



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes April 1, 2019

Board Members;
Jackie McKinney
Chair
Edward Edgaro
Vice Chair
Nancy Rion
Secretary
Janice Castle
Mayor's Office
Georges Annan-Kingsley
Michael Barr
Louisa Barton
Duguay
Moureen Bish
Jennifer Cassidy
Mia Douglas
Esther Gonzalez-Torres
Ken Johnson
Marian Leist
Mervin Mathurin
Michelle McFarland
Paul O'Mara
Carol Padberg
Sue Tebolt

Board Members Present: Paul O'Mara, Yvonne Matthews, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Nancy Rion, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Michelle McFarland, Mervin Mathurin, Marian Leist, Michael Barr, Jennifer Cassidy, Louisa Barton Duguay

Board Members Absent: Dean Amadon, Edward Edgaro,(excused) Jackie McKinney,(excused) Moureen Bish, Carol Padberg, Ken Johnson,(excused) Susan Tebolt

AHNA Members & Staff Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ofc. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Lt. Jesus Lopez, Ofc. Joe Sherebo, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Armindo Gomes, Grace Yi, Maria McDonald, David Corrigan, Barbara Robbins, Barbara Morton, Mike McGarry, Katherine Downing Ahmed, Lynn Johnson, Cathy Zeiner, Wayne Benjamin, Gabrielle Emmanuel, Ted Carroll

Visitors: Sarah Morin, Allie LaRue, Jonathan Clark, Tina Inferrera, Mark Brevard, Carolyn Fieku, Rex Fowler, Glendowlyn Thames, John Gale, Orlando Velazco, Sarah Adanti and Leslie Walker.

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director David MacDonald at 6:15. Paul read the AHNA mission statement.

Executive Director Remarks: David reported that the membership would vote tonight on a new Director, Rev. Mia Douglas. He reported that new Committees are being formed and residents are encouraged to participate in the work to improve the quality of life in Asylum Hill.

Finance Report: no report was available.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell -203-400-9265) shared March's statistics: 7 tickets for panhandling, 9 for loitering, 1 for public drinking. He tries to help those to whom he gives tickets in an effort to understand and stop their behaviors. Sid is participating in a leadership program and is working on a project to improve the storefronts on Farmington Ave between Laurel and S. Marshall. He will also be participating in a May 8 bike ride with 10 other officers. Lt. Martin Cunningham, (860-719-1130) reported 3 arrests for illegal dumping. Lt Cunningham will provide an update on the number of tickets for unshoveled snow.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special Services Unit, reviewed the March statistics for Hartford. Residents should contact Jesus or call 860-757-4520 for smoke detectors. He reported that most renters do not have renter's insurance and would benefit from that investment.

Review of Minutes: The March minutes were approved.

Report from the City: Andrene Bent-Jarvis encouraged residents to attend a public hearing on the budget on April 23 at 6 PM at Buckley. April 27 is the Battle of Badges fundraiser. Contact Janice Castle if residents are interested in tours of City Hall. A representative of the Sustainability Office spoke of the Bright Green Hartford project, including free rain barrels and energy audits. Over 30 events this

month are described on their website: www.hartfordclimate.org/brightgreenhartford

Donate Life Celebration: Mark Brevard encouraged folks to attend the celebration April 5 from 5:30-7 at Mark Twain House and Museum. 118,000 people are waiting for an organ donation.

Election of Directors: Rev. Mia Douglas was unanimously approved to become a Director of the Board of AHNA, pending the resignation of Dean Amadon, the current representative of Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

Voices of our Neighborhood:

- Spectrum in Motion is offering a 6 week summer program in dance at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, beginning June 21
- Center for Children's Advocacy is leading a 100 Day Initiative to house the homeless with a focus on 18-24 year olds
- \$2000 has been raised for the Community Orchard; \$1000 is needed before the May 18 planting party
- The tarp on the Comet will be removed soon. Slow continuous progress is being made.
- Residents raised concerns about littering and encouraged spring cleanups. Ordinances are in place but Councilman Gale said they are a challenge to enforce. The Quality of Life Committee will address these challenges.

Committee Updates:

- Quality of Life Committee: includes Directors Louisa, Esther, George and Michael. Hopes to schedule a meeting next week. Seeking volunteers.
- Communications Committee: includes Directors Paul, and Michelle, as well as Bernie and Dean. Responsible for communications and membership. Seeking volunteers
- Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee: Director Jennifer is chair. Next meeting is April 10 at 5:30 at HARC
- Program and Fund Development Committee: Director Yvonne is chair. Committee is planning breakfast April 30 for non-profits. Seeking volunteers

Hartford Grocery Store Proposal ~ Healthy Hartford Hub: Director Louisa introduced Rex Fowler who described the need for another grocery store in Hartford and the evolving proposal. Hartford is the 8th worst food desert for cities of similar size. The goal is to

- Increase access to healthy food, particularly to residents of the Promise Zone
- Increase health outcomes, particularly to residents of the Promise Zone
- Provide access to health services

Hartford residents currently spend \$38M at suburban grocery stores. Fowler envisions a \$24M project, providing a full service supermarket that is convenient, on a bus line, and providing free parking with 200 spaces.

Announcements:

- April 5, 5:30-7 Special celebration of George's successful organ transplant at the Mark Twain House and Museum, sponsored by AHNA and the New England Donor Services
- April 13, 2-4 S. Marshall St. Pop-up
- April 23, 6PM City of Hartford Public Hearing on the Budget – Bulkeley High School
- April 27, 10AM Foodshare Walk Against Hunger at Dunkin Donuts Park
- April 27, 9-2 Free Health Screening at Grace Lutheran Church
- April 27, 1PM Battle of the Badges fundraiser, Sports and Med. Sciences Academy
- April 28, 10 AM Dr. Jim Antal will speak about Climate Change at Immanuel Congregational Church

- May 3-5 Hartford Blooms, 3 hour narrated tours
- May 4, 10 AM HARC at the Park, Walk n Roll fundraiser at Dunkin Donuts Park
- May 1, 5PM City budget meeting on Public Safety Departments at Town Hall
- May 2, 5PM City budget meeting on Finance Departments at Town Hall
- May 7, 5 PM City budget meeting on other city entities at Town Hall
- May 8, 5PM City budget meeting on HPS, HPL, HHS at Town Hall
- May 9, 5PM City budget meeting on city officers and legal matters at Town Hall
- May 15 Council deliberations on Recommended Budget
- Pink Recycling of textiles will soon begin
- Hartford Public Library is sponsoring Baby Grand Jazz and many other events. Visit the website for details. Many passes available for Hartford Stage and museums
- Piggies Café has opened with great reviews
- Hartford has approved several important land transfers for development

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03.

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