCA c4 entity in the form presented

Approved
Motion Passed 37 in favor/ 0 opposed

8:00	<p>Celebrating our Community Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communications - Social, Voice, Web ● VAHI Gatherings & Holiday Lights Contest ● VAHI Yard Sale ● Fire House #19 Centennial Celebration ● Tour of Homes 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The beloved Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes returns for an expanded two-day event, December 13-14, featuring six beautiful homes decked out for the season. ○ The Tour will take place alongside Virginia-Highland District's Winterfest, making the neighborhood the ultimate holiday destination for residents and visitors alike. ● Summerfest 2025 & Plans for 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karen Isenburg Jones read the City Council Resolution honoring Warren Bruno and Summerfest for 40 years of success. 	<p>Amy Harward</p> <p>Amy Harward</p> <p>Karen Isenburg Jones</p>
8:15	<p>Supporting Our Parks and Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on APS Facilities Planning ● Midtown High School hosting Atlanta City Council District #2 Debate ● John Howell Park Renovation Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This Year's News ○ ●Park Pride Grant - \$100k for playground equipment ○ ●Park bench project - 11 benches rehabilitated ○ ○Partnership between VHCA Parks Committee & City of Atlanta ○ ●Phased approach ○ ○Playground, ADA routes & stormwater as Phase I ○ ○Remaining elements as Phase II ○ Coming Soon! ○ ●Renewed fundraising push ~\$400k left to raise ○ ○Campaign launching this fall ○ ○Need volunteers - anyone with positive energy for JHP ○ ●Phase I construction starts in 2026! 	<p>Melissa Clark Ken Zeff, APS Board of Education, District #3 Audrey Lyons, Midtown High School</p> <p>Jim Coe</p>
8:30	<p>Advocacy & Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virginia Avenue Bike Lane 	<p>Amy Harward & Johnson Bazzell</p>

- Plans for implementation and volunteer opportunities shared
- Georgia Power - New Poles on North Highland
 - Regional Roby from Georgia Power shared plans for new tall power lines on North Highland Avenue

Georgia Power
Kevin Cronin



- Atlanta Zoning 2.0 Updates
 - If 50% or more of an area is made up of lots that are half an acre or smaller, convert it to N5A-R2
 - If less than 50% of an area is made up of lots that are half an acre or smaller, but the area is in a historic district that requires “house scale,” convert it to N5A-R2
 - In all other cases, convert to UG3A-R2, as originally proposed
 - Public comment period on the most recent draft has now ended
 - Comments/input will be reviewed, and a new draft will be made available for review by end of the year or beginning of next year
 - When a final draft is prepared, it will go to the NPU for a vote before going to City Council – the goal is to have a final draft next year once input on the next draft are reviewed
- Remembering John Wolfinger, Neighbor
 - Recognized by Kevin Cronin; round of applause from attendees

8:45

Close
Treasurer’s Report

Alex Bevel Jones

- We closed this term with \$156,900 in reserves plus North Highland Park as our primary asset, at the end of July 2025.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our net income was effectively break-even at \$6822 as of the end of July. While proud of our progress, we know there is more to do. <p>Friends of VAHI Volunteer Sign Ups Thank you!</p>	
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Respectfully submitted by:

Karri Hobson-Pape