



AHNA



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – January 10, 2022

Board Members;

Jackie McKinney
Chairperson
Nancy Rion
Secretary
Louisa Barton
Dugway
Janice Castle
Treasurer
Mayor's Office
Sarah Adanti
Georges Annan-
Kingsley
Wayne Benjamin
Domenic Ciavarrro
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, Sarah Adanti, Paul O'Mara, Wayne Benjamin, Lynn Johnson, Janine McMahon, Maxine Nugent, Ken Johnson, Louisa Barton Duguay, Barbara Robbins, Marian Leist, Dominic Ciavarrro, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Natalie Crispin, Kolsie Mathis, Michelle McFarland, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Esther Gonzalez-Torres

AHNA Staff, City Representatives and Members Present: David McDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll, Janice Castle, Grace Yi, Aimee Chambers, Carolyn Austin, Claire Bergan, Sue Carey, Barbara Carmen, David Corrigan, Barbara Morton, Kay Saur, Katherine Anne Simcic, Lynn Webber, Cathy Zeiner

Visitors: Michael Barr, Jonathan Clark, Janine Evans, Joanna Figueroa, Tiana Hercules, Nancy Kirchmeyer, Tony Mein, Otoniel Sota

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

Executive Director's Report: David reported that AHNA finished 2021 in a strong position: the final draft of the Strategic Plan is complete and the public hearing is part of this meeting; AHNA met its goal fundraising of \$43,000 for 2021.

Financial Report:

December deposits	\$22,768
Recent expenses	\$3,628 payroll, Nov. breakfast
Jan 10 balance	\$25,304 (\$4,280 is restricted)

Louisa noted that AHNA must prepare and approve a budget for 2022.

City Update: Janice reminded residents that a mask mandate for Hartford is in effect. Residents seeking COVID testing can make appointments by dialing 311. Masks are available to NRZ's for distribution to residents. Residents seeking updates from the City can use www.hartfordct.gov/alerttime or www.hartfordct.gov/emailme. The city is collecting Christmas trees on trash days through Feb. 4. A zoom Town Hall on property reevaluation will be Jan 20 at 6:30.

Tiana Hercules, an Asylum Hill resident, introduced herself. She will be sworn in tonight to join City Council. She urged residents to contact her any time herculeslaw@gmail.com

Slow Streets Project Presentation: Grace Yi and Aimee Chambers from Planning and Zoning described a grant designed to explore alternatives to speed bumps in order to slow traffic. The purpose is to test options to see what works. Ashley Street was one of the streets chosen for the grant. Grace presented the proposal to create temporary bump-outs, crosswalks and an island – all intended to reduce traffic, speed and noise. The plan is to evaluate this option before making permanent changes.

Attendees from Ashley Street shared their concerns about losing parking places and feeling the street was too narrow to have an island that would cause cars to drive close to the sidewalk. One resident reminded folks that the plan was temporary and suggested that they try it to see if the data demonstrates whether or not it works.

The issue was referred to the Public Safety Committee to discuss further. Residents can also share their thoughts on line - safestreets@hartford.gov Aimee reminded Ashley St residents that they don't have to participate in this grant project.

Public Hearing on the Asylum Hill Strategic Plan

AHNA Executive Director David MacDonald reviewed the proposed AHNA Strategic Plan as required by CT law. He summarized and asked for comments on the goals and action steps for each part:

1. Arts and Culture no comments
2. Economic Development - question on TOD designation; P&Z offered to review the appropriateness of the TOD recommendations
3. Employment
 - a. Suggestion that plan include advocacy for local companies to hire residents.
 - b. Suggestion that AHNA partner with other organizations on job fairs
4. Environment no comments
5. Housing – suggestion that the plan consider grants to help homeowners fix up their homes
6. Human Services – suggestion that the plan work with COFY to identify services provided as well as to publicize such services
7. Public Safety no comments
8. Youth Services no comments

Generally, an observation was made that the elderly and immigrants are not specifically mentioned in the plan. Also, there was a suggestion that more communication, including using a variety of media, may be needed to engage the community in these efforts.

Aimee and Grace from Planning and Zoning offered to review the entire plan. AHNA will vote on the Strategic Plan for Asylum Hill at its February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37.