



20<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

# AHNA

HARTFORD  
★ HAS IT

## Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

### AHNA General Meeting Minutes ~ October 1, 2018

#### Board Members;

Yvonne Matthews  
Chair

Paul O'Mara

Vice Chair

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Jackie McKinney

Sergeant-at-Arms

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Dean Amadon

Georges Annan-

Kingsley

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Nancy Caddigan

Moureen Bish

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Chris Montross

Michelle McFarland

Carol Padberg

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

**Board Members Absent:** Moureen Bish, Chris Montross, Nancy Caddigan, Michelle McFarland, Carol Padberg, Louisa Barton Duguay, Janice Castle

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Ofc. Johnathon Rowe, Lt. Jose Lopez, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Sarah Morin, Andrea Barton-Reeves, Claire Bergin, Marian Leist, Michael Barr, David Corrigan, Mia Douglas, Mike McGarry, Jennifer Cassidy, Barbara Robbins, Rev. Isaac Lawson, Rick Kontur, Mervin Mathurin, Maria MacDonald, David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll.

**Visitors:** Robert Edwards, Kandyce Aust, David Small, Kay Small, Stosh Milward, Wayne Benjamin, Eric LaChapelle, John Bondos, Christiane Pimentel, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Stanley Maticke, Janine McMahon, Caroline Austin

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. More than 30 participants introduced themselves, 43 total attended. Paul read the AHNA mission statement. Yvonne recognized Georges Annan-Kingsley who became a US citizen.

**Executive Director Remarks:** David MacDonald welcomed all AHNA residents and stakeholders. He spoke of his belief in the importance of making connections, building relationships and empowering the neighborhood. His specific focus is on public safety, education and economic development as expressed in AHNA's strategic plan by the AHNA Board. David is eager to meet residents and stakeholders and encourages residents to contact him - 860-805-8935.

#### Finance Report:

September 1 balance: \$36,975

Deposits: \$ 2,300 (personal donation and an Art's Council grant)

Expenses: \$ 4,805 (payroll)

September 30 balance: \$34,470

#### Police Department Report:

Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Asylum Hill's CSO, shared September's statistics for Asylum Hill: 8 tickets for loitering, 4 for public drinking, 9 for panhandling, 15 simple trespassing tickets, and 1 for loud music. Residents should call 911 with noise complaints. Concerns were expressed about drug selling at 97 Ashley and 99 Huntington. Police are working with property owners there. He urged residents to include descriptions of individuals or cars when they call police with their concerns. He reminded residents that the Hartford Marathon is October 13. The City is working to inform residents that many streets will be closed.

Lt. Martin Cunningham, 860-719-1139, Lieutenant Commander North District reported that the North District now includes Asylum Hill, West End, and Blue Hills neighborhoods. In response to questions: (1) drug use and selling - Lt. Cunningham commended the work of the Narcotics unit, noting that there

are only 7 people in the unit and yet they have made a record number of seizures of guns and drugs. Hartford seems to be a distribution center. (2) Police are increasing enforcement of speed limits. (3) Sgt Shauvan is available to instruct organizations on lockdown procedures.

Ofc. Jonathan Rowe, 860-757-4905, [rowej001@hartford.gov](mailto:rowej001@hartford.gov) is the Faith Based Community Service Officer who is working with churches and focused on community engagement. He wants to attend neighborhood events.

**Fire Department Report:** Lt. Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special Services Unit, reviewed the September data.

The September minutes were approved.

**Report from the City:** Andrene reported that the Mayor's Town Hall is Oct 6 at the Main Library. The City is encouraging neighborhoods to schedule monthly cleanups. The Department of Public Health is working with DPW to schedule a cleanup of the garbage at 7 May Street.

**I-84 Update:** Marcy was not able to attend but indicated her interest in hearing concerns at the November meeting.

**Comet Diner Restoration:** Wayne Benjamin (head of project) Eric LaChapelle (historic architect) and John Bondos, (environmental expert). Wayne requested AHNA support for his application to include the Comet on the list of historic properties and on the national register in order to get tax credits to restore the Comet. They are researching the physical and cultural history of the Comet. They have removed large oil tanks and plan to remediate the contaminated area. The AHNA Board will review the information and discuss a letter of support for this project at its October meeting.

**Announcements:**

- Oct. 3: 1-4 PM - Wheeler Clinic is hosting a Fall Festival - providing free health screenings, food, music, entertainment, pumpkin decorating
- Oct 6: Mayor's Town Hall at HPL
- Oct. 7: the Cathedral is hosting a picnic open to all residents
- Oct. 20: 2-4 PM - S. Marshall St event with pumpkins, food, books, and voter registration
- Oct. 28: 2-4 PM - Halloween Carnival at Asylum Hill Congregational Church
- AHNA Board is revising its by-laws and will make a draft available for comment before the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.