

**VHCA General Meeting
Monday, July 10th, 2017; 7:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church
1155 N. Highland Avenue**

Minutes

Attendees: David Brandenberger, Jenifer Keenan, Troy Murray, Debbie Skopczynski, Kay Stephenson, George Zirkel, Eleanor Barrineau, Cindy Kaufman, Micah Stringer
Absent: Steve Messner, Robin Ragland

The president called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and board members introduced themselves. The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Jenifer to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Representation

Captain Klotzer, APD Zone 6. No violent crime over last 21 days and 25% reduction in last 21 days. Eight of 12 incidents were car break-ins, and 3 are auto thefts. Remember clean car campaign. Also we are experiencing car thefts where the spare key is inside the car (these often occur at the same time as car break-ins). Package thefts have died down a bit. He will check with Major Peek about resuming the narrative information on the safety reports. Homeless issues – Peachtree Pine Shelter not closed yet, not sure of impact when it does close. APD will be alert to any changes.

New Business

VHCA is hosting a social at Gusto on July 20th at 7:00 – VHCA is providing appetizers, and there will be a cash bar. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee – Jenifer Keenan

- Variances - Planning Committee

V-17-176; 1142 Briarcliff Place NE; R-4

Applicant Mark Arnold on behalf of homeowners Jim and Krista Hester seek a reduction in the east side yard setback from 7' to 6' 6" and the west half-depth front yard setback from 17' 6" to 6' 4" to construct a second story addition to the home. The new second story addition will be entirely in the footprint of the existing structure.

The proposed lot coverage slightly increases from 46.9% to 47.5% due to redesigned sidewalks and conversion of the existing rear addition to a rear porch. The proposed lot coverage is still below 50% maximum.

The applicant agreed to update the site plan to include a tree on the eastern edge of the property behind the main structure. The applicant also commits to direct all collected storm

water to the back yard of their home. All appropriate neighbors, including the adjoining apartment complex management, have been notified.

Subject to the submission of a new site plan reflecting the aforementioned tree, the Planning Committee unanimously recommends approval.

Debbie recommended approval without reservation. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

- Special Administrative Permit (SAP17-060)

Request for a Special Administrative Permit (SAP17-060) for an extension of a deck in the rear of the Dark Horse Tavern at 816 North Highland Avenue.

Several conditions noted on an earlier request are still present and include issue of eliminating existing parking places, difficulties with getting fire truck onto property, and curb cut needing to be redone. Debbie moved to recommend support of planning committee's recommendation that the requirements be met or the request be denied, passed unanimously on voice vote.

- Liquor Licenses - Jenifer

None, although Debbie noted that Publix on Ponce is filing for change of agent.

History and Preservation Committee – Jenifer (from information provided by Robin)

- FS 19 Project Update. Amended contract was negotiated called change from for \$120 to \$135k for design services. It will be covered by the fundraising that has already occurred to date. No need for VHCA to give additional funds from its general budget for this amended contract – signed two weeks ago by Jenifer. Motion to approve by Jenifer, seconded by Kay, and motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Budget Committee/Treasurer's Report - George

June P & L's are available. Summerfest is not completely closed, but revenue is solid on the report. Friday was very good, Sat on par with prior years, Sunday not good due to weather.

Parks Committee - David

- John Howell Park Grant Project
 - Contracting with firm to do brickwork and granite.
 - Waiting on bid for fencing
 - Anticipate realization of some of the work in next month
 - Will need first portion of funding within next 2 weeks (~25K of the projected \$40K total)
 - Should complete in next 2 months or so.
 - There was \$2500 specifically for playground funds, can do repairs on that if needed, but not available for general projects at park.

Fundraising Committee

- Summerfest – George (see report above)
- Tour of Homes – Jenifer. Homes are selected, will be looking for volunteers to work shifts and also others are encouraged to join the committee.
- Other Fundraising - George, Kay. The original list of ideas has been culled down to 7, and 3 have been “adopted” by a member of the community to do more research and a write-up of a few pages. Would like write-ups to be done by end of August. One additional suggestion was “adopted” by attendees at the meeting and VHCA will put out request for folks to take on the additional items.

A resident provided feedback on the protest at the Summerfest parade.

Business District Task Force - Micah

- Had first meeting about a month ago, and it included a number of business and property owners. Got great feedback, will meet again in about 30 days to come up with a plan. Parking was a big issue, working on that. Discussed how to get traffic from Beltline up to our neighborhood. Most representation was from triangle down to DBA. Would like more representation from areas needing focus such as Atkins Park. Will meet quarterly. Alex Wan attended and wanted input on projects he can sponsor/help fund before the end of the year. Working on request for some paid parking to be relocated from business district to other parts of the neighborhood.

Safety Committee - Eleanor

- First Responder Recognition - July 18th for Zone 6 of APD. Safety Committee members will be going to the Zone 6 precinct at 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm on the 18th with refreshments and thanks. Other community members are welcome to come – let us know at safety@vahi.org if you are interested.
- New streetlight approved for Greenwood between Bonaventure and Barnett but will take several weeks to be installed.
- Summerfest nearby resident feedback was very helpful and will be passed on to Summerfest committee to improve experience for residents next year.

Communications Committee - Kay

- Google Drive shared items (e.g., photos, files) are now on Civic Association account.
- Got positive feedback from most recent e-newsletter format.
- Specials & Deals Offer to VaHi Businesses. Offered to put a list of specials and deals at bottom of Voice for free; have some businesses signed up already.
- Coordination with Tour of Homes and Summerfest. One person from communications committee will be on TOH and Summerfest committees to better coordinate communications.
- District 6 Candidate Forum. VHCA along with MLPA and Piedmont Heights are presenting a forum for our new city council member Sept. 19th at Rock Spring Presbyterian. Tom Baxter will moderate. Alliance of Intown Neighbors will also be doing mayoral candidate forums at Inman Middle School.

Sidewalk and Transportation Committee – Troy

A new form for sidewalk issue reporting has been developed and will be put on VHCA website. Troy will develop a process for handling sidewalk issues.

Nominating Committee - Debbie

Will use virtually the same process as in previous years. The invitation for candidates for Board seats will be issued about 4-5 weeks before Annual Meeting date. A Voice article will describe the process and what kinds of positions we need filled. Clarification was given that the nominating committee does not cull or select candidates.

The date for the Annual General Meeting has not been determined but will be around the middle of September with the first choice being the 14th.

Grants Committee – David and George

The grant application is on the website, also have put out on social media. Deadline is middle of August to submit. Not sure of total to be given out, but should have a reasonable amount.

Adjourned at 7:56pm.

Special Note about NPU-F meeting next Monday – Emory Annexation request will be discussed and will be a primary focus of the meeting. Emory would be in NPU-F if the annexation takes place.

Calendar: (All meetings are public)

- NPU-F Monthly Meeting at Hillside: July 17, 2017, 7 pm
- VHCA Planning Committee at Church of Our Saviour: August 9, 2017, 7 pm
- VHCA General and Board Meeting at Grace Lutheran: August 14, 2017, 7 pm