



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2017

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Nancy Rion, Dean Amadon, George Annan- Kingsley, Michelle McFarland, Louisa Barton Duguay, Frank Hagaman & Moureen Bish

Board Members Absent: Jackie McKinney, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Ken Johnson, Nancy Caddigan, & Carol Padberg

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Janice Castle, Marcy Miller, David Corrigan, Sue Carey, Cathy Zeiner, Kate Ahmed, Ted Carroll and Bernie Michel.

Visitors: Sarah Morin, Frank Williams, Dartanion Reed, Billie Scruise, Charity Brown & Rita Keeling

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 35 participants introduced themselves. Yvonne recognized Cathy Zeiner and welcomed her to the neighborhood. Cathy is the new COO at the YWCA

The October minutes were approved.

Police Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri said he continues to talk to residents and he's issuing many tickets for pan handling, drugs, public drinking and prostitution, especially on Farmington and Asylum Avenues and on Gillett and Sigourney Streets. He mentioned his frustration that people ignore the tickets and when they do go to court, they are often dismissed by the judge who says "don't do it again." AHNA will contact Tom O'Brien to express our concerns about this practice.

Sid mentioned a recent concern at 34 Willard St, where the resident advertised an item for sale, then robbed and stabbed the young person who came to buy the item. He encouraged people to hold such transactions at the police station.

Residents reported the following concerns:

- Towing company is towing random cars with stickers indicating their right to park on Huntington St. (residents should ask apartment owner to contact towing company)
- Loitering, gambling and drinking in front of Williams Grocery at Ashley and Sigourney Streets (Sid is well aware and working on it)
- Resident's son was victim of hit and run at Farmington Ave. and Union Station (residents should always notify police)

Community Concerns: Several residents concurred with Billie Scruise that mice and rodents are becoming a big concern this fall in Hartford. Frank Hagaman reported that Hartford 2000 is aware of this concern and wants to hear more from residents. Janice Castle said that the City has only one rodent inspector. She also said that illegal dog breeding often attracts rodents. Billie agreed to lead an AHNA taskforce to work on the rodent problem.

Janice also responded to other concerns about Speed humps on Sargeant St (to be installed next spring), and possible painting of parking spaces on Sargeant St.

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

George Annan-

Kingsley

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Nancy Caddigan

Moureen Bish

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Chris Montross

Michelle McFarland

Marcus McKinney

Carol Padberg

814 Asylum Ave
Hartford 06105

Finance Report:

October balance: \$ 10,834
Expenses: (payroll, office supplies)
Income \$ 5,000 Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Nov. 6 balance: \$ 14,859
Yvonne encouraged all residents to become members of AHNA

Report from the City – Janice Castle:

- Bulky Waste: Beginning Dec 15, residents must make an appointment to get waste collected. Residents can receive 2 free pickups of up to 5 items per year. They may pay \$75 for additional pickups. Janice asked that prior to Dec 15, residents should contact her if any bulky waste is not picked up within 3 days.
- Leaf pickup: Janice shared the schedule for curbside pickup. Bagged leaves will be collected weekly
- Town Hall Forum with the Mayor: 11/28 at 6 PM at Parker Memorial and 11/30 at 6 PM at the Lyceum – both to have a conversation with the nominee for Police Chief, Lt. Col. David Rosado

I-84 Update: Rich Armstrong and Marci Miller reported that public forums are continuing. School forums with students and teachers are continuing. They are working closely with The Hartford. The basic questions include:

- Should the rail and bus stations be together?
- Should they be located north or west?
- Which options free up more open space?

Voting: Michelle reminded residents how important it is to vote this year. Candidates for Board of Education are on the ballot this year.

AHNA's 20th Anniversary Celebration: The celebration will be in February 2018 at the top floor of The Hartford. AHNA received over 60 nominations for the 20 people who will be honored as "neighbors with a heart." Ted Carroll announced each of the nominees. Ted reported that electronic invitations will be sent soon. He encouraged those present to sign up and to encourage their friends and neighbors to attend.

Community Announcements:

- Yvonne Matthews was recently featured in "Inquiring News" for her participation in the QUEST program at Leadership Greater Hartford
- Nov 15 - Forum on library closings - Faith Congregational Church
- Nov. 18 - Organizing for Peace Conference at Middlesex Community College
- Nov 20 - First Night Hartford Preview at V's Trattoria Restaurant at 7:30
- Nov 23 - Thanksgiving - Grace Lutheran Church is open for free breakfast and lunch
- Nov. 28 - Mayor's Town Hall Forum - 6 PM Parker Memorial
- Nov. 29 - Victor Lavelle, author of *the Changeling* speaking at HPL fundraiser
- Nov. 30 - Mayor's Town Hall Forum - 6 PM the Lyceum
- In 2018 residents can attend Hartford Stage productions free with a Hartford library card
- Athenaeum admission is always free to Hartford residents

Following a request from a candidate for Governor to speak to AHNA, attendees agreed that the Board should discuss whether to hear from candidates or sponsor forums etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.