



20th

Anniversary

AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

HARTFORD
★ HAS IT

AHNA General Meeting Minutes ~ March 5, 2018

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Carol Padberg, Louisa Barton Duguay, Nancy Rion Jackie McKinney, Ken Johnson, Michelle McFarland, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Moureen Bish, Dean Amadon, George Annan-Kingsley and Janice Castle

Board Members Absent: Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Nancy Caddigan,

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Rich Armstrong, Barbara Morton, Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Lt. Brian Cunningham, Jesus Lopez, HFD; Jim Ford, DPW; Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Rex Fowler, Sue Carey, David Corrigan, Barbara Robbins, Evelyn DeJesus Vargas, Cathy Zeiner, Clair Bergin, Jennifer Cassidy, Mike McGarry, Joe Bumpers, Ted Carroll and Bernie Michel

Visitors: Ryan O'Halloran, Andrea Barton-Reeves, Diane Cantello, Sarah Morin, Michael Coulom, Mary Ellen Shuckerow, Brenda Harris, Edward Edgaro, Corendis Dawson Bonner and Tammy Broxton

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 40 participants introduced themselves.

The February minutes were approved as amended.

Police Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri continues to issue summons for panhandling and loitering. He reported several instances on Willard Street where guns and drugs have been found and arrests made. Police are providing extra security at the schools. In the north half of the city, robberies, shootings, assaults, burglaries and larcenies have all decreased. Auto thefts have increased; residents should not leave their cars running while unattended. April 4 is the first baseball game.

Fire Department Report: Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, announced several initiatives including a Fire and Safety Program with the public schools, a Car Seat Clinic (with free car seats available), and the availability of free smoke detectors. He shared the fire statistics for February.

Finance Report: Paul reported:

February 1 balance:	\$ 16,118
Expenses:	\$ 1,286
Contributions	\$ 7,815 - from 20 th Anniversary Event
February 28 balance:	\$ 22,646

Voices from the Neighborhood:

- Concern was expressed about dangerous intersections at Asylum and Sigourney and at Asylum and Union Place. Pedestrians need to be reminded to activate the walk lights. Jim Ford, the city traffic engineer said the city is working on accident reduction and will report back about both concerns.
- If street lights are not working, call 311
- Residents were encouraged to engage with the many political candidates on all of the issues that concern them.

Report from the City – Andrene Bent-Jarvis:

- March 12 – Mayor Bronin will give his State of the City address
- See potholes – call 311
- Police Chief Rosado is visiting all NRZ's, and is meeting with AHNA on May 7

I-84 Update: Michael reported that the advisory committee meeting was postponed to March 27, 12:30-2PM at Chrysalis to discuss the interchange and the location of the train station. There is a 3D image on their website. The public forum will be scheduled in April. Rich Armstrong is retiring.

Knox Inc. – Ryan O'Halloran: Knox focuses on environmental education, community gardens and planting trees. Ryan announced a new community garden at Hawthorn and Sigourney Streets. It is a partnership with AHNA, Knox, the Aetna, and neighborhood schools. There will be 50 plots. AHNA received a grant to help create a pollination area. As soon as money is received from the City, there will also be a community garden at Hartford High School.

AHNA's 20th Anniversary Celebration: Yvonne thanked everyone for attending and making it so successful, with special thanks to Diane and Sarah from the Hartford, and Ted from Leadership Greater Hartford who managed the event. With the money raised, AHNA can take its work of improving the quality of life in the neighborhood to the next level with more volunteers and staff.

Upcoming Events:

- The Atheneum offers free admission to Hartford residents with a special time for kids on the 2nd Saturday of each month
- Hartford Public Library is partnering with Hartford Stage to provide free show tickets to residents with a library card.
- March 17 – George will be painting a mural at Hartford High School and encourages the whole community to come to paint with him
- March 21 – Safety Committee invites the community to the YMCA to discuss panhandling and various approaches to eliminate it in our neighborhood
- March 22 destination proposals are due
- April 12 – the YWCA is sponsoring In the Company of Women lunch with speaker Gloria Steinem
- May 10 – Urban League is sponsoring a Career Fair at Dunkin Donuts Stadium
- Hartford Blooms is June 9-17 with the theme, Jazz, Arts and Flowers
- HARC is seeking volunteers to teach or share a talent on a monthly basis

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.