

## AHNA General Meeting Minutes January 6, 2020

SEP

**Board Members Present:** Mia Douglas, Michael Barr, Louisa Baron Duguay, Nancy Rion, Susan Tebolt, Jennifer Cassidy, Paul O'Mara (excused), Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Michelle McFarland, Yvonne Matthews, Edward Edgardo, Ken Johnson, Kolsie Mathis

**Board Members Absent:** Jackie McKinney (excused), Marian Leist, Mervin Mathurin, Georges Annan-Kingsley (excused), Wayne Benjamin, Janine McMahon

**AHNA Staff and Members Present:** David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll,

### Visitors:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Edward Edgardo at 6:17. After reading the AHNA mission statement, about 30 attendees introduced themselves.

**Executive Director Remarks:** David has primarily been working on fundraising efforts with a goal of raising \$50,000 for 2020. He has prepared a grant request to the Hartford. The Welcome Guide is due in mid February. AHNA's 2020 focus will be on fundraising and developing a strategic plan. David invited residents to sign up to help develop AHNA goals and encouraged residents to join AHNA's various committees.

**Finance Report:** Sue reported the balance to date is \$8,671 of which \$1500 is restricted.

**Police Department Report:** Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) reported for November and December: 8 tickets for trespassing (people sleeping in apartment hallways behind broken front doors), 16 for loitering, and 10 for panhandling.

**Fire Department Report:** Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit, was unable to attend.

**Review of Minutes:** The November General Meeting and the November Annual Meeting minutes were approved.

**Report from the City:** Andrene reported that the spring guides are available. Christmas tree collections will be throughout January. In response to a question, Andrene reported that they received many calls about unshoveled sidewalks during a recent snow and ice storm. She will learn if any tickets were given out.

**Energy Equity Initiative and Shared Solar Project:** Tom Swarr spoke about the initiative. They are seeking low and moderate income residents to indicate their interest and sign up.

**St Joseph Cathedral Master Plan Presentation:** Father Paul Connery, Director of Property and Assets, and Project Manager for the planned renovations, described the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the \$15-\$17 million project. It will begin on the west side with a focus on improving lighting, safety and enhancing the grounds to make it more welcoming and integrating it into the community. They are seeking approval of Phase 1 of their master plan. It is funded by the Hartford Bishops'

Foundation. Concerns were raised about the parking lot. They were encouraged to meet with community members, and increase the number of trees and green space. They will share their final plans with AHNA.

**Voices of our Neighborhood:**

- Tanya Walker, outreach worker for the Urban League described her work with addressing the high infant mortality rate in Hartford
- Michael Barr urged passage of legislation to reduce charges for phone calls made from CT prisons
- Matt Ritter introduced himself and encouraged residents to share their concerns with him

**Committee Reports:**

- **Quality of Life:** residents met with Sandy Frye to discuss the bike boulevards
- **Economic Development:** at AHNA's March meeting, there will be a discussion of the 15 year strategic plan

**Announcements:**

- The Cathedral held a successful coat drive
- Residents may get free tickets to Hartford Stage performances with the library card
- Residents are encouraged to check the website for the many opportunities offered by the public library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.