



2016 OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

Beautification

Education

Finance

Membership

Preservation and Urban Design

Public and Media Relations

Public Safety

Zoning, Land Use &
Code Enforcement

GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES West End Neighborhood Development Tue, January 5, 2016, 6:30pm West End Library

Officers Present

Stephanie Malinauskas, President
Joshua McNair, First Vice President (**new**)
Tigist Slaton, Second Vice President
Jason Tutt, Treasurer
Christopher Pleasants, Secretary (**new**)
Catherine Witt, Parliamentarian

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by President Stephanie Malinauskas, at 7:11 p.m.

7:11 – 7:15: Introductions Members & Guests, New Residents,

7:15: Adoption of Tonight's Agenda

- Motion to adopt tonight's agenda by Henry Stokes, seconded by Karl Barnes, unanimously approved, motion carries

7:16: Approval of December 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve December 1, 2015 meeting by Karl Barnes, seconded by Alethea Parker, unanimously approved 42-0, motion carries
- Question: do we need a motion to re-instate the bylaws since they were suspended last meeting?
 - Parliamentarian: No, we suspended a rule, and according to the bylaws a rule can only be suspended for one meeting and goes back into effect at the following meeting.

7:16 – 7:18: December Financial Statement – Treasurer

- Beginning balance: \$19,751.71
- Income: \$100 (5 membership payments from last meeting – many others have paid online, not yet posted, will be on next month's financial statement)
- Debits: \$2537.84
- Ending balance: \$17,313.87

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

7:18 – 7:36: APD/Public Safety Report - Lieutenant Sinks, APD

- Delvin Gates was picked up for warrants, but the juvenile court system let him out the next day.
 - Crimes included burglary and criminal trespassing, and he fought a cop to get into custody.
 - He was chased down behind a store on RDA on Christmas
 - Police did their job, but have no control over juvenile court system
 - APD working with courts to revoke probation status, but it is hard to do for a juvenile
 - Officer Watkins is working on this
 - Wayne Grannis (Office: 404-613-4671, Fax: 404-302-8563) is the DA for juveniles, so he is the person to go to with issues in the juvenile court
- Motorcycle chase that ended on Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard (RDA)
 - It was GA state patrol, not APD, who did the chase – their rules are different.
 - started on east side of town on I-20, ended on RDA (went all around town)
- Dirt Bikes – 1 caught by APD
 - able to get him before he jumped on his bike, were unable to catch the others
 - Bike was impounded
- Homicide on Holderness (Preston Lewis)
 - Lt. Sinks has few details because Homicide is working on it and won't release details until they've spoken with everyone involved.
 - Lt. Sinks is checking in with them every few days, will email WEND president when he gets updates.
 - Question: Some neighbors may have info who have not been contacted by homicide. How can they get the info to APD?
 - Call CrimeStoppers because it funnels information directly to Homicide (and they'll pay you if it helps with the case!)
 - Can also be anonymous via phone
 - Email Lt. Sinks if you want to send stuff anonymously as well (he will pass it on)
 - Question: It appears the victim was in a gang – we may have a problem with gang activity. Is there anything that has been discussed in terms of addressing gangs (and the affiliated crime rings, drug dealings, burglaries, etc. associated with gangs) in Zone 4?
 - Yes and no – targeted enforcement (gang unit) must establish if they are a gang - who they hang out with, what they're doing – must commit a crime as a gang in order for it to be illegal
 - More challenging because it isn't always a formal gang
 - Question: Is someone following social media? Much crime activity is photographed on instagram and other social media sites (e.g. under-aged children holding guns, smoking inside Food Mart, etc.)
 - Yes, but KNOWING and PROVING are different – can't prove who is doing the posting, often must have picture of the crime taking place.
 - Follow-up Q: So if a kid has warrants/charges, and they have pictures with automatic weapons, can you use that in court?

- Yes, that has been used (e.g. caught people selling stolen items like guns on facebook)
 - Contact information for people in charge of gang unit:
 - Lt. D. Wilson, unit commander of the gang unit
APDGangs@atlantaga.gov
 Office: 404-546-4244
 - Comment: USE the neighbors, who are involved, and a resource
 - Comment: On Fox News they had a clip of footage that a mustang was possibly related to the homicide
 - If you recognize it let the police know
 - Dealing with 4-wheelers
 - If you know something, let Sinks know, especially if it's info on where they gather before they get on their vehicles.
 - They MUST get them before they get on the bikes, because they often can't get them once they're on.
 - Question: Does APD work with APS?
 - Yes, truancy officers are APD
 - You can call 911 if you see kids you suspect to be truant
 - APD grabs the kids, calls the truancy officer (who in a van)
 - Truancy officer is Veronica Campbell (404-756-1903)
- Any other things – meet in the hall.

7:36 – 7:43: Alan Ferguson, Neighborhood Revitalization Manager, Invest Atlanta & Al Schroeder, Underwriting Manager, Vitus Group

- Asking for letter of support for underwriting of the bond through Invest Atlanta, will not get into scope of work at this meeting
- Alan Ferguson is from Invest Atlanta, the economic development arm of Atlanta
 - Here in support of Vitus group, acquiring RDA Towers
 - Invest Atlanta likes the plan because it modernizes the building, makes it more energy efficient, and because it doesn't involve displacement of the residents while staying affordable
- Schroder from Vitus Group, here to answer questions
 - This is an in-place rehab
 - no changes to rent
 - no displacement
 - financed through the bonds
- Addressing questions that have arisen in the past
 - No Taxpayer money is involved, and it doesn't create liability to City of Atlanta or its residents
 - Invest Atlanta only works as a bridge connecting investors with capitol with developers who need it to complete the projects
 - Bonding has started, Vitus is the only one taking risk
- We have seen letters of support from residents, who are eager for this.
- It is a 20 year extension of the affordable housing contract with HUD so residents can stay, keeps affordable housing available for residents

- Most residents are disabled or aging
- Question: Purchase price of building?
 - Around \$8 million
 - Construction is \$4 million
- Question: How many competitive bids?
 - This is not city-related, it's a private sale from West Hunter to Vitus group, so no competitive bids necessary.
- Question: Will Vitus group be back to present for Urban Design Review Committee??
 - Yes
- 7:43 – motion to write a letter of support on behalf of WEND by Mallerie Shirley, Seconded by Jillian. Vote was unanimously in favor, 55-0 (2 abstentions). Motion carries

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

7:43 – 7:51

- Thank you for being here! Thanks for the turnout and enthusiasm
- Filling vacant board seats:
 - Last month, board asked for people interested in each vacant position, one has been identified as interested for each position (and they were vetted). Recommendation from the board are:
 - Josh McNair for First Vice President
 - Christopher Pleasants for Secretary
 - 7:46 motion to approve Josh McNair as First Vice President by Terry Ross, seconded by Henry Stokes. Vote unanimously in favor 57-0. Motion carries
 - 7:47: motion to approve Christopher Pleasants as Secretary by Joshua McNair, seconded by Bria Stokes. Vote unanimously in favor 53-0. Motion carries
 - The 2016 Officers have been finalized and approved by the membership as follows:
 - Stephanie Malinauskas, President (per the October 6, 2015 election)
 - Joshua McNair, 1st Vice President
 - Tigist Slaton, 2nd Vice President (per the October 6, 2015 election)
 - Christopher Pleasants, Secretary
 - Jason Tutt, Treasurer (per the October 6, 2015 election)
- Announcement of three ad-hoc committees
 - Events (under membership)
 - Economic Development (under Zoning)
 - Bylaws committee.
- Sign up for committees! [committee sign-up sheets passed around]
 - Think about your talents and what you'd like to bring to the table,
 - Several committees need to meet right away, because there hasn't been a chair
 - Bylaws committee to meet ASAP

- Will call a meeting next week
- This is a long process

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7:51 – 7:53: Beautification

- Yard of the Month: Ms. Cynthia on Oglethorpe (possibly 1129) won for best Christmas Decorations
- Beecher Street won nicest street for holiday decorations
 - It was great to see so many decorations and carolers this year ☺

7:53 – 8:15: Education

- Dr. Faulkner presented from WestSide Ready, which represents community stakeholder and colleges representing the Washington High School cluster
 - There's so much going on in education – we need to get engaged!
 - In November, Georgia is voting on implementing an Opportunity School District (OSD), where underperforming schools can be taken over and run by the state.
 - 3 schools in potential takeover list are IN OUR CLUSTER
 - The state could take over a school building, but still charge local taxpayers to upkeep the building
 - This takes money from APS
 - All high schools on the south and west sides of ATL are on the list, and being taken over would bust up these clusters
 - Washington High School is on the list despite higher scores because the state has ruled that when two schools merge, the school takes on the lower score of the two
 - This is especially critical because Washington High School was the first high school built by and for African Americans, as a direct link to AUC (Atlanta University Center)
 - Officially, APS board members cannot oppose this
 - Under OSD, the governor appoints a principal, not necessarily based on qualifications.
 - The school could also be run by a different municipality (e.g. Cobb County schools could run a currently-APS school)
 - This is on the state-wide ballot, so even communities who will not be affected get to vote on this.
 - No schools have been taken over yet by the state because the law isn't in effect, although the legislative groundwork has been laid so they can get started right away
 - A school would be place in the OSD for 5-10 years.
 - APS is transitioning to a charter cluster model (different from Charter Schools)
 - Jan 30th there will be a West Side education forum at Kennedy Middle School (225 James P Brawley Dr NW) – learn more and ask questions and give input.
 - Find information on West Side Ready's facebook page and website for more information.

- CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE
- THEY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION
- FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED
- They're taking volunteers if you're interested.
- Working to bring folks from NOLA and Tennessee to talk about the effects of OSD (with data) where this has already been done
- Question: does West Side Ready support Vocational Tech?
 - Westside Ready doesn't focus on this. Washington cluster is STEM, but also conversations about teaching vocational tech.
 - Atlanta Area tech is partnering with APS to include Voch Tech across APS
- Renovation of Brown
 - December 2016 move date, NOT the summer as hoped for
 - New programs, likely new leadership – charter systems desire different types of leaders
 - Byron Amos will inquire about water issues around Brown, including building of retention pond, new pipes, and what else is going on.
- APS is about to start its own police public safety force
 - APS will be removed from schools, replaced by APS resource officers
- Contact Info for Byron Amos (school board representative)
404 587 6811
bamos@atlantapublicschools.us
[@byronamos](#) on social media

8:15 – 8:18: Membership

- 89 members paid (32 before tonight – 57 paid tonight!!!)
- New format for sign-in will include the months of the year on the list so it will be easy to tell who is paid, who is outstanding, and if you're in good standing
 - Sign or X in greyed out area for the month, AND initial as well
 - To vote, you must pay dues, and attend 50% of meetings up to that point for the year, so it's important to have an accurate log of attendance and payment
 - This is in the bylaws, so voices can be heard at the bylaws committee
 - YOU MUST CORRECT ATTENDANCE AT THE CURRENT MEETING, cannot go back

8:18 – 8:20: Historic Preservation and Urban Design

- Interest in historic architecture? Join the committee! Primary function is to meet with homeowners, investors, and contractors to go over plans to make sure that they are in line with historic guidelines
- Go to urban design commission, city hall to look at plans
- They also go and speak against their project if it isn't permissible
- Fun, and we need help!
- 1 case coming up next week – someone stripped siding knowing they weren't allowed to do that. They will have to present at UDC

8:20 – 8:25: Zoning, Land Use, Code Enforcement 8:20

- Print out for all code complaints for December
 - Not many were submitted this month (5-6) – maybe a good thing?

- Previous months, there were 77-100 per month
- be sure to issue complaints by website, fax, or phone.
- Jan 11 and 12, meeting to discuss zoning, asking for community input
 - Please be there to voice complaints and concerns

QUESTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Question: There's a link on the website for West End Security Patrol – does that still exist?
 - No, because there weren't enough participants to fund this year, but could be opened back up if there is more interest
 - Paypal link will be removed from website, people will be refunded if they've paid into it after it was defunct.
- Announcements
 - West End Animal Wellness (1195 RDA) has been open 4 weeks, and has 40 clients!
 - GRAND opening Feb 20th 10-2 – would like 200 people there!
 - Vendors, raffle, costume contest
 - Prize: 1 free routine surgery
 - Vet serves Cats, Dogs, rabbits if you have one
 - Regular vet services
 - Baths, medical baths, nails, “pawdicures”, but no grooming
 - Typical hours 8:00-5:30 Mo, Tu, Th, Fr ; 8-2 We, Sa
 - Find West End Vet on facebook
 - Glad to take volunteers
- WEND is working on finding a bigger space for the meetings
- Danielle on Lowery
 - February is Go Month for organizing
 - Get Organized event, bring canned goods
 - Workshops are all month long, finders keepers in Decatur, FREE
- Terry Ross
 - Join NPU-T on Jan 13th
 - NPU includes ashview heights, westview, auc, and west end
 - Has Standing committees,
 - 2nd wed of every month 7pm KIPP Strive on Lucile in Westview
- Friday: come to the People of the Way of Jesus coffee house (1384 RDA) from 7-9,
 - Live music
 - Tracee and Demayne, our neighbors, will be making tacos (95th Street Tacos)
- Julian Jackson
 - Introduced self
 - Realtor, has sold several properties in the area, wanted to say hello
- Andrea Chambers
 - Thanks for the holiday party! It was awesome.
- Josh McNair
 - If you lent heaters for the holiday party, go pick them up from Josh and Adrian!

- ***Congratulations for winning Curbed Cup***

- Curbed is a real estate website, there was a competition between neighborhoods in December and WE WON!!!

ADJOURN

8:35 p.m.