



AHNA

HARTFORD
HAS IT

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

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Torres

Ken Johnson

Lynn Johnson

Marian Leist

Elender Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Yvonne Matthews

Michelle McFarland

Jeanine McMahon

Paul O'Mara

Executive Director

David MacDonald

AHNA General Meeting (Virtual – Zoom & Phone) Minutes – February 1, 2021

[SEP]

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Marian Leist, Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Wayne Benjamin, Janine McMahon, Michael Barr, Lynn Johnson

Board Members Absent: Michelle McFarland, Mervin Mathurin, Susan Tebolt, Edward Edgardo, Kolsie Mathis, Yvonne Matthews, Georges Annan-Kingsley

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Jesus Lopez, Autumn Florek, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carey, Sarah Morin, Barbara Robbins, Karen Taylor, Lynn Webber, Barbara Morton

Visitors: Paul Connery, Cheryl Colbath, Glenn Davis, Marian Griffin, David Hopkins, Maxine Nugent, Doug Ovian, Christiane Pimentel, Sam Pudlin, Nichelle Hudson, Sonsearae Sawyer, Ashley Tucker, Caroline Austin

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. About 33 people introduced themselves on zoom or the phone. Paul read the AHNA Mission; Lynn read an acknowledgement that Asylum Hill is located on native lands.

Executive Director Report: In 2021, AHNA is eager to update the neighborhood Strategic Plan. AHNA Directors met Jan 30 for a retreat in which they reviewed the previous plan and developed eight focus areas for the next 10 year plan: economic development, public safety, youth enrichment and education, environment, housing, arts and culture, human services and employment/jobs. Ted Carroll, who will chair the steering committee, reviewed the focus of each proposed taskforce and encouraged residents to join one or more taskforces. (David will send the description of the work of each taskforce to everyone on the email list). He outlined the proposed schedule to have the taskforces complete their work in early summer, and the steering committee complete a draft of their recommendations in the fall for AHNA approval. The strategic plan will then be sent to City Council for their acceptance.

Treasurer's Report: David shared the financial report. The balance at the end of January was \$4,389.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (palmc002@hartford.gov) was unable to attend. AHNA will encourage him to attend future meetings.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit reported that as of today, there have been 12,924 cases of COVID in Hartford. Milner warming center is open through March from 9PM to 5 AM. (This week it's open 24 hours because of inclement weather). Smoke detectors are available from the Fire Department.

Report from the City: Covid testing will continue into 2021. If residents need help in making an appointment to get the vaccine, call 211. Free transportation to get the vaccine is provided.

Review of Minutes: The January General Meeting minutes were approved.

Liberty Bank Community Initiatives: Glenn Davis, First Vice President, Community Development, spoke of many bank initiatives created to help the neighborhood including mortgage programs to help homebuyers and for landlords to acquire or improve their apartments. He described their financial literacy program, first time homebuyer training, and an academy for new entrepreneurs.

Hartford Planning Department Update: Autumn Florek (autumn.florek@hartford.gov) shared a list of recently approved applications in Asylum Hill. Autumn noted an application at 167 Collins to build a porch. Autumn said the department is focused on communication and transparency.

Request by St. Joseph Cathedral for Zoning Change: Paul Connery reported that the City suggested that the Cathedral apply to change from MX1 to MX2 designation. The MX2 designation is more appropriate for the nine parcels that make up the grounds. Paul requested a letter of support from AHNA for the change to conform with zoning policy. The majority of attendees voted to approve this request with 2 opposed and 1 abstention. Autumn agreed to meet with two residents to help them understand this change.

Election of Officers: attendees unanimously voted to approve the slate of officers: Jackie McKinney- Chair, Edward Edgaro – Vice Chair, Nancy Rion – Secretary, Louisa Barton DuGuay – Treasurer.

Update on School Zone Speed Camera Pilot: Sam Pudlin, from Transport Hartford described a pilot project, asking AHNA to recommend a school that would benefit from a camera on the street. Attendees suggested the possibility of West Middle School and Jumoke on Asylum Ave. This was referred to the Public Safety committee.

Voices of the Neighborhood: A request was made for a Resolution by the Citizen Climate Lobby to be discussed at the next AHNA Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Drift

814 Asylum Ave., Hartford 06105