



20th
Anniversary

AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes --- January 8, 2018

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Carol Padberg, Louisa Barton Duguay, Nancy Rion Jackie McKinney, Michelle McFarland, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Janice Castle **Board Members Absent:** Dean Amadon, Moureen Bish, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Nancy Caddigan, George Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Mia Douglas, Barbara Robbins, Claire Bergin, Cathy Zeiner, Marian Leist, Mike McGarry, Frank Hagaman, Marcy Miller, Rich Armstrong, David Corrigan, Jesus Lopez & Bernie Michel

Visitors: Sarah Morin, Tiffany Bell, Ron Martin, Adrian Jacob & Maryellen Shuckerow. The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15 pm. About 30 participants introduced themselves. Yvonne recognized Jackie McKinney for her many years of tenacious activism in the neighborhood and for AHNA.

The December minutes were approved.

Police Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri reported in December he issued 9 tickets for panhandling, and 10 tickets for trespassing. There was 1 robbery and 1 car stolen. He continues to try to steer panhandlers to services and homeless people to shelters. He has new standard complaint forms that he's giving out. He encouraged residents to report unplowed sidewalks.

Fire Department Report: Jesus Lopez shared November statistics: while there was only 1 fire in Asylum Hill, there were 52 service calls - far more than any other neighborhood.

Finance Report: Paul reported:

December 1 balance: \$ 19,254

Expenses : \$ 1,626 (payroll, office supplies, stilt walker)

Contributions \$ 4,620

Dec. 31 balance \$ 22,248

Jan. Contributions \$ 1,285 from Habitat, Hartbeat Ensemble, YMCA

Voices from the Neighborhood

- Celebrated CSO Jonathan Rowe who has been very responsive and an active volunteer in Asylum Hill
- Celebrated the dedication of 6 new Habitat homes on S. Marshall St.
- The Mural project will be started this spring with the hope that it would be a community event, celebrating community
- It's time to reserve space in the Community Gardens
- Consider the possibility of creating an event that involves all the service organizations in Asylum Hill

Report from the City – Janice Castle:

- Resident booklet: Janice shared the City of Hartford Services Resident Guide for winter. In English and Spanish, it is a pilot project – also available on line.
- Snow Removal: residents are responsible for sidewalk snow removal
- Bulky Waste Pickup: residents must schedule
- VITA: free tax help for residents
- Blighted Properties: residents should report concerns; many legal procedures are happening behind the scenes to improve them
- Disney on Ice – Jan 11-15. The Mayor's Pass is available for \$12 each for Hartford residents.

I-84 Update: Marci Miller reported that public forums will continue in March 2018 to discuss the interchange and the location of the train station.

Proposed Strategic Plan for AHNA: Nancy shared a draft of the proposed Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals and Objectives. Members made some suggestions for the Board to consider.

Chrysalis Center Clover Gardens: Maryellen Shuckerow presented the Chrysalis plans to create a new housing development, 34 apartments, in 4 buildings (3 former Jumoke Academy buildings on Asylum Ave. and 1 apartment building at 1 Huntington). Nine units are set-aside for HARC clients; the remainder will be affordable housing. Chrysalis has 10 years experience in housing development with a reputation for attention to detail and quality.

Members expressed the following concerns:

- Why didn't Chrysalis share their plans with AHNA earlier, before buying the properties?
- How does their plan line up with AHNA strategic objectives?
- With home ownership only 9 % in Asylum Hill, why are the 3 historic homes going to be divided up into apartments?
- Why will the apartments be affordable housing rather than market value housing?

Although previously, AHNA had been requested to write a letter of support, Maryellen said it would not be necessary. The Board agreed to discuss the process as well as the Chrysalis plan at a future meeting.

AHNA's 20th Anniversary Celebration: The celebration will be February 12, 2018 from 5:30-8:30 at The Hartford. Eighty reservations have been made. All were encouraged to make their reservations soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.