



AHNA



Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association A Neighborhood NRZ

AHNA General Meeting Minutes September 9, 2019

Board Members;

Jackie McKinney
Chair

Edward Edgardo

Vice Chair

Nancy Rion

Secretary

Sue Tebolt

Treasurer

Janice Castle

Mayor's Office

Georges Annan-

Kingsley

Michael Barr

Louisa Barton

Duguay

Jennifer Cassidy

Rev. Mia Douglas

Esther Gonzalez-

Torres

Ken Johnson

Marian Leist

Mervin Mathurin

Michelle McFarland

Paul O'Mara

Board Members Present: Jackie McKinney, Marian Leist, Nancy Rion, Michael Barr, Louisa Barton Duguay, Edward Edgardo, Susan Tebolt, Jennifer Cassidy, Paul O'Mara, Ken Johnson, Georges Annan-Kingsley, Mervin Mathurin

Board Members Absent: Michelle McFarland, Mia Douglas, Esther Gonzalez-Torres, and Yvonne Matthews

AHNA Staff and Members Present: David MacDonald, Bernie Michel, Ted Carroll, Andrene Bent-Jarvis, Of. Cid Palmieri, Lt. Jesus Lopez, Maria MacDonald, Dean Amadon, David Corrigan, Barbara Morton, Wayne Benjamin, Cathy Zeiner, Janine McMahan, Lynn Webber, Sarah Adanti, Stacy Wiley Arthur, James Evans, Sandra Richardson, Ellender Mathis

Visitors: Diane Cantello, Domenic Ciavarro, Megan Torry, Michelle Murphy, Jill Marini, Janis Comstock, Marie Kirkley-Bey, Susan Hackett, Pat Faith, David Small, Kay Small, N. Chineye Anako, Erik Johnson, Cheryl Davis, Tamara Gloster, Selena Mathis, Ada Johnson, Laura Reid, Kiedra Taylor

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jackie McKinney at 6:15. After reading the AHNA mission statement, about 55 attendees introduced themselves.

Executive Director Remarks: David has been working with the Hartford to organize a Sigourney Park Cleanup on Sept 24. He also had worked with Omar Earlington on a zoning variance request, but Omar withdrew the proposal today. David reminded residents that if they are considering a zoning variance, they should first talk with AHNA. David has also been working on fundraising efforts and the Asylum Hill booklet.

Finance Report: Sue reported the balance to date is \$15,078. Sue stressed the need to focus on fundraising.

Police Department Report: Asylum Hill's CSO, Sid Palmieri, (new cell number 959-282-5138) reported 6 tickets for public drinking, 11 for loitering, and 4 for noise. A homicide occurred on Marshall St. The suspect was arrested 5 days later. Recently someone has been removing tires from newer cars. There was some vandalism at 60 Gillette that is being remodeled. The Police Academy has 22 new cadets.

Fire Department Report: Lt. Jesus Lopez, (860-757-4523), Special Services Unit, shared statistics for July. He reminded residents that renter's insurance that covers fire, vandalism, theft, water damage and relocation costs is important. Free smoke detectors are available to residents.

Review of Minutes: The August minutes were approved.

Report from the City: We congratulated Andrene as she introduced her new baby! Then she shared information on neighborhood street repair projects, and reported there are now 3 rodent inspectors. The Holiday Bazaar is being organized; call 860-757-9562 for information. Asylum Hill had 38 311 calls last month- most of them regarding housing issues.

814 Asylum Ave
Hartford 06105

Hartford Department of Development Services: Eric Johnson, the Director described the work of the department: economic development, small business development, housing, planning, licenses, inspections, permits and blight. The current focus is a revision of Ch. 18 – the housing code that has not been amended in 42 years! They are working to tie it to the state statutes to make it easier to enforce. They are also creating a residential inspection program, including a baseline for safety with inspections every 3 years.

They are also beginning to create a plan for conservation and development. Working groups of city officials and residents are being formed. They will present recommendations to the NRZs and host some pop ups to encourage resident participation.

Mr. Johnson reported that change is happening at an increasing pace in Hartford. There was twice as much economic development monies expended this year over last year. He mentioned the need for many Community Conversations on gentrification, on workforce development, health and trauma, and community leadership.

In response to questions, Mr. Johnson said the projected start date for the I-84 project is now 2029. The historical and environmental review will take place in the next few years. He said there are two full time zoning enforcement officers who are creating a legal basis to inspect rooming houses, etc. Zoning clarifications are being worked on. They are creating baseline standards for housing to make licensing fair and easier. They are working to improve community engagement with more transparency and a friendlier approach to customers. Regarding Farmington Ave revitalization, he recommended that AHNA ask the Department to make it a priority.

Voices of our Neighborhood:

- Sunflower Project: two neighbors have begun a project to plant sunflowers at Veeder Place because sunflowers can extract toxic waste from the earth.
- Concern was expressed for a walk light at Collins and Sigourney for pedestrian safety
- Concern was expressed for drivers trying to turn left when exiting Art Space. It's become very dangerous.
- Concern was expressed about parked cars blocking driveways on Collins St. Police have not responded to early morning calls for help "since it's not an emergency."
- George's mural has still not been installed and he has not been paid.
- Request for consideration of having microphones available at general meetings – as well as consideration of video or call in capability

Committee Updates: (all minutes are on the AHNA website)

- Quality of Life Committee: Mike reported that the Friends of Sigourney Park is being formed once again.
- Communications Committee: They are working with Mike McGarry to create a Welcome to Asylum Hill booklet. AHNA is now on Facebook.
- Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee: hopes to meet Oct 2

Announcements:

- Sept 21 - Hartford Proud will host a competition at Dillon Stadium – free to the public
- Sept 21 - Day for Kids at the Boys and Girls Club – family fun day
- Catholic Charities, the Village and Family Life is planning a Halloween fun day focused on safety

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.