



General Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026 - 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: Adam Faust (President), Tim Langon (Vice President), Karri Hobson-Pape (Secretary), Mary Frances Jones (Co-Treasurer), Rob Glazer (Co-Treasurer), Miguel Barrios, Melissa Clark, Kevin Cronin, Amy Harward, Jennifer Hardwick, Alex Bevel Jones

Community Members In Attendance:
Approximately 25 in person and online

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Adam Faust, VHCA President 2025-2026. A Quorum was established. All board members in attendance except Melissa Clark.

Faust 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:
(Faust/Cronin) Motion to approve the agenda.
Motion Passed 10 in favor/ 0 opposed.



Adam Faust	<i>Approved</i>	Melissa Clark	
Tim Langon	<i>Approved</i>	Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>
Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Mary Frances Jones	<i>Approved</i>	Jennifer Hardwick	<i>Approved</i>
Rob Glancey	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Bevel Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>		

Brief Neighbor Updates

- Faust recognized the Tour of Homes Committee – including board members Amy Harward, Melissa Clark and Mary Francis Jones – for doing an outstanding job this year. One of the best TOHs to date.

Consent Agenda

Motion #2:

(Faust/Clark) Motion to approve the consent agenda, including September 2025 minutes and residential variance and liquor license.

- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes - December 2025 Board Meeting
- Planning - Residential Variances
 - V-25-261 915 Drewry (Planning Committee Vote 5-0)
 - SAP 832 N. Highland Ave (Osteria) (Planning Committee Vote 5-0)

Motion Passed 10 in favor/ 0 opposed.

Adam Faust	<i>Approved</i>	Melissa Clark	
Tim Langon	<i>Approved</i>	Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>
Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Mary Frances Jones	<i>Approved</i>	Jennifer Hardwick	<i>Approved</i>
Rob Glancey	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Bevel Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>		

Guests and Elected Officials

- Guests and Elected Officials



- Atlanta Police Department - Lt Carroll, Zone 6 APD - Present

	Current 28 Day Period	Prior 28 Day Period
Property Crimes	29	46
Burglaries	1	0
Motor Vehicle Thefts	6	3
Thefts from Motor Vehicles	12	29

- Murder-homicide on Cooleedge at end of December. Still under investigation, no information to give out now..
- City Councilman District 6 - Alex Wan - Not present
- City Councilman District 2 - Kelsea Bond - Not present, notified she is not feeling well.
- 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 - Mo Ivory (Anita Harris - Chief of Staff) - Not present

Officer & Committee Updates

- Executive Committee.
 - 2026 Community Impact Grants (CIG) - Debbie Skopzynski **from** NPU-F shared information about applications for through NPU, Due early Feb, project complete in 2026 (see appendix for more information)
 - Typical projects include parks projects (e.g. planting native plants - Orme Park, Sidney Marcus), security banners that have gone up on North Highland and Virginia Avenue, VHD grant for hanging planters in Atkins Park
 - Vote at NPU for projects at Feb meeting. Would like a short summary and amount of money
 - Average grant is \$2-\$3K and total of \$5-6K for each NPU. NPU-F has received more.
 - Juried grants across all NPUs. Not every grant is funded.
 - Projects must be closed out by end of December.
 - Application must be submitted by NPU Chair. Need summary of project and detailed budget.
 - Planning Committee (Kevin Cronin)
 - Presentation by Hank Farmer and Mitchell Brown (Third & Urban), SAP 25-218 780 N Highland Ave
 - Parcel is planned to consolidate 770 778 and 784 to create one retail space.
 - Bought Atkins Park Collection 60K [sq.ft.](#) in Dec 2024 & Jan 2025 North Highland & St. Charles.
 - Atkins Park Historic Neighborhood should be vibrant all day long, not just evening hours.
 - Spent \$800K improving the buildings, mural, facade, new stairs, interior improvements.
 - Did community poll with VHD to get input on mural
 - Working with security patrol facilitated by VHD to extend to the further end.
 - SAP 25-218 780 N Highland Ave
 - Architectural - pull recent stucco to expose historic material.



- Retail - coffee, breakfast, vibrant in early evenings and daytime - 1-2 full service restaurants. Reconfigure Splatter Studio.
- Sidewalk improvement
- Pulling back 780 building and creating a courtyard, activated with restaurant, cocktail bar, 8am - 8pm activation
- Langon conveyed great need to clean up after weekend nights.

Motion #3:

(Clark/Langon) Motion to approve SAP 25-218

Motion Passed 10 in favor/ 0 opposed.

Adam Faust	<i>Approved</i>	Melissa Clark	
Tim Langon	<i>Approved</i>	Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>
Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Mary Frances Jones	<i>Approved</i>	Jennifer Hardwick	<i>Approved</i>
Rob Glancey	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Bevel Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>		

- Hobson-Pape questioned the branding to change that part of VAHI to “Atkins Park.” Farmer felt that the area has a branding challenge and will leave it to the neighbors.
- Hobson-Pape asked about the vision to potentially activate North Highland Park. Farmer shared that they are considering ideas such as cross-walk connection; in conversations with Councilperson Bond. Lack of funding from the city has created challenges. Would appreciate being involved in discussions about ways to activate it.
- Murphy’s new owners - Father/son Ownership - Transfer of Liquor License.
 - Hours are not changing. Neighbors on Rupley would like to meet with them.

Motion #4:

(Clark/Langon) Motion to approve change of ownership liquor license for Murphy’s

Motion Passed 10 in favor/ 0 opposed.

Adam Faust	<i>Approved</i>	Melissa Clark	
Tim Langon	<i>Approved</i>	Kevin Cronin	<i>Approved</i>
Karri Hobson-Pape	<i>Approved</i>	Amy Harward	<i>Approved</i>
Mary Frances Jones	<i>Approved</i>	Jennifer Hardwick	<i>Approved</i>

Adam Faust	<i>Approved</i>	Melissa Clark	
Rob Glancey	<i>Approved</i>	Alex Bevel Jones	<i>Approved</i>
Miguel Barrios	<i>Approved</i>		

- Cronin shared that there will be a planned Townhall in February for new Selig development on Ponce from Bonaventure down 3-4 buildings. Tentatively Feb 10th. Development will be primary discussion but can discuss other topics for VHCA. Will be an education process.
 - Selig has sent crew to pick up garbage on Maiden Lane.
 - Section of website will be necessary to post plans.
- Zoning 2.0 - Langon shared that we are still in feedback period.
- Parks Committee (Miguel Barrios)
 - Schedule for Upcoming Park Work Days
 - Update on North Highland Park
 - Stephanie Coffin showed a plan developed with Trees Atlanta for North Highland Park planting. Considering a 30' tree.
 - Considering putting a tree on the corner of St. Charles and North Highland on side of Neighbor's Pub; work take one parking space and would be softening touch for area.
 - Presentation from Trees Atlanta
 - Two project weekends: Jan 31st, Feb 7 - if your property is being considered for right of way, neighbor received postcard.
 - Would like to convince as many people as possible that neighbor does still need trees. Planning 50 trees/weekend.
 - Losing an acre every two days and not planning trees back. Need trees at many different ages.
 - Because what Trees Atlanta does at no cost, people don't realize the monetary value.
 - Boutte charges \$1000/tree and that does not provide maintainence.
 - Trees Atlnata also supports each tree wtih prune, water, weed, mulch for 2 years. Can do maitenance for up to 10 years.
 - Homeowners can submit requests beyond of right of way.
 - Alot of benefits from trees: (1) Calm traffic, reduce noise, air quality - reduces carbon dioxide, (2) cooler temps and lower energy costs, compounded interest from trees for energy costs (neighobrhood that have trees can be up to 10 degrees cooler in summer). (3) Flood mitigation and erosion control.
 - Ensure coordination with John Howell Park renovation. Jim Coe has been in touch with Tree Atlanta; trees will fill out area in south side of the park where they have cleared out the invasives.
 - Exploring area behind Truva as well.
 - "Whos fixing the Sidewalks" continue to come up as as issue for Trees Atlanta.
 - Further review of \$3000 in budget for plantings new Todd Memorial at NHP. A plan existed for planting; money also intended to be in reserve for any potential damage to markers. Follow up needed with Robin Ragland.



- Update on Friends of John Howell Park (Jim Coe)
 - First official quarterly update from Friends of JHP to board.
 - Founding Member drive going well; Received \$116K in donations from 46 donors, includes 35 founding member families that have donated \$1000 or more. Have additional commitments.
 - Met with Park Pride; won a \$100K grant for Playground equipment. Understand some of the delays we have had and are open to an extension of the grant timeline. They also shared that they are applying on our behalf for additional \$100K from another source.
 - Continue to talk to contractors. Have received estimates from 4 contractors, all came in above estimates but are working to value engineer to meet goals.
 - Working to fill out a complete board, in discussion with neighbors and donors. Looking to present a full slate at February VHCA meeting.
 - Plans:
 - Launching a brick campaign to collect smaller dollar donations. Jennifer Hardwick is leading this effort. Launching in early spring. Continuing Founding Member board campaign.
 - Going to present plans for JHP to city leaders, including Kelsey Bond and Alex Wan.
 - \$141K in bank - historical / new fundraising. Direct expenses: \$1548 (marketing, bank fees)
 - Grant opportunity from AARP shared by Jennifer Hardwick.
 - Fundraising Summary: Need to raise \$950K; fundraising thermometer in consideration
 - 2021 - 2023: \$100K
 - City Commitment: \$300K (should receive in next few months)
 - Park Pride Grant: \$100K
 - New Fundraising: \$130K
- John Howell Park (Miguel Barrios)
 - Clean up 1/17 10-12pm - 2 mulch chip piles - need a lot of volunteers - Jim Long leading
- Update on Orme Park
 - Neighbor reached out to install a "wind phone" - phone but not connected to anything, symbolic. Park Committee has concern about vandalism, so will pass on this.
 - Will resume clean ups in February.
- History Committee
 - Virginia-Highland History Tours - February 21 & 22 (3 tours each day), registration open
 - Need to discuss insurance approach.
 - Historic Marker Proposals - Only paid for by Georgia Historical Society if significant state history - not currently in the VHCA budget; wait to see how the fundraising progresses.
 - John Howell Park - highlight
 - Corner of Virginia & North Highland - Trolley history
 - Dr. Leila Denmark - VAHI Pediatrician, 3rd GA Female MD
 - Adair Mansion - GB Adair, Early Estate Period - only concern is Adairs fought for confederacy.
- Safety and Transportation (Amy Harward, Jennifer Hardwick)
 - Tactical Urbanism Bike Lane Update (Amy Harward)
 - Grateful for on-going feedback
 - In February will start to canvas neighbors close to bike lane on Virginia Avenue to get feedback



- Sidewalk Improvements - Find Volunteer to Lead Initiative? Request from Virginia Avenue Condos based on recent code violation.

- Communications Committee
 - VHCA website refresh & Committee audit of pages to look for outdated information, missing information, or broken links

- Finance Committee / Treasurer Update
 - Update about TOH - Revenue: \$119,813 , Profit: \$97,918 - owe a big round of applause for volunteers, working with VHD was strong; On calendar for next year. Planning for 2026 starting soon.

- Fundraising Committee:
 - Discuss

- Elections Committee - No update

Old Business

- None

New Business

- VHD Mardi Gras parade is February 7th
- Impexx Property Services sent request to board@vahi.org for Trash Can Pull & Return service and Request to Present to VHCA. Discussion that it was more appropriate for HOA in subdivisions. Hobson-Pape to respond back to company to just send info.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karri Hobson-Pape