



AHNA

HARTFORD
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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes February 3, 2020

Board Members;

Jackie McKinney

Chairperson

Edward Edgardo

Vice Chairperson

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Susan Tebolt

Treasurer

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Georges Annan-

Kingsley

Michael Barr

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Wayne Benjamin

Jennifer Cassidy

Rev. Mia Douglas

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Elander Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

Executive Director

David MacDonald

Board Members Present: Michael Barr, Louisa Baron Duguay, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Michelle McFarland, Edward Edgardo, Ken Johnson, Kolsie Mathis, Marian Leist, Mervin Mathurin, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Wayne Benjamin

Board Members Absent: Janine McMahon, Mia Douglas Jackie McKinney (excused), Susan Tebolt, (excused) Jennifer Cassidy (excused), Yvonne Matthews (excused),

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Ofc. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Ofc. Joe Sherbo, Tom O'Brien, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Lt. Jesus Lopez, Maria MacDonald, Barbara Robbins, Sue Carey, Mike McGarry, Barbara Morton, Andrea Barton Reeves, Lynn Johnson, Cathy Zeiner, Domenic Ciavarro, Sandra Richardson, Cheryl Davis, Lynn Webber, Kate Simsic, Catherine Saur, Donna Redway
Bernie Michel.

Visitors: Sarah Morin, Alex Tsarkov, Nichole Roundtree, Valerio Giadone, Christine Alford, Susan Pribyson, Yovel Badash, & Kyle Borbus

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Edward Edgardo at 6:17. After reading the AHNA mission statement, about 30 attendees introduced themselves.

Executive Director Remarks: David has primarily been working on fundraising efforts. He has submitted a grant request to the Hartford.

Finance Report: David reported the balance to date is \$5,848 of which \$1500 is restricted. We recently received a donation from the Cathedral.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) reported for January: 10 tickets for loitering, 1 for public drinking and 6 for panhandling. He has been addressing standing complaints especially on Huntington and Collins. Landlords are putting in new lights, doors and providing more security.

Sid responded to several residents who expressed concerns:

- Lack of police response to blocked driveways – Police are trying to improve response times, but sometimes these calls come at a busy time. Sid advised residents to ask to talk to a supervisor if they do not get a response from the dispatcher.
- Litter and accumulating garbage – Residents should call 311 to report. They can also request that Community Court send folks to clean up a street.
- Elderly abuse at some apartment complexes – concerned residents were encouraged to attend an AHNA Quality of Life meeting where these issues are being addressed

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit, reviewed the 2019 statistics. The Hartford Fire Department was the first department in the state to receive accreditation. It is also the busiest in the state.

Review of Minutes: The January General Meeting minutes were approved with the following two recommended changes: (1) regarding the report from the Quality of Life – the statement was amended to read – the Committee met with Sandra Frye to hear suggestions for the bike boulevard and there will be more discussion about it in the future. (2) The list of visitors to the January General Meeting will be added.

Report from the City: Andrene reminded residents to call 311 with specific issues. She noted that April 30-May 2 is a city wide cleanup sponsored by KNOX. For help with preparing taxes, call 211.

Presentation of 314 Sergeant Street Renovation: Valerio Giodone presented the plans to renovate a building that has been vacant for many years into a 6 family home. Participants agreed to recommend that the Board of Directors approve a letter of support. There was some interest expressed to encourage the contractor to interview and hire local workers on the project, recognizing that AHNA cannot make that a requirement.

Voices of our Neighborhood:

- Suggestion was made that the Quality of Life Committee collect resumes of residents with expertise in various areas
- Catholic Transport is advertising tours of the Cathedral
- Interest in Asylum Hill Tree Plantings – Lynn is seeking interested residents to gather to identify places that would benefit from tree plantings

Committee Reports:

- **Economic Development:** at AHNA's March meeting, there will be a discussion of the 15 year strategic plan
- **Communications:** shared a draft of the Asylum Hill Guidebook

Announcements:

- KNOX announced a Greenhouse Party, Feb 21; KNOX will have 300 planters available for \$225 each; Knox is creating 2 new community gardens in Asylum Hill – one at Hartford Public High School, the other near the Aetna.
- Residents may get free tickets to Hartford Stage performances with the library card
- Hartford Public Library has a fact sheet about the importance of the census count. It's particularly important in Asylum Hill which is often under counted.
- Hartford Public Library hosts VITA – providing tax help

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.