



AHNA



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – February 7, 2022

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Sarah Adanti, Paul O'Mara, Wayne Benjamin, Lynn Johnson, Michelle MacFarland, Janine McMahon, Maxine Nugent, Louisa Barton Duguay, Barbara Robbins, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Natalie Crispin, Ken Johnson (excused), Marian Leist (excused), Kolsie Mathis, Dominic Ciavarro, Georges Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Staff, City Representatives and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Andrene Bent-Campbell, Cid Palmieri, Grace Yi, Carolyn Austin, Claire Bergan, Sue Carey, Barbara Carmen, David Corrigan, Sarah Morin, Barbara Morton, Katherine Anne Simsic, Lynn Webber, Cathy Zeiner

Visitors: Angela Berry, Vanessa Cruz, Patrick Doyle, Edward Edgardo, Cydoni Fukami, Thalia Giraldo, Linda Gray, Marion Griffin, Melanie Jortner, Peter Lewis, Debi Martin, Tony Mein, Mary Pelletier, Kiera Steele, Beatrice Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. Thirty-eight people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Jackie read the AHNA mission and the statement honoring native lands.

Executive Director's Report: David reported that the AHNA Strategic Plan is now being reviewed by the City and the State. The AHNA Board identified the following goals to address in 2022: food composting, improving Farmington Ave, identifying blighted properties, assessing tree canopy, identifying human services, displaying art on Farmington Ave, installing cameras, and restoring the Comet Diner.

Financial Report:

January deposits:	\$6,005
January expenses:	\$3,283 Payroll
	\$ 160 zoom
	\$ 50 website
January 31 Balance	\$24,046
Restricted Funds	\$ 4,120 (for composters)
Available Funds	\$19,926

Louisa noted that AHNA must prepare and approve a budget for 2022.

City Update: Andrene said residents can make appointments for Covid vaccinations by dialing 311. Residents seeking updates from the City can use www.hartfordct.gov/alertime or www.hartfordct.gov/emailme. Free assistance is available for families preparing tax forms. Participation in winter sports is free to residents. City Hall is closed Friday for President's Day.

Hartford Police Report: Officer Cid continues to work on trespassing, panhandling, homeless outreach and updating standing complaints. He noted that the Police academy has 13 new recruits. He is working with the Police Athletic League, recruiting 14-16 year olds for the travel baseball team.

Public Works Update: Grace Yi reported that the Open Streets event will be June through September. Farmington Ave. was selected to be closed for the event on June 26 and September 25 this year. There were no new AH applications to P&Z in January.

AHNA Committee Reports:

- **Quality of Life:** Janine reported that the Committee discussed the slow streets project, the need for cameras to help with crime investigations, public safety concerns, burglaries, and the reinvigoration of Friends of Sigourney Park
- **Economic Development:** Wayne reported meeting with WECA to discuss open streets events, and that he is still waiting for approval from the City to move ahead on the Comet renovations. The suggestion was made to provide an artist's rendering of the plan at the Open Streets event.
- **Communications:** Paul reminded AHNA that Bernie, who has been responsible for much of the newsletter (writing, editing and delivering) is retiring. He encouraged partners to write articles and folks to volunteer to help.
- **Green:** the committee planned the evening's focus on the Park River Watershed
- **Fund Development:** Sarah reported that they will be scheduling meetings with partners and sending renewal letters, as well as beginning to plan the fall community partners breakfast

EarthWatch Climate Change Master Class & Global Pollinator Program: Melanie Jortner, from The Hartford, described the on line classes beginning on March 16. The goal is to connect people with climate challenges. She urged adults to register. She also encouraged residents to collect data for the Global Pollinator Watch that begins in April. Link for registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GYIThpUUS3mzZxYH7kVWgQ

Restoring the Watershed of the North Branch of the Park River: Mary Pelletier described the history and importance of preserving the watershed. Link to presentation: <https://www.hpatv.org/2022/01/city-of-hartford-pedh-committee-meeting-january-5th-2022/> Further information is on the website: www.parkwatershed.org Mary requested a letter of support for creating a bike path along Albany and Homestead instead of along the Park River in order to preserve the watershed. Grace noted that the public will be encouraged to comment about the Eastcoast Greenway. Link to the study: <https://crocog.org/2021/10/east-coast-greenway-gap-closure-study-rfq/>

Announcements:

- Patrick Doyle announced that KNOX is recruiting residents to participate in a landscape training program and an urban farming program
- Thalia Giraldo announced they are seeking comments on a mobility project: hartfordmobility.com/alternatives-capitol

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32.

Board Members;
Jackie McKinney
Chairperson
Nancy Rion
Secretary
Louisa Barton
Duguay
Treasurer
Janice Castle
Mayor's Office
Sarah Adanti
Georges Annan-Kingsley
Wayne Benjamin
Domenic Ciavarro
Natalia Crispin
Esther Gonzalez-Torres
Ken Johnson
Lynn Johnson
Marian Leist
Elender Mathis
Michelle McFarland
Jeanine McMahon
Maxine Nugent
Paul O'Mara
Barbara Robbins

Executive Director
David MacDonald