



AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

HARTFORD
★
HAS IT

AHNA General Meeting Minutes – August 1st, 2016

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Michelle McFarland, Frank Hagaman, Paul O'Mara, Dean Amadon,

Board Members Absent: David Ambrose, Ken Johnson, Sekienna Ellis, Jackie McKinney, Moureen Bish, Nancy Caddigan, Mark McKinney, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, Chris Montross, John Prescod, George Annan-Kingsley, & Nancy Rion

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Barbara Morton, Bonnie Matthews, Jennifer Cassidy, Dulcie Giadone, Ofc. Chris Chanaca, Maura Hallisey, Donna Sodipo, Ted Carroll & Bernie Michel

Visitors: Diane Cantello, Morgan Ferrarotti, Marcy Miller, Tim Ryan, Rich Armstrong, Kevin Burnham, Adam DeMaine, Sara Bronin, Lt. Marion Oquendo jr. Dennis Groderre, Kyrinda Richardson, Tony Valenti, Nicholas Payne, Claire Bergin, Leslie Mitchell, Barbara Robbins, Wayne Benjamin

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:18. Yvonne recognized Chris Chanaca for his work with AHNA and his commitment to Asylum Hill. The Mission of AHNA was read. The June minutes were approved. Yvonne thanked residents for the contributions received at the June meeting.

Police Report: Chris Chanaca reported the July statistics: crime is up over last month, but down over last year. 6 car break-ins, 9 robberies, 9 burglaries, and 6 stolen vehicles also 3 shootings. Unfortunately there was a homicide at 10 Marshall Street. Cameras are working at Sigourney Park. National Night out will be on Tuesday.

Fire Dept Report: Capt. Helene Lynch has retired, Lt. Mario Oquendo is substituting. A replacement has not been appointed as yet. Lt. Oquendo distributed a 7 page report detailing EMS calls, hazardous conditions, fires and service calls for the month by neighborhood. A copy will be available on the AHNA Website.

Regarding the fire at 270 Laurel St all 78 apartment in the building were damaged, 77 of them were occupied and of those, only 2 had renter's insurance. Need to encourage all renters to get insurance.

Finance Committee: Sekienna was not able to attend, however financial statement is as follows;

June 1 balance:	\$6471.82
Funds received:	\$5546.00 June & July
Expenses:	\$2900.53
August 1 balance:	\$9180.39

Leadership Greater Hartford has completed a 2-year assistance project with AHNA with a brief extension remaining; funding is critical to fulfilling the mission

- Individual donors such as those who gave last meeting are critical to the success of AHNA

and Yvonne has agreed to champion this effort

- Nonprofit membership should be another source of revenue and Saint Francis has already donated an contributions based on the relative size of the organization will be sought with opportunities for all available; Marcus Mckinney has agreed to champion this effort
- Corporate sponsorships will be another strategy, and Dean Amadon has agreed to champion this effort

Donation Envelopes will be available at all meeting going forward so that everyone has an opportunity to help in the effort

I-84 Hartford Project update: Rich Armstrong from CT DOT along with Tim Ryan from Trans Systems and Marcy Miller from Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. spoke about the I-84 Hartford project that plans to replace the 2-mile stretch of elevated highway that was constructed nearly 50 years ago. Since 2013 efforts have been underway to study the area and through numerous meetings with stakeholders to determine the best option to redesign the highway to minimize its impact on the surrounding community.

- Goal is to blend into the environment especially where the highway interacts with the local streets.
- The at grade option appears to be the most viable which will include moving the railroad tracks and creating a new Union Station for rail.
 - Details as to on and off ramp etc. remain for this year and some of 2017
 - There is the potential to cap part of the on grade plan to achieve the feel of a below ground option
 - Could incorporate East Coast Greenway
 - Complete environmental study will be done including noise on the final design before it becomes the “design of record”
 - Then begins acquiring property necessary for construction as well architectural plans – about 2 years
 - Construction to take 2-3 years after that
 - All funding will need to be secured before construction begins
 - Excess land freed up will likely be given to the City to determine use
 - Bushnell park will not be touched
 - I-84 Hartford is very near the top of the Governor’s priority list
- Updated drawings including 3-D renderings are available on the website at <http://www.i84hartford.com> as well as the schedule of public meetings

Proposal for 267-271 Farmington;

- Diner & former Dunkin Donuts looking to demolish both bldgs. in order to sell to a developer
 - Proposal being represented by Wayne Benjamin & Tony Valenti
 - Some type of retail not determined as yet
- Frank Hagaman representing HPA laid out the plans for the entire block that includes preserving the diner
- Plan will need to go to the Historic Preservation Commission

Champions Reports:

- West Middle School is moving toward completion

- **Public Safety:** Next meeting will be at AH Family Center 5:30pm focus on residents

Community Announcements:

- **Friends of Sigourney Park:** Family fun day August 20 – 21
- Stowe Center Salons at Lunch through August
- Urban League will host a Back to School “Block Party” at the end of the month
- Walking tours continue each Wednesday
- Fresh Express each Thursday to Billings Forge farmer’s market
- Family Fun Days in Sigourney Square Park August 20-21
- National Night out at the Boys & Girls Club Tuesday 8-2

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Draft