



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes February 6, 2017

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Jackie McKinney, Moureen Bish, Frank Hagaman, Sekienna Ellis, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Nancy Caddigan, Chris Montross, Dean Amadon, Mark McKinney, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, George Annan-Kingsley, Ken Johnson, Carol Padberg, Michelle McFarland

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. Chris Chanaca, Janice Castle, David Corrigan, Louisa Barton-Duguay, Barbara Morton, Donna Sodipo, Mia Douglas, Sue Carey, Dulcie Giadone, Jennifer Cassidy, Barbara Robbins, Mike McGarry, Ted Carroll, & Bernie Michel

Visitors: Diane Cantello, Marcy Miller, Rich Armstrong, Julie Niggebrugge, James Jeter, Rex Fowler, Michael Winters, Josh LaPorte, Alffe Blake, Jimmy Bruno jr.

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15.

The Mission of AHNA was read. The January minutes were approved.

Police Report: Chris Chanaca spoke about the recent homicide on Ashley Street, as well as concerns about daily shootings on Judson Street and the Bedford Mall in the north end. He reported the January statistics for Asylum Hill: 6 car break-ins, 6 stolen cars (mostly on Forrest St), 2 robberies, and 1 burglary. Chris compared 2015 to 2016 city wide statistics on crime. In all categories, the numbers decreased in 2016.

Finance Report:

Jan 1 balance:	\$ 9,867.81
Donations:	\$ 1,493
Expenses:	\$ 702
Jan 31 balance:	\$ 10,658.55

Paul noted a snafu in paying Bernie in January so the expenses should have been greater.

Yvonne encouraged individuals to contribute to AHNA. Ted noted that Board members have begun meeting with various non-profits in Asylum Hill to get to know these stakeholders, strengthen relationships with them, get their suggestions about AHNA's work in the neighborhood, as well as to inquire about potential donations to AHNA.

Voices of the Community:

- Re-evaluation is this year: if residents have concerns about their evaluation, they need to appeal to the Assessor's office soon.
- Pan handling seems to be increasing.
- The West Middle School Library will be opening early in March. Hours will be 1-6 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Concern was expressed about the limited hours.

I-84 Update: Marcy and Rich reported that they continue to explore options. An advisory committee will be formed to discuss a potentially new transit hub in Asylum Hill. There will be more public forums

in April. They are beginning a study of the challenges of the 84/91 intersection.

Hartford Decides: They are seeking sites and ideas about a neighborhood mural. Louisa indicated an interest in working on this project.

City of Hartford: Janice reminded AHNA of the following:

- Winter weather notices – information about parking bans and that the Youth Service Corps provides free snow removal for seniors and disabled residents. Call 311 with requests.
- Call 311 about any pot hole problems
- Feb 25 at 11 AM is a Town Hall meeting at the SW Boys and Girls Club
- NRZ signs: Janice will check the status of the 6 (small) signs for Asylum Hill

Public Safety Committee: met recently with residents and parents. They discussed community policing and addressed the issues at the Regency on Woodland St.

Welcoming Committee: sponsored a successful opening of the Multi-cultural Resource Center on Gillette St. They are open on Wednesday afternoons and offer basic English conversation as well as direct services and referral assistance.

Economic Development Committee: reported that they have many ideas for Farmington Ave, but no money.

South Marshall Interfaith Coalition: the group has engaged a community organizer to begin conversations with the residents.

Community Announcements:

- Asylum Hill Congregational Church is hosting an opportunity for non-profits to talk to each other about their work
- Hartford Blooms: pansies will be available to buy by the flat (\$10) to plant in the neighborhood
- Wadsworth Atheneum: free admission for residents with Wadsworth Welcome Card. 1400 residents have signed up for the free card.
- CPTV: Their Veteran's Program seeks 2 community projects to work on from March through May. Donna invited the public to visit CPTV on Feb 24 for "SpeakUp" produced by students.
- Hartford Magazine featured Bernie's photographs last week

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.