



# AHNA



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association  
A Neighborhood NRZ

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Jackie McKinney  
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Forres

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Marian Leist

Mervin Mathurin

Michelle McFarland

Paul O'Mara

Carol Padberg

## AHNA General Meeting

Minutes May 6, 2019

**Board Members Present:** Jackie McKinney, Paul O'Mara, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Nancy Rion, Michael Barr, Louisa Barton Duguay, Jennifer Cassidy, Mervin Mathurin, Edward Edgare, Carol Padberg, Susan Tebolt, Mia Douglas

**Board Members Absent:** Yvonne Matthews (excused), Michelle McFarland (excused), Ken Johnson, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, Marian Leist

**AHNA Staff and Members Present:** David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll, Ofc. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Martin Cunningham, Acting Chief Jason Thody, Maria MacDonald, Dean Amadon, David Corrigan, Barbara Robbins, Barbara Morton, Wayne Benjamin, Cathy Zeiner and Lynn Webber

**Visitors:** Sarah Morin, Allie LaRue, Constance Hicks, Tom O'Brien, Hyacinth Yenni, Patrick McMahon, Tamara Gloster, Frank Williams, Maria Giacco, Reinaldo Aviles, Orlando Velazco, Stacy Wylie-Arthur, Ellen Math, Connie E. Love, Sandra Richardson, Cheryl Davis, John Wagner, James Evans and Janine McMahon.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jackie McKinney at 6:15. Georges read the AHNA mission statement. About 45 attendees introduced themselves.

**Executive Director Remarks:** David noted two major AHNA sponsored events in the last month: Donate Life Celebration at the Mark Twain Museum and a well attended first annual Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast.

**Finance Report:** Paul reported the following:

April 1 balance: \$15,544

Deposits: \$ 5,000 (HFPG)

Expenses: \$ 4,097 (payroll, 224 rental, food, office supplies)

April 30 balance: \$16,447

Jackie thanked Paul for his dedicated work as Treasurer.

**Police Department Report:** Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (cell -203-400-9265) shared April's statistics: 6 tickets for panhandling, 15 for loitering, 4 for public drinking. He is working to address the challenges on Huntington where there are standing complaints. Sid has organized a memorial for fallen officers on May 8 at 11 AM at 253 High St. He will then be participating in a bike ride to Washington DC with other officers.

Lt. Martin Cunningham, (860-719-1130) reported the arrest of an individual responsible for many auto thefts. He also said that four ATV's and quads were seized. In response to an earlier question, Lt Cunningham reported that no tickets were issued last winter for un-shoveled snow.

**Fire Department Report:** Lt. Jesus Lopez, 860-757-4523, Special Services Unit, was unable to attend so

there was no report.

**Review of Minutes:** The April minutes were approved with one amendment to include a concern expressed about the use of astro-turf on the roof of the proposed new grocery store.

**Report from the City:** Jackie announced that Andrene Bent-Jarvis was absent because she just had a baby.

**Voices of our Neighborhood:**

- Residents of the apartments on Collins St raised numerous concerns about the new management. Sid offered to follow-up. The Quality of Life Committee will address the issues. Residents were also encouraged to call 311 to register complaints.
- Concerns were expressed about the dangerous intersection at Sigourney and Collins. This was referred to the Quality of Life Committee.
- Concerns were expressed that the Connecticut River needs to be cleaned up. Residents were encouraged to work with the city wide environmental group.
- Concerns were voiced about motorcycles racing on Woodland St. The police are aware of the problem and will continue to work on it.
- A concern was expressed about a large number of stray cats. Lt. Cunningham recommended calling Animal Control and 311.

**Acting Police Chief Jason Thody:** The Acting Chief joined the Hartford Police Department in 1996 and has held many positions of responsibility. He described the Safe Summer Initiatives with more officers on bikes in the neighborhoods. He is actively recruiting officers with a goal of having 460-470 officers by next year. In response to a question about drones, he said they will be used primarily to identify ATVs and quads (because it is too dangerous for police to chase them). In response to questions concerning the handling of the officers who apparently violated the LGBT discrimination policy, Thody noted that there is a strong zero tolerance of sexual harassment policy which will be followed, but he regretted the investigation was not as efficient as it should have been and as a result, the process has been improved. He noted that a new cultural analysis study will begin in June. He will also share with AHNA a recent cultural study of the Boston police department.

**Committee Updates:**

- Quality of Life Committee: They will meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at AHCC at 5:30. They welcome members.
- Economic Development Committee: Edward introduced Patrick McMann from the CT Mainstreet Center who reviewed the many assets of Farmington Ave. He plans to bring together interested stakeholders, including AHNA, to work together to improve Farmington Ave.
- Communications Committee: Paul reported that they will survey stakeholders for ideas to redesign the website. They are working with Mike McGarry to create a Welcome to Asylum Hill booklet. They will be seeking feedback from visitors to AHNA meetings. They welcome new members interested in communications, membership and/or welcoming immigrants.
- Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee: Next meeting is April 10 at 5:30 at HARC
- Program and Fund Development Committee: The goal is to raise \$25,000.

**Announcements:**

- Conversations continue about the proposed grocery store. People interested in participating should see Louisa.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> Pollinator Festival is being considered. People interested in working on it should see Carol
- Georges is finally painting his mural to be displayed at West Middle School

- Leadership Greater Hartford will offer 1 week of leadership training to high school students. If interested, see Ted Carroll.
- Residents are encouraged to attend free noon concerts on May 14 and June 4 at Liam McGee Memorial Park, sponsored by the Hartford.
- NINA is leading walking tours of Asylum Hill on May 7, May 21, May 28, June 11 and June 18 – sponsored by the Hartford and Aetna
- 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
- May 18 Pear trees will be planted behind 224.
- Asylum Hill Family Center has moved to 896 Asylum Ave and is creating and improving its programs.
- Hartford Athletic has donated tickets to its soccer games to the Boys and Girls Club for distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Approved