



APRIL 29, 2025 TOWN HALL

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I want to briefly frame the purpose of tonight's meeting — and the VHCA's role in this process.

We're here to discuss the proposal for a new APS pool facility on APS property—the Field of Dreams, right across the street. The Virginia-Highland Civic Association is facilitating this conversation on behalf of neighbors because the VHCA represents the interests of neighborhood residents. APS has also indicated that community support will weigh into their decision-making.

The VHCA is a City of Atlanta civic body formally tasked with representing Virginia-Highland residents in matters of planning, development, and neighborhood impact. We were established for exactly this kind of work—to provide structure, transparency, and community input when projects arise that could change the character or function of our neighborhood. Over the years, VHCA has facilitated many similar processes, from small zoning matters to major redevelopment projects. Even if no zoning changes are immediately required here, **our role is to make sure residents' voices are heard before irreversible decisions are made.**

The VHCA has a well-worn, well-established process for working through neighborhood development projects. We review proposals thoughtfully, we gather input, we ask clarifying questions, and guided by the Virginia-Highland Master Plan, we weigh the potential impacts on our neighborhood. This is not new—we are following the same playbook we have used with dozens of other developments.

Our task tonight is to further our VHCA planning process and ask thoughtful questions of the developers—many of which were submitted by neighbors—to help fill in the gaps and clarify important details.

The VHCA will not make any recommendation based on how loud any one voice is. We will base it on the full set of considerations that align with the long-term health, safety, and values of Virginia-Highland — and the public trust placed in us to represent those interests.

Thank you again for being here and participating with care and respect.

-Alex B Jones, VHCA president

NOTABLE ATTENDEES

City Representatives:

- Charla R. Mitchell, Mayor's office

APS Representatives:

- Caprice Stokes, Director of Property Management
- Larry Hoskins, COO

APS Board of Education Reps:

- Katie Howard (District 1)
- Ken Zeff (District 3)

VHPA Developers

- Abby Closs
- John Closs

VHPA Board Members

VHCA Board