

**AHNA General Meeting**  
**Minutes ~ December 3, 2018**

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SEP

**Board Members Present:** Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Moureen Bish, Nancy Rion, Jackie McKinney, Michelle McFarland, Edward Edgaro, Marian Leist, Michael Barr

**Board Members Absent:** Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Carol Padberg, Ken Johnson, Louisa Barton Duguay, George Annan-Kingsley, Dean Amadon, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Nancy Caddigan,

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** Ofc. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Lt. Jesus Lopez, Lt. Mario Oquendo, David Corrigan, Barbara Morton, Joe Bumpers, Cathy Zeiner, Jennifer Cassidy, Barbara Robbins, Mike McGarry, Frank Hagaman, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Mervin Mathurin, Maria MacDonald, David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll,

**Visitors:** Diane Cantello, Sarah Morin, Ken Wozniak, Barbara Shaffer, Wayne Benjamin, Johnston Anderson, Wildaliz Bermudez, Lynn Johnson, Jeff Stewart, Angel Colon, Frankie Colon, Donna Ambrogio, Tanika Menafee, Sistah Nandi,

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. Participants introduced themselves. Paul read the AHNA mission statement.

Yvonne recognized and congratulated all attendees for caring about the Asylum Hill neighborhood.

**Finance Report:** Paul presented the following report:

November 1 balance:	\$29,785
Deposits:	2,400 (\$1000 from Aetna for Pollinator F, Htfd Steamboiler)
Expenses:	\$ 4,052 (payroll, plus pollinator expenses to be reimbursed)
November 30 balance:	\$28,132

Yvonne encouraged everyone to support AHNA with a donation.

**Police Department Report:** Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell -203-400-9265) shared November's statistics: 15 tickets for loitering, 7 for public drinking, and 1 for littering. There have been many car break-ins recently. He warned that this is the season of package thefts from porches. He encouraged residents to help their neighbors.

Martin Cunningham, 860-719-1130, Lieutenant Commander North District encouraged residents to pay attention to parking bans in bad weather. He will follow up with an Ashley St resident whose mail was stolen. He told another resident to call 911 when an intruder is in an apartment complex.

**Fire Department Report:** Lt. Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special Services Unit, reviewed the November data. He encouraged residents who use space heaters to keep objects 3 feet from them, to not overload power strips and to keep real Christmas trees watered. Residents should contact Jesus for smoke detectors. The Fire Department has now compiled 5 years of data about fires in Hartford, identifying areas most at risk. They will be providing additional fire prevention education in those neighborhoods.

**Review of Minutes:** The November minutes were approved with one vote against.

**Report from the City:** Andrene encouraged residents to attend the next Mayor's Town Hall, Dec 20 at 6 PM at 1300 Broad St. She also offered discounts tickets to Hartford residents for Disney on Ice. Andrene addressed resident's concerns about the following:

- Bulky waste - the city has only 1 inspector, they are considering re-examining the ordinances
- Inability to park close to Collins St on garbage days. Andrene will try to help residents.
- Parking spaces need to be designated. AHNA will invite parking authority to a meeting to discuss policy.

**Report by Nominations and Governance Committee:** The AHNA by-laws were last updated and approved by consensus on August 8, 2014. The Governance Committee (Paul, Dean, Michelle and Yvonne - chair) acknowledged that the last three years have been challenging with a focus on trying to grow the organization and give it more structure and accountability. During some of that time, while AHNA functioned well and was responsive to the neighborhood concerns, there were no annual meetings or formal votes on new Board members. The proposed new by-laws, the list of current members, and the newly compiled list of Board members, their bios and their terms, were efforts to be more transparent and to have our by-laws reflect how we work as an organization.

Residents raised concerns about the process of electing Board members for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, about Board members with many absences, and whether AHNA, the NRZ should have a different set of by-laws than AHNA, the 501c3. Prior to the next Board meeting, Board members Moureen, Edward and Mike will meet with the Governance Committee to discuss these issues and report their recommendations to the Board at its December meeting.

Motion: to postpone the election of 3 Board members for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. The vote failed

Motion: to approve the election of 3 Board members, Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion and Michelle McFarland to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. The vote passed.

**Voices of our Neighborhood:**

- Wayne Benjamin reported that they will be shrink wrapping the Comet roof to protect their inside work over the winter

**Announcements:**

- Dec 21 from 2-4 at 224 will be a community gathering with intergenerational activities to explain the various winter holidays
- Jan 3: KNOX fundraiser to purchase and plant a small pear tree orchard on Niles.
- The City Council adopted an ordinance that the Council and all NRZ's use one web site for the work of their organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 for a brief holiday celebration.