



AHNA

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Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes ~ August 7, 2017

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Paul O'Mara, Dean Amadon, George Annan-Kingsley, Ken Johnson, Louisa Barton Duguay, Nancy Caddigan, Michelle McFarland, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Carol Padberg, Chris Montross, Mark McKinney, Jackie McKinney, Moureen Bish, Frank Hagaman

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. Sid Palmieri, Janice Castle, Laura Settlemyer, Shubhada Kambli, Tedd Rogalla, Marcy Miller, Candia Baptiste, Albert Bell, David Corrigan, Esther Gonzales-Torres, Louisa Barton Duguay, Sue Carey, Maura Hallisey, Val-Gene Gripes, Joe Bumpers, Mike McGarry, Mia Douglas and Bernie Michel.

Visitors: Kevin Burnham, Diane Cantello, Sarah Morin, Councilman Larry Deutsch, Jinelle Hooker, Don Wilson, Evelyn Vargas, Bridget Quinn-Carey, Greg Davis, Cathy Zeiner, Mike Rion, David Barrett, Anthony Cherolis and Alyssa Peterson.

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. About 40 participants introduced themselves. Yvonne recognized Maura Hallisey who has been active in AHNA and the community representing Stowe House for more than 4 years. Maura is leaving to go to law school but hopes to return to CT.

The June minutes were approved.

Police Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri said he continues to meet and talk to residents and he's working on issues like pan handling, drugs and prostitution especially on Gillette and Ashley Streets. Bushes have been cut down at 285 Farmington to expose the porches. Residents shared their concerns about continued issues at 10 Marshall Street and absentee landlords. Palmieri announced a Sept 23 baseball game at the Yardgoats' Stadium between the Police Dept and the Fire Dept.

Fire Department Report Candia Baptiste introduced herself. She reported on several promotions at the Fire Department. They are also seeking potential candidates to be cadets.

Finance Report:

July 1 balance:	\$ 13,566
Expenses:	\$ 642
July 31 balance:	\$ 12,924

AHNA's 20th Anniversary GALA: The celebration will be in February 2018 at the top floor of The Hartford. AHNA is seeking nominations for the 20 people who will be honored as "neighbors with a heart."

Future of Mark Twain Branch of Hartford Public Library: CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey and Board President Greg Davis spoke about the Strategic Plan, approved June 29, that included the need to consolidate branches because of decreased funding. Programs and hours have been cut even though the public wants more. The library board recognized that difficult decisions must be made to develop a

814 Asylum Ave
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Board Members;
Yvonne Matthews
Chair
Paul O'Mara
Vice Chair
Nancy Rion
Secretary
Jackie McKinney
Sergeant-at-Arms
Dean Amadon
George Annan-Kingsley
Nancy Caddigan
Moureen Bish
Sekienna Ellis
Frank Hagaman
Ken Johnson
Luwannia Johnson-Martin
Chris Montross
Michelle McFarland
Marcus McKinney
Carol Padberg

sustainable operating model. The Mark Twain Branch was selected for closing in part because of low public usage, limited parking, and security costs. The Mark Twain Branch will continue to offer a couple programs, but will transition to a mobile unit that visits various centers.

The residents who responded to the presentation were generally displeased with the decision not to have a branch library located in Asylum Hill. Positive suggestions included seeking matching funds and setting up a fund to support branch libraries.

City of Hartford Updates:

– **Janice Castle:** Janice reported on the following initiatives:

- National Night Out was very successful
- New weekly newsletter announcing meetings and events is now available
- At least 8 events are planned for various groups to distribute free backpacks to students. The city will publish those dates and events so that Hartford children will have an opportunity to get a backpack.
- Speed humps will be installed by early September
- Aug. 24 – Mayor’s Town Hall at 6 PM – focused on blight

– **Laura Settlemyer** – Blight Officer reported:

- The City has only 2 blight inspectors who are trying to identify priorities throughout the City. In Asylum Hill, Farmington Ave has been identified as a priority.

I-84 Update: Marci Miller presented AHNA with a progress report of their work. She announced a workshop Aug.10.

Update on Proposed Neighborhood Murals: George reported that the artists will be chosen soon. The potential space in Asylum Hill will either be the fire department or Hartford Public High School.

Community Announcements:

- Aug. 8 – Community Meeting at Trinity College to discuss library branch closings
- Aug. 9 – Hog River – learn about a pilot bike share project
- Aug. 11 – 5 PM organ concert at Grace Lutheran Church
- Aug. 11 – Summer Sizzles at the Wadsworth Atheneum – free to Hartford residents
- Aug 15 – Councilman Deutsch reminded residents that public comments are welcome at 6 PM prior to City Council meetings.
- Aug. 24 – Mayor’s Town Hall
- Sept. 16 – Youth Challenge Walk-a -thon against drug abuse
- This summer – free Science Museum passes are available to Hartford residents

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.