



AHNA



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – March 1, 2021

Board Members;

Jackie McKinney
Chairperson
Edward Edgaro
Vice Chairperson
Nancy Rion
Secretary
Louisa Barton
Duguay
Treasurer
Janice Castle
Mayor's Office
Georges Annan-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 Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Marian Leist, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Wayne Benjamin, Janine McMahon, Michael Barr, Lynn Johnson

Board Members Absent: Michelle McFarland, Mervin Mathurin, Susan Tebolt, Kolsie Mathis, Yvonne Matthews, Georges Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Staff and Members Present: Bernie Michel, Jesus Lopez, Autumn Florek, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Sarah Adanti, Ted Carroll, David Corrigan, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carey, Sarah Morin, Barbara Robbins, Barbara Morton, Catherine Sauer, Cathy Zeiner

Visitors: Carolyn Austin, Edward Andrews, Paul Connery, Cheryl Colbath, Thulani Davis, Alexis Dwyer, Doug Ovian, Nichelle Hudson, Michael Looney, Kay Mackey-Small, Bahman Moghimi, Sarah Thrall, Ashley Tucker, John Wyatt

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. About 36 people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Nancy Rion read the AHNA Mission and an acknowledgement that Asylum Hill is located on native lands.

Jackie announced that David MacDonald suffered a stroke and will be in rehab for several weeks.

Treasurer's Report: Louisa reported that AHNA is in a challenging financial situation. She is working to straighten out the records. The current balance is \$1,708.38. She thanked the Village for the \$1000 contribution received this week. The Board will meet next week to focus on AHNA finances.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY:

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (palmc002@hartford.gov) was not present. AHNA will encourage him to attend future meetings.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit reported that as of today, there have been 14,146 cases of COVID in Hartford. He reported recent fire statistics for the city and specifically for Asylum Hill, noting that monthly reports are on the website. He noted that over 200 people have applied for 20 positions in the fire department.

814 Asylum Ave., Hartford 06105

Report from the City: Andrene reported that Covid testing continues. If residents need help in making an appointment to get the vaccine, call 860-757-4830 or 211. The vaccine is available many places including Trinity Health, Wheeler Clinic, Charter Oak, and Dunkin Donuts Park. Free transportation to get the vaccine is provided. Andrene also reported that Stone St and Columbus Blvd will be experiencing closure for repairs.

Hartford Planning Department Update: Autumn Florek (autumn.florek@hartford.gov) reported that there were few applications in Asylum Hill in February.

Community Court Report: Doug Ovia reported that they are beginning to work with children. During the pandemic, they realize they have had the opportunity to talk and work with more people.

Review of Minutes: The February General Meeting minutes were approved.

Update from St. Joseph Cathedral: Paul Connery reported that they received approval for the zoning change. They have submitted plans for building renovation, revitalization of the West lawn and restoration of the lower cathedral to the city. Restoration of the front plaza and work on the parking lot is planned for late 2022.

Traffic Safety: DPW Director Mike Looney and traffic engineer Bahman Moghimi described numerous speeding issues and traffic calming measures in the city. They heard the following resident concerns:

- Sigourney St. – residents prefer 2 lanes to 4
- Townley St – alternate side parking needs enforcement; cars block handicapped ramps
- Broad/Asylum/Farmington/Cogwell intersection – walk signal throws off synchronized lights (Looney will check)
- Garden/Asylum – working to improve with cameras; some metered spaces in front of stores are being considered
- Farmington Ave – request to consider bringing Dash to Woodland ST
- Sigourney/Collins – need safer pedestrian crossing
- Atwood/ Collins – need safer pedestrian crossing
- ArtSpace – turning left in or out is challenging; response: it is poorly designed but must wait for I84 plans before significant change

Voices of the Neighborhood: Residents expressed concerns about litter, broken glass and dog poop. Also concern about 276 Collins apartment building (resident was urged to report to 311).

AHNA Committee Reports:

Quality of Life/Public Safety: Janine encouraged residents to join and work with the committee

Economic Development: Wayne reported that the Comet diner is on the agenda for meetings March 17 and 26 re historic preservation.

Communications: Paul encouraged residents to share neighborhood news. They will be promoting AHNA's strategic planning and vaccinations.

Green: Lynn announced plans to meet March 18 to discuss energy efficiency of buildings

Fund Development: meeting March 2

Two residents indicated an interest in creating an Arts and Culture Committee

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50