



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes ~ January 9, 2017

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Jackie McKinney, Dean Amadon, Ken Johnson, Carol Padberg, Sekienna Ellis, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Nancy Caddigan, Chris Montross, Moureen Bish, Mark McKinney, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, George Annan-Kingsley, Frank Hagaman, Michelle McFarland

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. Chris Chanaca, Lt. Mario Oquendo, Capt. Raul Ortiz, Michael Sawyer, David Corrigan, Joe Bumpers, Louisa Barton-Duguay, Mary Kiernan-Gonzales, Mike McGarry, Ted Carroll, & Bernie Michel

Visitors:, Marcy Miller, Mark Borton, Ray Marcotte, Fred Peck, Rich Armstrong, Ann Hogan, Julie Niggebrugge, Paul Fleming, Matthew Lakenback, James Jeter, Rex Fowler, Liza Arulampalam, & Arunan Arulampalam

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

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

Police Report: Chris Chanaca reported the December statistics for Asylum Hill: 10 car break-ins, 7 stolen cars, 10 robberies (mostly on Farmington Ave), and 4 burglaries. There have been 2 homicides in Hartford already this month. Chris reminded attendees that parking is available at schools when there is a parking ban. At intersections, blue lights have been installed and will be activated when parking bans are in effect. Snow must be cleared from sidewalks. The police are beginning to enforce the block the box law.

Finance Report:

Dec 1 balance:	\$ 10,628.20
Donations:	\$ 500
Expenses:	\$ 1,510.87
Dec 31 balance:	\$ 9,617.33

Yvonne encouraged individuals to contribute to AHNA.

Sekienna has taken a new job and is resigning from the Board of AHNA. Yvonne thanked Sekienna for her many contributions to AHNA and her excellent work as Treasurer.

Voices of the Community:

- AHNA's meeting in February will be a time for residents to sign up for committees
- A resident expressed concern about only one lane of traffic each way in front of the Aetna
- A resident spoke of the traffic challenges at Farmington Ave and Union Station. The many Fastrak buses are increasing the congestion.
- A resident expressed concern about cars parking on Woodland in the small space between the Regency Apartment exit and the entrance to Town and County. It is a no

parking zone yet cars often park there.

(The Public Safety Committee will address these issues at its next meeting)

City Planner: Fred Peck presented a request from Regency Towers at 30 Woodland for a variance to build an 8 foot fence at the rear of their building. After some discussion, the Board will consider the request and make a recommendation.

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 launching a new website. They requested introductions to personnel in Asylum Hill schools so that they could publicize their work in the schools.

Hartford. Health.Works: Mark reported that little progress was made in December. Several grants and initiatives might be available to help HHW.

Hartford Decides: Andre Santiago spoke about the new competition. \$250,000 will be available. Ideas and action teams will be formed soon. Voting is in March. Residents were encouraged to participate.

Fire Department: Three representatives from the Fire Department spoke about their work and their eagerness to get to know the residents. Mike Sawyer reported that in December in Asylum Hill, the fire department responded to 190 EMS calls, 5 fire calls, 33 service calls and 24 fire alarms. There are more calls for help in Asylum Hill than any other neighborhood probably because there are so many more people living in large apartment complexes. Captain Ortiz said that each fire station is a “safe space” with an open door policy.

Education Committee: The committee is seeking members and is eager to improve communication, especially about West Middle School. Volunteers are needed in the library to shelve and scan the books.

Communications Committee: The Committee will be working more closely with the Education Committee.

Community Announcements:

- Riverfront Community Church is now meeting at the 224 on Sundays.
- At the Cathedral, the Vienna Boys Choir attracted over 1300 people to a concert.
- There will be a St Patrick’s Day party at Bishop’s Hall.
- First Night was very successful

The February meeting will be held at 224 Farmington Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.