



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting
(Virtual – Zoom & Phone)
Minutes – May 3, 2021

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Wayne Benjamin, Marian Leist, Lynn Johnson, Yvonne Matthews

Board Members;
Jackie McKinney

Chairperson

Edward Edgare

Vice Chairperson

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Treasurer

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Georges Annan-Kingsley

Kingsley

Michael Barr

Wayne Benjamin

Jennifer Cassidy

Rev. Mia Douglas

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Lynn Johnson

Marian Leist

Elender Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

Executive Director

David MacDonald

Board Members Absent: Michelle McFarland, Janine McMahon, Mervin Mathurin, Susan Tebolt, Kolsie Mathis, Michael Barr, Georges Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Staff, City Representatives and Members Present: Bernie Michel, David MacDonald, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Paul Bengston, Dominic Ciavarrro, Nichelle Hudson, Doug Ovian, Sarah Adanti, Sue Carey, David Corrigan, Sarah Morin, Barbara Morton, Barbara Robbins, Katherine Anne Simcic, Karen Taylor, Lynn Webber, Cathy Zeiner

Visitors: Barbara Carman, Natalie Crispin, Denise Gonzalez, Marion Griffith, Debi Martin, Eileen Noonan, Carol Padberg, Mary Pelletier, Ken Rodriguez, Sonsearae Sawyer, Kiera Steele, Zach Williams, Xiomara

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. About 38 people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Jackie read the AHNA Mission and an acknowledgement that Asylum Hill is located on native lands.

Executive Director's Report: David is now working full time, focusing on Fundraising and Strategic Planning. Three Taskforces – Economic Development, Workforce Development and Green – have met and are meeting regularly. The others, Human Resources, Housing, Public Safety, Youth enrichment and Arts and Culture, are still forming and will be meeting soon. Everyone is invited to join one or more Taskforces. Contact David for more information. The Taskforces will submit their recommendations to the Steering Committee in June.

Treasurer's Report: Louisa reported

March 31 balance \$ 1,628

April income \$11,180

April expenses \$ 2,429 (payroll, expenses from grant, website)

April 30 balance \$10, 379

REPORTS FROM THE CITY:

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (palmc002@hartford.gov) was unable to attend.

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

City Update: Andrene reported that this is the last week for leaf pickup. Spring guidebooks are available. Love Your Block grant proposals are due May 7. Three streets in Asylum Hill will be getting speed humps: Huntington, Townley and Willard. In April there were 50 311 calls from Asylum Hill residents.

Hartford Planning Department Update: Paul Bengston reported a few applications in Asylum Hill in April, including 3 for historic roofs, 1 grocery/beer approval and an approval for renovations of the West Lawn at St. Josephs. He reminded residents to visit meetinginfo.org for an update on all committees. Residents are invited to provide input to the Hartford parking study at www.tinyurl.com/hartfordparking.

Community Court Report: Doug Ovia reported that the courts are re-opening, with a load of 80 cases a day.

Committee Reports:

- **Economic Development:** The Historic Commission approved plans and the State approved the design for the Comet. The Committee is working to schedule a tour for interested residents for 85 Sigourney.
- **Green:** Six projects are being considered having to do with trees, the river, community gardens, bike and walking areas, composting, and energy efficiency. They are planning an event about composting on June 5 at Niles St Community Garden, seeking 30 participants to collect food scraps. A resident asked the Committee to ask Aetna/CVS to stop using pesticides.
- **Fund Development:** The Committee is planning a breakfast event in September to recognize volunteers in Asylum Hill.
- Committees were reminded to get approval from the AHNA Board when they apply for a grant.

Review of Minutes: The March and April General Meeting minutes were approved.

Presentation of 2021 Budget: The budget was approved.

Hartford Coalition for Safe Technology Presentation: Eileen Noonan requested that the presentation be postponed until June.

Presentation of Superpedestrian's Scooter Rental Program: Zach Williams described the new program and plans for a slow rollout. Scooters are for rent in downtown Hartford now. In late May they will be available in Hartford neighborhoods. He asked for suggestions as to where to deploy the scooters. He described a 75% discount program for residents who receive SNAP, Husky or Section 8 housing. All residents are encouraged to use and enjoy the scooters.

Voices in the Neighborhood: residents were reminded not to leave their valuables in their car because there has been a rash of smashing car windows and grabbing valuables. There was a question about when the Quality of Life Committee would be meeting.

Announcements:

- May is migratory bird month – enjoy the birds!

- The Urban League is planning its 21st Career Fair – information is on the website
- Come to the Urban League from 2-6, M-F for free produce from the aquapontic gardens
- May 8 HARC is sponsoring a fundraising Walk at the Yard Goats stadium
- Wheeler Clinic at 43 Woodland, is offering COVID testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Wheeler Clinic is offering COVID vaccinations Monday through Fridays from 10-3. It is open to the public. No need to schedule in advance.
- Volunteers are wanted for the Hartford Next Board. Contact Marion Griffo.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.