

From the Executive Director
David MacDonald

Happy New Year

From everyone at AHNA

AHNA wishes you and your family a happy and healthy New Year. Our first General neighborhood meeting of 2021 will take place on Monday, January 4th at 6:15pm via Zoom. The agenda for January includes an overview of the upcoming legislative session from Speaker-elect Matt Ritter and as well as an update on road safety and school zone speed camera legislation in 2021.

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's mission statement is that AHNA empowers and connects residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in Asylum Hill. One of the many ways we bring together residents and stakeholders is through our Neighborhood Strategic Planning process. It is a plan that will guide the future of Asylum Hill and it was last completed in 2009 so its due to be updated. It is a comprehensive plan that identifies priorities and goals in the areas of: Economic Development, Commercial Corridors, Green Spaces, Educational Opportunities, Historic Preservation, Recreation & Culture, Transportation, Public Safety, Housing, and Land Use & Zoning in Asylum Hill. We will begin 2021 with a review of these priorities and an updating of our Strategic Plan.

The Hartford recently conducted a survey of Asylum Hill that identified 3 top priorities of the neighborhood as employment/jobs, housing/homelessness, and public safety. AHNA looks forward to partnering with the Hartford to incorporate these priorities into AHNA's update of our Neighborhood Strategic Plan, and identify potential improvements.

First, we will convene a Strategic Planning Steering Committee in January. They will then establish several Task Forces to focus on the priority areas. Task Forces will also bring forward collaborative solutions to our neighborhood challenges. If you are interested in participating, watch for emails about Task Forces in February to sign up. The Task Force meetings will be via zoom until further notice. AHNA Committees will also be asked to provide input into our plans, so you can participate through any committees you already are a member of.

As you can see, we will need your help to update our Strategic Plan. If you are interested in helping any of those goals to become reality, please sign up when you see the emails for Task Force participants. You will also be able to sign up for the Task Forces on our website. We need your help and input, so please join us on Monday to learn more.

We invite all our partners, stakeholders and residents to attend the General Meeting on January 4th and to help us launch our new year of activity for 2021 with a focus on updating our Strategic Plan and our efforts to revitalize Farmington Avenue in conjunction with the Farmington Avenue Alliance.