



AHNA

HARTFORD
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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

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Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

Executive Director

David MacDonald

AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – December 7, 2020

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Marian Leist, Jennifer Cassidy, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Yvonne Matthews, Wayne Benjamin, Janine McMahon, Lynn Johnson, Andrene Bent-Jarvis

Board Members Absent: Mervin Mathurin, Susan Tebolt (excused), Michelle McFarland, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Edward Edgaro, Michael Barr, Kolsie Mathis,

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Lt. Lopez, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carey, Cathy Zeiner, Sarah Morin, Barbara Morton, Ted Carroll, Patrick Doyle, Lynn Webber

Visitors: Lt. Lopez, Elsa Koulla, Quonon Walker, Ashley Tucker, Arnel Hines, Autumn Florek, Sonsearae Sawyer, Swapna Vengalan, Doug Ovian, Edward Andrews, Nichelle Hudson, Peter Lewis, Nancy Kirshmyer, Ashley Stewart, Olivia Llano, Larry Deutsch, Constance Hicks, Caroline Austin

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:40. About 41 people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Wayne read the AHNA Mission.

Executive Director Report: David reported that the Board approved the revised bylaws and met with Mayor Bronin to discuss the Clover Gardens project and AHNA's focus on home ownership. On behalf of AHNA, David has participated in conversations with The Hartford regarding their survey of Asylum Hill stakeholders, their planned investment in Asylum Hill as well as AHNA's strategic plan for Asylum Hill. He reported recent donations from Immanuel Congregational Church, Grace Lutheran Church and Webster Bank. AHNA will submit a request for 4 speed humps in Asylum Hill: Laurel, Huntington, Willard and Townley Streets.

Treasurer's Report: David shared the financial report. The balance for the year is \$12,810. David noted November income was \$2,538 and expenses of \$3,474.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) was unable to attend the meeting.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit reported that as of today, there have been 7446 cases of COVID in Hartford. He encouraged everyone to wear masks, wash hands and maintain social distancing and get flu shots. He reviewed the Hartford fire statistics for October. He reminded residents that cooking fires are the #1 cause of house fires. Don't use extension cords with space heaters and open windows if using the oven for a long time. Fire stations are sponsoring toy drives.

Report from the City: Andrene announced toy drives this week at City Hall and the Urban League. Covid testing will continue into 2021. Call 311 if transportation is needed.

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

By-Law Revision Discussion: Jennifer thanked the Committee for their work. AHNA Directors approved the revisions as presented at the November meeting and on the website. Participants voted unanimously to approve the bylaws.

Ashley Tucker was introduced as the new Executive Director of the Asylum Hill Family Center.

City Cellars' Plan for 305 Farmington Ave: Swapna Vengalam plans to buy the current liquor store and as the new owner is applying for a liquor permit. Autumn Florek, a new planner for the City, reported that the City is approving this request administratively. In the future the City will be reconsidering how to more effectively handle liquor permits.

Voices of the Neighborhood:

- Concerns were raised about an announcement by the Art Space landlord concerning some proposed construction regarding I-84 close to the building. Autumn Florek will update AHNA in January about the highway construction plans.
- Food available for those in need: detailed descriptions are in the December News and Views. They include Friday night meals at Grace Lutheran, Sunday noon meals at Asylum Hill Church, M-F lunches at Loaves and Fishes at Immanuel Church, and Lynn Webber mentioned a new food pantry at The Village Daycare on Spring St for residents to get 3 days worth of food.
- Doug Ovian and Nichelle Hudson described new work of the community court with a goal of connecting residents with public defenders safely during the pandemic. Applications will now be taken by phone. They want to work with the community.
- Edward Andrews described his work with Scrip – an educational social institution that works with trauma victims with a focus on urban males.
- Larry Deutsch urged residents to support sanitation workers in their new negotiations.

Economic Development Committee Annual Report: Everyone is invited to join the meeting this week.

Development and Fundraising Committee Report: The committee encourages all Board members and community stakeholders to donate to AHNA.

Green Committee Report: Everyone is invited to join the committee that will have its first meeting Dec 18 at 11 AM.

Announcements:

- The Hartford Urban League will hold a virtual equal opportunity dinner Dec 10
- The Asylum Hill Family Center is organizing residents to advocate for preventing evictions during COVID

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52.