



20<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

# AHNA

HARTFORD  
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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association  
A Neighborhood NRZ

## AHNA General Meeting Minutes ~ July 2, 2018

**Board Members Present:** Yvonne Matthews, Carol Padberg, Moureen Bish, Nancy Rion, Jackie McKinney, Ken Johnson, Louisa Barton Duguay and Janice Castle

**Board Members Absent:** Paul O'Mara, Dean Amadon, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, George Annan-Kingsley, Chris Montross, Nancy Caddigan and Michelle McFarland

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** Lt. Martin Cunningham, Mario Oquendo, Claire Bergin, Mia Douglas, Marian Leist, Andrea Barton-Reeves, Marcy Miller, Cathy Zeiner, Sue Carey, Barbara Robbins, Mike McGarry, Michael Barr, Edward Edgardo, Ted Carroll, & Bernie Michel

**Visitors:** Larisa Kottke, Maria McKinley, Maria MacDonald, Elizabeth Weiblen, Rev. Don Hamer, Rodrigo Pinto, Ashlee Houle, Sistah Nandi, Ryan Keating, Corendis Bonner-Dawson, Rick Kontur,

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. More than 30 participants introduced themselves. Yvonne recognized and welcomed Michael Barr who is new to the neighborhood.

**Police Report:** Lieutenant Cunningham from the north district reported that generally crime (robberies, burglaries, larcenies, sexual assaults) is down 6.2% from last year. Auto thefts have increased. The fact that more police are visible at night has contributed to the reduced crime rate. He noted that Hartford fireworks will be July 14. He encouraged everyone to be safe using fireworks.

**Fire Department Report:** Lieutenant Mario Oquendo, reported that the #1 cause of fires is unattended cooking. He noted that during heat waves, there are several cooling centers, with the best one at Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

**Report from Mayor Bronin:** The Mayor reported that Hartford is currently fiscally stable which is great; however, there are no extra resources.

**Public Safety:** While the police department is aggressively recruiting, it can't hire as many persons as needed. The street crimes unit and community service officers are both working at night, at least for another month, to ensure public safety. In addition, the city has extended the hours for recreation centers; a team of police, OPP, Peacebuilders are working together to intervene earlier in potential trouble spots; youth service corps are working with mentors and getting part time jobs and training; local police are building relationships with local state and federal partners.

**Asylum Hill mansions:** City is working with Chrysalis, but supports market rate development. The Mayor stated that the city needs more economically diverse housing.

**Economic Development:** city is working with CRDA to reduce the number of parking lots and blighted areas.

814 Asylum Ave  
Hartford 06105

Asylum Hill: important to improve quality of life issues. Residents are encouraged to contact the city with concerns.

In response to questions, the Mayor reminded residents that Kim Oliver is the point person to help people with disabilities to find job opportunities and that Thea Montanez and Janice Castle can help with creative place making in Asylum Hill. The Mayor said that budget cuts had real impacts; the city cannot keep up with taking care of medians, dead trees, etc.

The June minutes were approved with the following change: free fire alarms and installation is available from Special services, 860-757-4520.

**Report from the City:** Janice shared the summer services guide. She is seeking suggestions for the City's volunteer recognition. Speed humps will be installed in the next 90 days. Each NRZ can request humps for an additional 2 streets by July 15.

**I-84 Update:** Marcy announced a public meeting July 16 at Chrysalis Center from 5-7 PM.

**Upcoming Events and Announcements:**

- Trinity Episcopal Church is opening its memorial garden M-F from 10-2. They are also seeking volunteer hosts from the neighborhood. Interested residents should call the church at 860-527-8133
- Asylum Hill Congregational Church is hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Jazz on the Lawn* with jazz and many activities for children
- HARC has created a reading room, Richard's Cornerstone Connection. They hope to open it to the community.
- City Voter Project: seeking venues to register voters
- Free Summer Meals are available to children at 5 places in Asylum Hill

AHNA has some open Board positions. Residents are encouraged to apply. AHNA is seeking a part-time Executive Director. As Yvonne's term is concluding, the Board is also seeking a volunteer to be Chair of the AHNA Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.