

**Virginia-Highland Conservation League**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2023**

**Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM at the home of Peggy Berg**

**Members in Attendance**

- P. Berg, C. Bullock, J. Liddick, B. Loudis
- \*C. Lewis and P. Penn absent with notice

**Observers in Attendance**

- J. White

**Treasurer's Report**

- Summary of accounts was reviewed by the Treasurer (B. Loudis)
  - Summary attached to this document
- VHCL has \$106,836.20 in total assets
  - All but \$13,020.25 is in project-specific, budgeted accounts

**Project Updates**

**Fire Station 19**

- A formal ribbon cutting was held January 7 in recognition of the work to conserve FS19 and celebrate the opening of the station. A full write up by Catherine Lewis is included in this document as it appeared in the Voice on Jan 20, 2023.
- VHCA hosted a Firestation Warming in 2022 with materials for sale in conjunction with the Virginia-Highland District Association's Winterfest event. Sales of items from Lola Carlisle contributed net \$1,651.7 to the VHCL FS19 project budget and \$158.72 for general. General donations were also solicited for JHP renovation and raised \$300.
- Two Southface invoices have been paid by VHCL: \$1,941.88 for the Pre-construction meeting and \$1,195 for the first site visit. Chip has been in touch with Southface for final invoicing of Southface's second site visit and final site visit - expenses beyond VHCL/VHCA's agreement with the COA. We await clarification of what is still outstanding to be paid, and working with Councilman Wan for city fund availability.
- VHCA's Tour of Homes for 2023 is October 21 but does not include FS19.

**John Howell Park**

- Concept phase has been completed and design plans by Frawley and Associates have been posted on vahi.org. They were presented at the two town halls VHCA has hosted in 2023 and at Summerfest. Donations have been received but a fundraising campaign has not fully launched for the full cost of the project, estimated to be \$1.75M.
- VHCA Parks Committee is now working with Jim Remlin for stormwater review and David Dechant from Arboguard for a full tree assessment. Expenses to be covered by VHCL.

- VHCA has hosted two concerts year to date - The March event raised \$3,763.77, transferred to VHCL once expenses were reconciled. The September event raised \$1,473.10. Nov 11 will be the last concert of the 2023 series.

### **North Highland Park**

- The electrical outlets and breaker box were repaired and some replaced with a commercial shape. This was done with the intention of removing power as a resource from people using it to recharge their phones. Project cost was covered by VHCA as part of the 2023 budget.

### **Orme Park**

- Installation of a new picnic table was completed and recently reimbursed \$1,399.26 by VHCL.
- The Friends of Orme Park group have recently reanimated and been actively removing invasive species from Orme Park.

### **Todd Memorial**

- Installation has stalled with various contractor issues including going out of business, re-establishing the business and delays in materials. Final expenses are to-be-determined but should be below the amount currently in the VHCL budgeted account for the project.

### **Votes Considered**

- *None*

### **2023-24 Board of Directors Membership**

- The following personnel will be on the Virginia-Highland Conservation League Board of Directors for the 2023-24 period
  - P. Berg, C. Bullock, C. Lewis, J. Liddick, B. Loudis, P. Penn

### **Meeting adjourned**

<b>VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CONSERVATION LEAGUE</b>			
<b>BALANCE SHEET - September 27, 2023</b>			
Last Updated - 09/27/2023			
<b>ASSETS</b>			
	Current Assets	\$0	
	Checking	\$106,836.20	
	Savings	\$0	
	Fixed Assets	\$0	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>\$106,836.20</b>
<b>BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>			
		<b>Balance</b>	<b>Restricted? (Y/N)</b>
	Fire Station 19	-\$315.45	Y
	General Fund and Operating Expenses	\$13,020.25	N
	Historical Projects	\$276.15	Y
	John Howell Park	\$75,110.26	Y
	North Highland Park	\$2,092.77	Y
	Orme Park	\$11,562.43	Y
	Todd Memorial	\$5,089.79	Y
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>			<b>\$106,836.20</b>
<b>ASSETS MINUS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>



*By Dr. Catherine Lewis, Historic Preservation Committee*

Firestation 19's recent renovation has truly been a 12-year labor of love, and as a historian, I am so proud to see how much our community has contributed to the preservation of Virginia-Highland's historic station. The station was at risk of being torn down, but on Saturday, January 7, 2023, we cut the ribbon for the newly renovated station.

Number 19 is Atlanta's oldest continuously operating fire station and has been a landmark since the 1920s. Under Mayor William A. Sims, No. 19 was built to "furnish adequate fire protection to that rapidly growing community." In the fall of 1924, the city and county appropriated funds for the \$28,000 bungalow-style building, and the station began operations in 1925.

But Atlanta Fire Rescue has a much longer history – it was chartered on February 2, 1848, though Fire Company 1 would not go into service until March 25, 1851. During the Civil War, Union forces destroyed all of the fire apparatus in the city, and the fire department remained an all-volunteer force until 1882. Tragic fires throughout the city, including the Winecoff Hotel fire of 1946 and the Baptist Tower fire of 1972, resulted in new fire codes that improved safety in the city and nationwide. Today, the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department's mission is to provide "prompt, quality services to our stakeholders that promote safety and well-being, enhance sustainability, and enrich the quality of life through professional development and dedication to service."

The station was re-dedicated on January 7, 2023, and there are a number of people who deserve recognition. In 2015, the Atlanta City Council approved funds to help restore the Number 19 Fire Station in the heart of Virginia- Highland. The efforts to preserve the station started long before that date and were led by the Number 19 firefighters, the Virginia-Highland Conservation League, and volunteers Lola Carlisle, Jack White, Robin Ragland, David Brandenberger, Chip Bullock, Barry Loudis, Peggy Berg, Pat Penn, Mark Arnold, and many others. Community members donated money over many years and volunteered at a number of fundraisers. Restaurateur Rich Chey and council members Alex Wan and Jennifer Ide, played a critical role in helping to raise funds and keep the project moving forward. This decades-long effort helped restore the station, one of the most beloved sites in the city of Atlanta.

We are so grateful to the Virginia-Highland Civic Association and the team at Atlanta Fire and Rescue, led by Chief Roderick Smith. We also appreciate the leadership at Number 19, including Captain Jennifer Ware (A Shift), Captain Joette Castanova (B Shift), and Captain Chad Stewart (C Shift). All great communities embody a spirit of cooperation, and we are no exception. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the station, and we will be working on developing an exhibition that tells this important story.