



# AHNA



## Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

### AHNA General Meeting Minutes March 4, 2019

#### Board Members;

Jackie McKinney  
Chair

Edward Edgardo

Vice Chair

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Dean Amadon

Georges Annan-

Kingsley

Michael Barr

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Moureen Bish

Jennifer Cassidy

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Mervin Mathurin

Michelle McFarland

Paul O'Mara

Carol Padberg

Sue Tebolt

**Board Members Present:** Jackie McKinney, Paul O'Mara, Yvonne Matthews, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Dean Amadon, Moureen Bish, Nancy Rion, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Edward Edgardo, Marian Leist, Michael Barr, Carol Padberg, Louisa Barton Duguay, Janice Castle

**Board Members Absent:** Michelle McFarland (excused), Ken Johnson, Susan Tebolt

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** David MacDonald, Ofc. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Lt. Jesus Lopez, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Maria McDonald, David Corrigan, Mike McGarry, Mia Douglas, Wayne Benjamin, Ted Carroll, Bernie Michel,

**Visitors:** Gannon Long, Nick Lebron, K.Young Burby, Amanda Garcia, Lynn Webber, Armino Gomes, Walter Veselka, Agnes Torres, Hyacinth Yennie, Jonathan Clark, Gabrielle Emmanuel, Anthony Cherolis, Ken Krayske and Wildaliz Bermudez.

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director David MacDonald at 6:15. Paul read the AHNA mission statement.

**Executive Director Remarks:** David introduced AHNA's officers, elected by the AHNA Board in February:

Chair:	Jackie McKinney
Vice Chair:	Edward Edgardo
Secretary:	Nancy Rion
Treasurer:	Susan Tebolt

Jackie congratulated the new officers and thanked Yvonne, former chair, and Paul, former Treasurer, for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to AHNA.

David reported that new Committees are being formed and residents are encouraged to participate in the work to improve the quality of life in Asylum Hill. In addition, an ad hoc bylaws group, advised by Barbara McGrath will review and update the current bylaws as needed.

Jackie asked about 40 residents to introduce themselves.

#### Finance Report:

February 1 balance:	\$22,019
Deposits:	300
Expenses:	\$ 3,333
February 28 balance:	\$18,986
Restricted Funds	\$ 2,500
Unrestricted Balance	\$16,486

**Police Department Report:** Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell -203-400-9265) shared February's statistics: 7 tickets for panhandling, 1 for loitering, 2 for public drinking. He reported many car thefts between 3 and 6 AM.

**Fire Department Report:** Lt. Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special Services Unit, reviewed the February statistics for Hartford. Residents should contact Jesus or call 860-757-4520 for smoke detectors. He reported that the busiest fire department in CT in 2018 was Hartford with over 30,000 runs. He said

814 Asylum Ave  
Hartford 06105

January was an unusually good month with no one needing to be relocated because of fire.

**Review of Minutes:** The February minutes were approved.

**Report from the City:** Andrene Bent-Jarvis reported that the Mayor's Town Hall would be March 11 at 5 PM at City Hall, prior to the City Council meeting.

**Hartford Parking Authority:** Armindo Gomes, CEO, was invited to address resident concerns about parking, especially on Collins St. Residents on Collins can only park on one side of the street because the street is unusually narrow. He noted a program that protects residential parking. He noted the ordinance that prohibits cars from parking 5 feet from a driveway, acknowledging that it is not widely enforced. HPA is considering a pilot program in one neighborhood that changes the prohibition to only 3 feet. Residents asked Gomes to consider Asylum Hill as the pilot neighborhood. Gomes encouraged apartment dwellers to park in lots rather than streets.

The Quality of Life Committee will discuss suggestions to address parking challenges.

**Department of Public Works:** Walter Veselka is the new Director. He responded to questions about street conditions: DPW is getting new equipment for patching. Residents should call 311 to report potholes, dangerous situations caused by ice accumulation, lack of sidewalk snow removal, and uncollected bulk waste. DPW, DEEP and the police are working together to enforce the new bulk waste ordinance. The Quality of Life Committee will address these issues.

**Election of Directors:** Mervin Mathurin and Jennifer Cassidy were introduced and unanimously approved to become Directors of the Board of AHNA.

**Transport Hartford:** Tony Cherolis shared recent news:

- BiCiCo is open for business, the only bike shop in Hartford
- BIKELIFE – youth class April 8-13
- Safe cycling skills class – April 14
- Bikes for Jobs – referral program to get a bike to get to work
- Women's Night Do it yourself – Mondays, 5:30-8:30
- Road to Zero Project: includes walk audits, snow removal, transportation legislation
- Asylum Ave Walk and Bike Audit – March 19, 4PM beginning at 224 Farmington

**Voices of our Neighborhood:**

- Mark Twain Library at W. Middle School has Spanish and citizenship class on Saturdays from 10-1
- Mural Project will begin at W. Middle School, April 8
- Comet restoration: constant progress, with positive report in Hartford Courant

**Announcements:**

- March 11 at 5 PM – Mayor's Town Hall at City Hall
- Beginning March 14 for 5 Thursdays – at 7 PM “Wilderness Companions,” community conversations at Asylum Hill Congregational Church
- March 19 at 4 PM - Asylum Ave Walk and Bike Audit beginning at 224 Farmington
- March 20 at 5:30 at the YWCA is a Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss panhandling
- March 21, 6-8 PM – Eye in the Sky – community conversation at YWCA about 2 proposed ordinances concerning the use of drones in Hartford; other conversations March 9 and March 20 and a concluding panel discussion March 26 from 6-8 PM at HPL
- April 5, 5:30-7:00PM Special celebration of George's successful organ transplant at the Mark Twain House and Museum, sponsored by AHNA and the New England Donor Services

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.