20th Anniversary

AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

HARTFORD HAS IT

AHNA General Meeting
Minutes -- April 2, 2018

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

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Carol Padberg, Louisa Barton Duguay, Nancy Rion, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, George Annan-Kingsley
Board Members Absent:, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Nancy Caddigan, Jackie McKinney, Ken Johnson, Moureen Bish, Dean Amadon, Michelle McFarland
AHNA Members & Staff Present:, Barbara Morton, Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Lt. Brian Cunningham, Jesus Lopez, HFD; Donna Sodipo; Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Sue Carey, David Corrigan, Barbara Robbins, Cathy Zeiner, Clair Bergin, Kate Ahmed, Lauren Fair, Mike McGarry, Ted Carroll and Bernie Michel
Visitors: Lionel Reigler, Diane Cantello, Michael Coulom, Edward Edgaro, Kay McKie, Anissa McKie Michael Barr, Brian Baker and Suzan Bibisi

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 30 participants introduced themselves. Yvonne recognized Lauren Fair from the Salvation Army for her involvement with the neighborhood. She also recognized Sid Palmieri, our CSO who demonstrates so much caring for our community, who pays attention to the little details, and the fact that the neighborhood recognizes Sid as someone who cares. Yvonne thanked Mike McGarry for the special newspaper section on AHNA's 20th Anniversary Celebration made possible by The Hartford.
Police Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, continues to issue tickets for loitering. Along with tickets, he gives a service card with information about shelters and food. He is encouraging spring cleanups around stores on Farmington Ave. He is working with security guards at the schools, especially Hartford Public High School. With longer days, burglaries are increasing. Sid encouraged residents to lock their doors and windows.
Martin Cunningham, 860-719-1130, Lieutenant Commander North District, reported that the police department is being reorganized. The community police officers, the traffic division and special events officers all report to Sonya Watson. North end crime is down 15% for the year. ATVs are becoming a problem. They are a challenge in part because there is a policy that police are not allowed to chase an ATV.

Fire Department Report: Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special services Unit, announced several initiatives including a Fire and Safety Program with the public schools, a Car Seat Clinic (with free car seats available), and the availability of free smoke detectors. He shared the fire statistics for March.
It was suggested that contact information for Sid, Martin and Jesus be included in AHNA agendas and minutes each month.

The March minutes were approved.

Finance Report: Paul reported:

March 1 balance:	$ 22,646	
Expenses:	$ 8,585	for payroll and to LGH for the 20th Anniversary
Contributions	$ 5,600	from South Park Inn, CT Public, and the Hartford
March 31 balance:	$ 19,661	

Voices from the Neighborhood:

- Residents are encouraged to donate food to the food pantry at 202 Laurel St. If street lights are not working, call 311
- Grace Lutheran Church sponsored a dance March 17 with over 150 young people attending -

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lots of fun and energy and no problems
- Volunteers are encouraged to read to students at West Middle School
- Double Dutch competitions are beginning in the Hartford area
- South Park Inn manages Plimpton House at 847 Asylum Ave, that serves 35 homeless men
- St. Joseph Cathedral hosted Argentine musicians for Easter services
- 8 immigrants were featured recently in an Event for Refugee and Immigrant Newcomers

Report from the City – Andrene Bent-Jarvis:
- April 21 – Mayor Bronin will host a Town Hall Meeting at 1 PM at Parkville Senior Center
- See potholes? – call 311
- Knox provides cleanup materials for neighborhood cleanup efforts. AHNA may organize a cleanup of Sigourney Park and Sargeant Street. Esther offered to head the effort.
- Police Chief Rosado is visiting all NRZ's, and is meeting with AHNA on May 7
  Trader Joes is opening a distribution center in Bloomfield. They will be hiring hundreds of people. For more information, contact www.accuratetemps.com or 860-616-9814

I-84 Update: Michael reported that the advisory committee meeting met to discuss the interchange and the location of the train station. There will be more meetings this summer. There is a 3D image on their website, www.i84hartford.com . A number of exits and entrances will be changed. Michael shared the spring Newsletter for the I-84 Hartford Project. There will be many job opportunities in highway and bridge construction.

City of Hartford – Grants: Lionel Rigler reported on 4 HUD grant programs: Community Development Block Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS, emergency solutions Grants (shelters), and Home Investment Partnerships Program. He is seeking input from NRZs on the priority goals that will direct the city priorities. Current CDBG recipients in Asylum Hill include HartBeat Ensemble and Hartford Artisans Weaving Center. AHNA will work more closely with Lionel and his colleague Joan Barere so that AHNA and non-profits in Asylum Hill can submit proposals to benefit the neighborhood.

AHNA's 20th Anniversary Celebration: Ted reported that Leadership Greater Hartford will be working with the AHNA Board to determine how to increase AHNA staff.
AHNA is working with Chrysalis in seeking a buyer for 3 Asylum Hill mansions in an effort to increase market value housing in Asylum Hill.

Upcoming Events:
- April 5 – Survivor Speak-Out addressing human trafficking and exploitation at the YWCA, sponsored by the YWCA, Salvation Army and the Underground
- April 27 – YWCA is sponsoring Stand Against Racism – focused on disparities of discipline in the schools
- May 5 – Walk Against Hunger, beginning and ending at Yard Goats Stadium

Mayor Bronin plans to attend the next AHNA meeting May 7
The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

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