



# AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association  
A Neighborhood NRZ

**HARTFORD**  
★ HAS IT

**Board Members;**

Jackie McKinney

*Chairperson*

Edward Edgaro

*Vice Chairperson*

Nancy Rion

*Secretary*

Susan Tebolt

*Treasurer*

Janice Castle

*Mayor's Office*

Georges Annan-

Kingsley

Michael Barr

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Wayne Benjamin

Jennifer Cassidy

Rev. Mia Douglas

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Elender Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

**Executive Director**

David MacDonald

## AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes October 5, 2020

**Board Members Present:** Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Marian Leist, Jennifer Cassidy, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Edward Edgaro, Andrene Bent-Jarvis

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

**AHNA Staff and Members Present:** David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Lynn Johnson, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carey, Carlos Cruz, Cathy Zeiner, Sarah Morin

**Visitors:** Toni Gold, Latoya Cleghorn-Harper, Vanessa Cruz, Patrick McMahan, Peter Lewis, Elsa Koulla, Gigi Feliciano, Michael Looney, Quonon Walker

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:22. About 26 people attended on zoom or the phone. Paul read the AHNA Mission Statement.

**Executive Director Remarks:** David has continued to work on fundraising. The goal of the Development Plan is to raise \$11,000 by the end of the year. Update on AHNA's Love Your Block grants: (1) pollinator gardens – completed and celebration of completion with a cleanup and dinner was in August. David thanked Lynn Johnson for her leadership. (2) Louisa's painting of the mural on Farmington Ave and Marshall Street is almost complete. Extra funding will be used to beautify the corner area with flowerpots and guardrails. Representatives from AHNA and WICA met re the future of the Farmington Ave Alliance. They seek new representatives. AHNA also encourages residents to apply to be AHNA Directors.

**Voting:** Registrar Gigi Feliciano reported that 8000 requests for ballots have been processed; 6000 ballots have been mailed. Ballot boxes have been installed in various neighborhoods as well as at city hall. All polling sites will have PPE and observe all COVID protocol. Voters may choose to bring their own pens or #2 pencils.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue did not attend the meeting and there was no report.

**Police Department Report:** Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) was unable to attend the meeting.

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

**Report from the City:** Andrene shared information about COVID 19:

- COVID testing will continue until Dec. 31. Testing is available to persons 12 years old and older.
- Free thermometers are available at the schools.
- Oct 26 – Dec 12 is leaf collection

**Review of Minutes:** The September General Meeting minutes were approved.

**29 Ashley St update:** The Historic Preservation Commission voted not to approve the request for demolition. Because there does not seem to be serious structural damage from the fire, it is hoped that it will be renovated.

**Presentation from DPW Director Michael Looney:** Director Looney responded to questions about traffic in Asylum Hill:

- Traffic flow on Asylum/Farmington trident – planning to install cameras to help
- I-84 Project is postponed
- Left turn from Art Space
- Garden/Ashley intersection
- New speed hump program – NRZ's should send list of priorities soon (AHNA's Quality of Life Committee will work on this)

**By-Law Revision Discussion:** Jennifer thanked the Committee for their work – primarily clarifying inconsistencies and assuring that AHNA and NRZ roles and concerns are consistent.

Proposed schedule:

- Board will finalize wording this week
- Next week (Oct 12) Recommended revisions will be on AHNA website and on Facebook, and a survey will be available to residents
- November GM – general discussion
- November Board meeting – directors will incorporate suggestions
- December GM – final vote on By-Laws

**Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Discussion:** Wayne met with Charles Matthews to discuss extending the TOD designated area along Farmington Ave to Forrest ST.

**Nominations:** We have received two applications: Lynn Johnson and Dominic Ciavarro. Two directors, Louisa and Esther, whose terms are ending, would like to continue for a second term.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.