



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes March 6, 2017

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Dean Amadon, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Ken Johnson, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, Michelle McFarland

Board Members Absent: Nancy Caddigan, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, George Annan-Kingsley, Carol Padberg, Jackie McKinney, Moureen Bish, Frank Hagaman, Sekienna Ellis

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. J. Sherbo, Janice Castle, David Corrigan, Rich Armstrong, Sandy Fry, Louisa Barton-Duguay, Maura Hallisey, Katherine Downing-Ahmed, Lloyd Carter, Rich Frieder, Barbara Morton, Sue Carey, Liz Gustafson, Laura Settlemeyer, Mary Kiernan-Gonzalez, Joe Bumpers, Ted Carroll, & Bernie Michel

Visitors:, Diane Cantello, Julie Niggebrugge, Mark Bibbins, Liza Arulampalam, Ann Hogan, Michael Winters, Jimmy Bruno jr. Nicole Porter, Evelyn Vargas.

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 30 participants introduced themselves.

The Mission of AHNA was read. The February minutes were approved. Yvonne recognized Mark Bibbins, a pillar of the Asylum Hill community. Ted Carroll noted that 3 insurance companies recently pledged \$50 Million to Hartford and the Aetna and the Hartford are both in the Asylum Hill neighborhood. ANHA thanked them for their support.

Police Report: Ofc. Joe Sherbo, substituting for Ofc. Chris Chanaca, reported that crime was down in February and there are no major issues. Police are making many arrests for panhandling on Sigourney St. There is a need for more police officers in Hartford. Residents are strongly encouraged to apply.

Finance Report:

Feb 1 balance:	\$10,658.55
Donations:	\$ 500.00
Expenses:	\$ 1,985.00
Feb 28 balance:	\$ 9,172.89

Guest Nicole Porter: Nicole is Operations Manager for Hartford Public School (HPS) Athletics. HPS recently formed a partnership with Department of Public Works (DPW) to coordinate the use of athletic fields, schools, and community centers. Last month they launched an on-line reservation system for fields and rooms: <http://hartfordctmyrec.com/info/help/>

City of Hartford Update – Janice Castle: Janice reported on the following initiatives:

- The Hartford Climate Stewardship Council is co-sponsoring a new Solar initiative March 7
- The People's Budget: March 18 will be an opportunity to look at the City Budget at City Hall. NRZ's are encouraged to bring teams to present balanced budget ideas to the Mayor.
- Noise Complaints: Janice shared an information card indicating who to call and when to call with noise complaints.
- Hartford 311: Janice shared a card indicating ways to access 311, a non-emergency call center

- designed to connect residents with city services.
- City ID available in April: ID will be available to all Hartford residents. The City will not retain any personal information.

Proposed NINA Housing: Ken Johnson announced two new projects:

- Sigourney St: one owner occupied and one 3 family home
- 86-88 Hawthorn St: two brick townhouses, eventually for 4 families. They hope to break ground spring of 2018.

Voices of the Community: Yvonne encouraged residents to discuss how AHNA can be more effective in the neighborhood.

- Liz Gustafson, the intern for the Welcoming Committee, is seeking volunteers to help leaflet the neighborhood this spring. The leaflet would focus on immigrant rights. She said she was willing to include a leaflet encouraging resident engagement with AHNA.
- Jimmy Bruno encouraged AHNA to use more social media communications. Jimmy, Paul and Bernie will look at Facebook and Next Door and other opportunities.

I-84 Update: Rich Armstrong reported that environmental studies continue. There will be more public forums in April. Sandy Fry, from the Planning Department of Hartford, reported that the City is now working with DOT to explore how proposed changes will impact neighborhoods, especially Asylum Hill. She reported their work on designing a new transportation center to replace the current train station.

Guest Laura Settemeyer – Blight Remediation Director: Laura has prepared a new ordinance to be considered next week, to make the blight remediation program more effective. She is also completing an inventory of the city's blighted properties that she will share with AHNA when it is complete. She will return this spring to discuss AHNA's priorities for fixing blighted properties.

Hartford Decides: Richard Freider reported that voting will be March 25, 28 and 30 for the winning projects to share a total of \$250,000.

Community Announcements:

- The Mark Twain Branch of the Hartford Public Library opened at West Middle School. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1-6. The biggest challenge now is lack of available parking.
- The Barber Branch of the Library will be holding writing and math classes for adults.
- Friends of Sigourney Square Park is excited to be receiving new signage for the park.
- Wadsworth Atheneum: free admission this Saturday after St Patrick's Day Parade
- Boys and Girls' Club: offers discounts to residents for summer camp
- Stowe House: renovations are almost complete. Grand re-opening will be June 10
- Hartford Church Tours: March 30, April 1 – lunch is offered at Grace Lutheran
- Trinity Academy will hold a fundraiser May 18
- West Middle School students are active in academics, internships, basketball and enrichment programs. The school has had many visitors wanting to learn about the community school model.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.