



AHNA

HARTFORD
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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

Board Members;
Jackie McKinney

Chair

Edward Edgardo

Vice Chair

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Sue Tebolt

reasurer

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

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Kingsley

Michael Barr

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Wayne Benjamin

Jennifer Cassidy

Rev. Mia Douglas

Esther Gonzalez-

Forres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Yvonne Mathews

Ellen Mathis

Mervin Mathurin

Michelle McFarland

Janine McMahon

**AHNA General Meeting
(Virtual – Zoom & Phone)**
Minutes August 3, 2020

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Nancy Rion, Paul O'Mara, Marian Leist, Louisa Barton Duguay, Wayne Benjamin, Ken Johnson,

Board Members Absent: Yvonne Matthews, Kolsie Mathis, Mervin Mathurin, Susan Tebolt, Jennifer Cassidy, Michelle McFarland, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Michael Barr, Janine McMahon, Edward Edgardo (excused), Esther Gonzalez-Torres

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Andrene Bent, Jarvis Lynn Johnson, Katherine Anne Simcic, Sue Carey, Cathy Zeiner, Sarah Morin, Barbara Robbins

Visitors: Chion Wolf, Toni Gold, Elvin Burgos, Patrick Doyle

The meeting was called to order by Jackie McKinney at 6:15. About 20 people attended on zoom or the phone. Wayne read the AHNA Mission Statement. A moment of silence was taken to remember Jill Barrett, a West End activist who focused on improvements on Farmington Ave.

Executive Director Remarks: David has continued to work on fundraising. The goal of the Development Plan is to raise \$34,000. We must raise \$19,000 by the end of the year to meet the goal. The Beautification Grant has been postponed. Although AHNA did not receive the Civic Engagement Grant, it received two Love Your Block grants: for pollinator gardens, and for a mural on Farmington Ave and Marshall Street where any extra funding will be used to beautify the corner area. Sustainable CT will match funding for these grants. AHNA is partnering with the Asylum Hill Family Center to develop an outreach effort in the neighborhood, and with the Village for Children and Families to work on family literacy.

Treasurer's Report: Sue did not attend the meeting. David will contact Sue regarding the financial report.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell number 959-282-5138) was unable to attend the meeting. He is now working a 10 AM-6PM shift. Prior to the next meeting, we will plan to get a report from Sid to be able to share at the general meeting.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit, was unable to attend the meeting.

Report from the City: Andrene shared information about Covid 19:

- Everyone is encouraged to get a test
- Call 311 to schedule free rides for residents with appointments to be tested for the virus
- Call 311 to schedule rapid testing at Pope Park

In other news, Andrene also announced

- Temporary Rental Assistance Program is available: call 860-785-3111. Residents who did not

814 Asylum Ave
Hartford 06105

- receive unemployment will be a priority.
- Census – residents are encouraged to complete the hard copy, or on line, or by phone
- Remember to vote August 11

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

Knox Update: Patrick Doyle reported that KNOX wants to bring the community together for a healthier city. They hope to sponsor a city-wide cleanup and they want to hear from residents. Hartford now has a newly activated forestry crew. Anyone with a concern about older or dying tress should call KNOX or 311. KNOX will hold a Virtual Garden Party Aug. 27. Details are on the website.

Presentation regarding 241 Sigourney St.: Elvin Burgos would like to purchase the lot, clean it up and build a multi family house. A laundromat was formerly located on the lot, so remediation costs could be significant. The property seems to have been abandoned and the owner has not paid taxes for some time. Ken and Wayne offered to work with Elvin. AHNA voted unanimously to support Elvin's efforts and write a supportive letter to the City.

NINA update re 80-82 Hawthorn St: the two townhouses at 86-88 Hawthorn are almost completed and should be on the market in September. The two townhouses proposed for 80-82 Hawthorn will require the same lot variance as the ones for 86-88 Hawthorn. AHNA voted unanimously to write a letter in support the request for a variance.

Voices of our Neighborhood:

- Suggestion was made to explore the possibility of a microgrid on Hawthorn.
- Toni Gold recommended that AHNA and WICA get more involved in the Farmington Ave Alliance to improve the streetscape. The Economic Development Committee will work on this.
- A troubling gun fight that left 2 men hospitalized, took place at 47-49 May Street last week
- The Hartford is sponsoring a survey of Asylum Hill residents – asking them to suggest what the priorities should be in the neighborhood. Contact sarah.morin@thehartford.com for more information

Reports from Committees:

- Quality of Life: seeking a new chair
- Communications: encourages everyone to take the survey and fill out the Census
- Economic Development: has invited Glen Davis from Liberty Bank to its next meeting
- By-Laws: a new draft will be available soon

Announcements:

- August 27 – KNOX Virtual Garden Party
- August 29 – (4-6 PM) 4 block clean up – Woodland to Sigourney, Farmington to Niles with dinner available for volunteers at Grace Church at 6. AHNA will support a team
- South Marshall – 2 pop ups – with chalk drawing, book mobile, ice cream truck, free masks, free books, opportunity to fill out census
- Asylum Hill Congregational Church – offers free dinners to go on Sunday afternoons in August

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42.