



AHNA

HARTFORD
HAS IT

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA Annual Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – November 1, 2021

Board Members;

Jackie McKinney

Chairperson

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Treasurer

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Sarah Adanti

Georges Annan-Kingsley

Wayne Benjamin

Domenic Ciavarro

Natalia Crispin

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Lynn Johnson

Marian Leist

Elender Mathis

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Maxine Nugent

Paul O'Mara

Barbara Robbins

Executive Director

David MacDonald

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Wayne Benjamin, Marian Leist, Lynn Johnson, Michelle McFarland, Janine McMahon, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Ken Johnson, Louisa Barton Duguay

Board Members Absent: Kolsie Mathis, Georges Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Staff, City Representatives and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Cid Palmieri, Jesus Lopez, Andrene Bent-Campbell, Doug Ovian, Grace Yi, Sarah Adanti, Carolyn Austin, Claire Bergin, Sue Carey, Barbara Carmen, Dominic Ciavarro, David Corrigan, Natalia Crispin, Maxine Nugent, Barbara Robbins, Katherine Anne Simcic, Lynn Webber, Cathy Zeiner

Visitors: Debi Martin, Joanna Figueroa, Cydoni Fukami, Sonsearae Sawyer

The annual meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. Thirty two people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Jackie read the AHNA mission. David read the statement honoring native lands.

Executive Director's Annual Report: David noted that 2021 was a challenging year because of COVID, David's need for medical leave, and AHNA's financial challenges in the spring. Even so, AHNA was able to accomplish many things:

- S. Marshall Block Party – a huge success
- 3 Love Your Block Grants – completed successfully
- Farmington Ave Alliance was resurrected and is now meeting regularly
- 85 Sigourney was purchased
- Comet Diner is being restored
- AHNA financial outlook is good
- The yearlong Strategic Planning for the Asylum Hill Neighborhood was a robust process with much neighborhood participation. It is almost complete.

Financial Report: balance for Oct 1 \$7076
 Balance for Oct 31 \$4,715

City Update: Andrene reported that the fall/winter guide is now on line. Leaf collection has begun and continues until Dec 12 (details on website). Librarians can help with the Child Tax credit that is still available. Andrene reminded residents that the Unite CT program is available for tenants backed up on rent. Vaccine boosters are available at 131 Coventry St. Elections are tomorrow. Indoor pools are now open in late afternoons. Nov 4 will be a public information

session concerning the intersection of Asylum and Sigourney.

Grace Yi reported that the city is striping woodland, Sigourney, Fraser and Myrtle Streets this week.

Police Report: Cid reminded residents that elections are tomorrow. He encouraged people to use Fed Ex to hold packages as many are being stolen. Managers at 31 Gillette have hired security. Cid encouraged residents to contact police with concerns and if they don't respond, ask to talk to the supervisor.

Fire Department Report: Jesus gave the September report. He urged residents not to leave the stove unattended when cooking.

October Meeting Minutes: approved

Strategic Plan: David reviewed the goals, survey results, taskforces and their visions and goals. He noted that AHNA's role is to be the catalyst, striving to get partners to work together to accomplish these goals.

Candidates for Director: Jackie introduced the incumbents – Jackie, Nancy Rion, Marian Leist, and Michelle McFarland, along with new members- Dominic Ciavarro, Sarah Adanti, Natalia Crispin, Maxine Nugent and Barbara Robbins. The entire slate of nominees for Director was unanimously approved.

Voices of the Neighborhood:

- Request that AHNA publicize Veteran's Day
- New mural in Asylum Hill at the entrance to the highway
- Hartford Stage is open – free tickets available at the library
- Reminder that the public library offers many virtual classes and activities

Announcements:

- Nov – leaf collection begins
- Nov 17 AHNA Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast at 224 and zoom
- Nov 19 – free Thanksgiving dinner at Grace Lutheran Church
- Nov 24 – free Thanksgiving dinner – take out – at Loaves and Fishes
- Nov 25 – free Thanksgiving dinner at Asylum Hill Church

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51.