



# AHNA

**HARTFORD**  
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**HAS IT**

## Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

### AHNA General Meeting Minutes June 5, 2017

**Board Members Present:** Yvonne Matthews, Dean Amadon, George Annan-Kingsley, Nancy Rion, Ken Johnson, Paul O'Mara,

**Board Members Absent:** Nancy Caddigan, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Jackie McKinney, Moureen Bish, Frank Hagaman, Carol Padberg, Sekienna Ellis, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, Michelle McFarland

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Janice Castle, David Corrigan, Marcy Miller, Rich Armstrong, Rev. Mia Douglas, Maura Hallisey, Sue Carey, Joe Bumpers, Jennifer Cassidy, Barbara Robbins, Mike McGarry, Ted Carroll & Bernie Michel

**Visitors:** Diane Cantello, Morgan Ferrarotti, Michael Winters, Evelyn DeJesus Vargas Lauren Fair, Erin Henriksen Robert Edwards, & Andrew Clark.

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 30 participants introduced themselves.

The May minutes were approved. Yvonne recognized Ms. Vargas a concerned resident of Asylum Hill who believes in getting involved in the community.

**Police Report:** Asylum Hill's new CSO, Sid Palmieri introduced himself to the Asylum Hill community. He said he's been talking to residents and beginning to work on issues like pan handling and prostitution. He reported that crime was down in May and there are no major issues.

#### Finance Report:

May 1 balance:	\$ 14,647
Income/Donations:	\$ 705
Expenses:	\$ 1,649
May 31 balance:	\$ 13,703

**City of Hartford Update – Janice Castle:** Janice reported on the following initiatives:

- City ID is available to all Hartford residents. The City will not retain any personal information. The Public Library is administrating the program.
- Mayor's Town Hall: June 28 with a focus on blight
- Trash cans: maps of trash can placement are being prepared. NRZ's can recommend where they believe new trash cans should be placed
- Noise Complaints: Janice shared an information card indicating who to call and when to call with noise complaints.
- Hartford 311: Janice shared a card indicating ways to access 311, a non-emergency call center designed to connect residents with city services.

**NINA Housing:** Ken Johnson described two new projects requiring variances:

- 86-88 Hawthorn St: two brick townhouses, eventually for 4 families. NINA requests two variances to develop the lot
- 52 Huntington ST: NINA is proposing building a single-family house like the one they built at 54 Huntington. NINA is requesting 2 variances for the lot, on the front and side.
- AHNA members voted to provide letters of support for the requested variances.

814 Asylum Ave  
Hartford 06105

#### Board Members;

Yvonne Matthews

Chair

Paul O'Mara

Vice Chair

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Jackie McKinney

Sergeant-at-Arms

Dean Amadon

George Annan-Kingsley

Nancy Caddigan

Moureen Bish

Sekienna Ellis

Frank Hagaman

Ken Johnson

Luwannia Johnson-Martin

Martin

Chris Montross

Michelle McFarland

Marcus McKinney

Carol Padberg

**I-84 Update:** Rich and Marcy presented AHNA with a progress report of their work. They would like input on the community's priorities for the transportation center. Marcy shared a chart for residents to rank design goals. Rich share 4 potential designs of the transportation center. They are eager to meet with neighborhood groups to discuss the proposals in detail and obtain feedback.

**Speed Humps:** Janice Castle said the deadline for resident recommendations has been extended. In Asylum Hill, support signatures have been obtained for Laurel Street and Sargeant Street. AHNA members voted to support recommending speed humps for both streets.

**Updates on May Action Items:**

- Multicultural Center: there is no summer staff. Georges is AHNA liaison
- Murals: there has been a call for artists, but otherwise no communication. Jackie is the AHNA liaison
- West Middle Resource Center: Joe Bumpers reported a meeting is planned to determine how to move forward. Dean is the AHNA liaison
- West Middle Library Parking: Library personnel are seeking space, possibly a lot next door. Michelle is the AHNA liaison.
- Farmington Ave: no update. Frank is the AHNA liaison

**New Action Item:** the West Hartford Garden Club is offering a grant of \$20,000 to a community group proposal for a garden in Hartford. Proposals are due August 1. Several residents are working on several sites and plan to prepare a proposal.

**Proposed Legacy Advisory Board:** the Board is considering creating a Board of involved residents that might advise AHNA.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GALA:** the Board is beginning to plan a gala to celebrate AHNA's 20 years.

**New Board Member:** Yvonne announced that Louise Barton Duguay has been elected to serve on the AHNA Board.

**Community Announcements:**

- Stowe House is preparing for two major events in June: June 8 is the annual Stowe Prize and June 10 is the grand re-opening of the Stowe House
- Jazz on the Lawn: June 25 is a celebration of Community sponsored by the Asylum Hill Congregational Church. Music, games, bouncy houses, and food are free and open to the neighborhood
- South Marshall Block Party: June 27 is a celebration of that diverse community.
- Hartford Public Library – summer reading program kick off on June 10
- Salvation Army – the Right Place is showcasing pre-school artwork
- Fresh Express – taking people to the Farmer's Market on Thursdays has began with stops at the Aetna, the Hartford and Immanuel House
- Hartford Food Systems is sponsoring community meetings all summer to discuss food policy issues in the community
- Leadership Greater Hartford is sponsoring a one-week leadership experience at Trinity College for high school students. Scholarships are available

There is no AHNA meeting in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.