



AHNA

HARTFORD
★ HAS IT

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

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Jackie McKinney

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Edward Edgaro

Vice Chairperson

Nancy Rion

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Kingsley

Michael Barr

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Wayne Benjamin

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Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Elender Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

Executive Director

David MacDonald

AHNA General Meeting

(Virtual – Zoom & Phone)

Minutes June 1, 2020

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Edward Edgaro, Marian Leist, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Wayne Benjamin, Michael Barr,

Board Members Absent: Louisa Baron Duguay, Yvonne Matthews, Kolsie Mathis, Mervin Mathurin, Ken Johnson, Susan Tebolt, Jennifer Cassidy, Michelle McFarland, Janine McMahon, Janice Castle

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Claire Bergin, Barbara Morton, Ted Carroll, Lynn Johnson, Marian Griffin, Jesus Lopez, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carney, Cathy Zeiner, Sarah Morin, Barbara Robbins

Visitors: Mary Falvey, Lucy Potter, Karen Taylor, Kiera Steele, Chion Wolf, Roger Cantello, Valerio Giodone, Jose Ramirez, Jessica Sanderson

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. About 30 people attended on zoom or the phone.

Executive Director Remarks: David has continued to work on fundraising. He encouraged everyone to donate to the 202 Laurel St. pantry that is often depleted. He noted that the newly established Nominating and Governance Committee is seeking volunteers from the neighborhood. Directors Marion and Edward volunteered. David will send out the Finance Report.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) was unable to attend the meeting. He is now working a 10 AM-6PM shift.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit, reviewed the April statistics, noting that there has been less activity recently. He is working to try to provide an analysis of the department's data. Jesus reminded all residents to wear their masks, maintain social distancing and keep cautious regarding Covid-19.

814 Asylum Ave., Hartford 06105

Report from the City: Andrene shared information about Covid19:

- Everyone is encouraged to get a test
- Call 311 to schedule free rides for residents with appointments to be tested for the virus
- CVS has expanded testing sites - they do require pre-registration

In other news, Andrene also announced

- The spring/summer booklets are available electronically
- Census - residents are encouraged to complete the hard copy, or on line, or by phone
- Tax deferments (90 days) are available - apply by July 1

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

Presentation and Vote regarding the Redevelopment of 15 Marshall Street into a 3-Family house ~ Valerio Giadone: This property has been vacant for 20 years. Jose Ramirez, a Hartford resident focused on fixing up blighted properties, is the new owner who would like to restore the property. They presented design plans to the Historical Preservation Commission who approved most of the plans, but asked for modifications to retain the 3rd floor windows. After discussion, including a suggestion to consider energy efficiency, the proposal received unanimous support.

Presentation and Vote regarding Zoning Change Request for 291 Collins Street by Youth Challenge - Esther Gonzalez-Torres: The Economic Development Committee recommended approval of the Youth Challenge request for a letter of support from AHNA to change the property designation from NX-Z (residential) to MX-Z (mixed use). The proposal received unanimous support.

Voices of our Neighborhood:

- Citizens expressed concerns about nightly fireworks in the middle of the night. Andrene will follow up.
- Many protests are taking place. Residents should consider what AHNA can do.
- The Quality of Life will meet to discuss the Citizen Review Commission.

Announcements:

- Hartford Next will hold its annual meeting June 18, featuring each NRZ
- Pollinator gardens are being planted at 6 neighborhood churches.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.