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COMMITTEES

Beautification

Education

Finance

Membership

Preservation and Urban Design

Public Relations/Media

Public Safety

Zoning and Land Use

GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES

West End Neighborhood Development

Feb 2nd, 2016, 7:00pm

West End Library

Call to Order (President Stephanie Malinauskas) 7:02 pm

Introductions

-Motion to approve minutes by Mallerie Shirley, seconded by Taylor Harkness, motion passes 40-0.

-Motion to adopt the agenda by Karl Barnes, seconded by Terry Ross, the motion passes 41-0.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

-7:04 – 7:27: Lieutenant Sinks Crime Update

- Aggravated assault down 100% compared to last year
- Robbery down 50% in compared to last year
- Burglary, car thefts, and break-ins are up since last year
- Reminder: Don't leave your car warming up unattended
- Theft from auto: if you see anyone out and around, if it's juveniles you know or strangers, just let the police know – they are stopping people more just to talk to them to see who is in the neighborhood
- APS is asking for your help – if you see closed business but car is idling behind it, just call 911
- Call 911 even if it is a non-emergency
- More complaints about dispatch not doing their job correctly. If they're not, you can talk to communications director
- How a 911 call works:
 - 911 goes to the 911 call center
 - This is converted to a 911 dispatcher (first supervisor, then dispatcher in the zone)
 - They send it to the officer in the streets.
 - Sometimes things get lost in translation
- Comment: sometimes police respond after crime has passed.
- Major Moore here to make sure we get good service
 - Traffic, plain clothes, and all units are proactive.
 - 911 is reactive, but officers out there are proactive.
 - Director Barry in charge of 911 dispatch – she is making sure that it gets clear it up the chain.
- Any activity in West End Park gets addressed quickly - higher ups will respond right away. They have low tolerance for things happening there.
 - Over the holidays, lots of calls
 - When there's more personnel, they can put someone in that area permanently.

- This park is a priority
- If they see gang signs, they'll talk to the person – turn info over to the gang unit.
 - It's not illegal to be in the park, but it's an injustice for APD to walk past it and not do anything if they see signs of gangs/gang activity.
- Taking young criminal in this neighborhood (name not included in minutes) very seriously
 - Major Moore believes if he was in jail, crime in the area would reduce greatly and his crew would move on.
 - He has been committing crimes outside Zone 4 (in Zone 1) – lots of cars broken into.
 - He is supposed to be inside the house when he has an ankle monitor on, but they never see him in the house.
 - New strategy to be more proactive about crime by police being present to make sure that juvenile judges are not letting them go. Brought forward GPS coordinates of ankle monitor, so he's in custody now.
 - Case from Sunday, trying to get in touch with people involved – Could have gotten him on other crimes but people have to give information. If you see something, call the police. Eyewitnesses are important.
- Working on getting the warrants in timely matter because right now he's detained, but if the warrants don't get in in 10 days then he's out til his next crime That way he can stay in until his sentencing in march. When can we have those warrants in?
 - As soon as reciprocity between prosecuting party and detective happens – tomorrow detective will talk to victim from Sunday.
- DA's office has several programs to help protect you if you're too scared to talk.
- If there's only fingerprints, crimes are often not solved for a long time. If they've never been arrested then we don't have their fingerprints. Sometimes years later you get a call saying your case has been solved.
- Comment: There are instances when people whose houses were broken into where the suspect was arrested in another jurisdiction, but Atlanta doesn't know that it happened – so we need to be looking for information instead of waiting for it to happen. Citizen knew before the detective – if APD had known, this could have been additional information so he wouldn't walk free. Also, there should be consistency. Another issue, if there is activity across the street from the mall, when the police roll by the activity leaves when they see the police, and then continues when the police leave. Lastly, we need to at least enforce curfews.
 - Response: we do those things.
 - E.g. the guy sleeping in front of Chinese place, we did something.
 - Police are often at certain spots because crime predictor says a crime will likely happen there.
 - APD takes a laser approach – mall has security, APD, and cameras – it's not that we aren't doing those things
 - We had to do research to see which company had the ankle monitor contract, and work to get the data, analyze the data, pull reports to see if crimes were committed where he was.

- Question: 5 cop cars outside RDA and Gordon Pl.
 - Response: young lady was walking behind the building, juvenile says “excuse me ma’am” and ended up pulling a gun and asking for keys to car. Took phone, and later used in shooting and possibly a rape.
- One last announcement: we have over 45-50 community meetings and sometimes only 3 people in them. APD is trying to channel people back to the NPUs because it is exhausting with time and finance for police to go to all these meetings. They will be funneling small community meetings back to NPUs and present there.
 - **Zone 4 will ONLY be at NPU meetings from now on.**

7:27 – 7:45: INSERTION INTO AGENDA – council representatives

- New community representative from Caesar Mitchell’s office, Danielle. Danielle@ceasarmitchell.com - will try to come to WEND as often as possible, at least once per quarter, but it may not be possible. [404-330-6052](tel:404-330-6052)
- Cleta Winslow to discuss zoning changes
 - We have I-1 zoning on Lee and Beecher by the MARTA station.
 - They are an eye sore,
 - Convenience store there has had a lot of illegal activities
 - Last year WEND members with Cleta went on bus down Lee Street to the Chevron near Oakland City.
 - A lot are zoned industrial, so e.g. body shop can have junk cars there all the time.
 - The wanted to have a different kind of zoning so when these businesses leave, their replacements can be the kinds of businesses we want.
 - Came to NPU-T meeting last month, asked that it be deferred to come to neighborhood organization.
 - Brandy Crawford is here to explain and answer questions
 - Won’t get to council til late march/early april
 - Parcels on White and Lee between Beecher and just past Rose Circle – just a two block area – are looking to be rezoned to MRC-1
 - Right now it’s SPI-21, subarea 4 or 6
 - Subarea 4 is neighborhood commercial, 6 is medium density residential
 - Going to MRC because it’s a “quality of life” zoning because it has requirements around how you relate to building, e.g. the parking is not in front of the building. MRC has 3 categories
 - 1: less dense, 2: medium, 3: highest dense
 - MRC-1 as most appropriate because it was compatible with SPI-21 subarea 4 – no more dense, no taller, but all the same requirements for MRC
 - We will try to get MRC-1-C – the C stands for conditions. We can add prohibited uses to really clean the area up.
 - Existing businesses DO NOT HAVE TO CLOSE, but new businesses must comply with the new zoning.
 - Examples of suggested prohibited uses:
 -

- No activity on site for Digital Industry, few jobs that's why not to include that one
- Prohibited in order to help redevelop area
- NPU can defer again for this month so Zoning can work on this and vote on it next month.
- Question: if the owner sells their business, could they continue it under the current use?
 - They're grandfathered: if they wanted to change or expand they couldn't do it unless its under the new zoning.
 - If they stop operating more than 1 year and 1 day, or if building is destroyed, they will lose their grandfather status.
 - Ownership change does make them lose grandfather status.
- Question: How were these prohibited uses chosen?
 - Proactive rezoning,
 - beltline rezoning to MRC and MR (quality of life zoning),
 - the uses on Lee are not pedestrian friendly, so they would have additional design requirements
 - Found out we weren't protected when a repair shop came in along Lee Street
 - The automotive shop May be toxic cleanup site
 - This is just a first draft.
- What's an example area:
 - Most of Midtown
 - Northside drive newer developments,
 - New stuff in O4W
 - The family Dollar in Mechanicsville is zoned like this as well
- Motion to support the recommendation, including the prohibited uses, by Kim Parmer, seconded by LA Thyme.
 - Motion from Walter: would like time for zoning committee to discuss prohibited uses. Since there's already a motion on the floor, must finish the motion first.
- The motion passes 35-17 in favor, quorum is 59, so the motion carries.
- Motion to deny the motion so we can have zoning committee go over the conditions – can't do this, it is not allowed

-7:47 - 7:48 – 7:XX 1107 RDA Liquor License application – Shaheed Motani

- Motion to move this item to end of agenda from Stephanie Malinauskus, seconded by Mallerie Shirley. Motion passes 57-0.

-7:48 – 7:51 Atlanta Streets Alive – Keisa Bruce from Atlanta Bicycle Coalition

- Here to announce that Atlanta Streets Alive (ASA) is coming back
- This year ASA is growing – Civic Pride to highlight community is a goal, so this year we are highlighting connecting community
 - Sunday April 17, 2-6pm is the time
 - Will include Westview, and Adair Park + other neighborhoods, all the way to Grant Park

- 4 mile route down RDA and Georgia Ave
- Starting Ambassador Meetings – instead of planning committee, choosing people who want to do major outreach and understand it.
 - First meeting is tomorrow at the Center for Working Families 5:30-7:00 – just come to the meeting if you’re interested
keisa@atlantabike.org
 - Atlantastreetalive.com for more information as well

-7:51 – 8:10: Office of Cultural Affairs grant application support presentations

- **There’s a neighborhood grant available for \$2,400 through the Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs that needs support from a neighborhood. The idea is to support an artist or artistic organization create some sort of public art (spoken word, murals, singers, theater, etc. – anything, open and available to residents of this community), ideally with collaboration from the community. WEND can make only one recommendation**
- Ananda Lo, presented her proposed project, “Synthesis”
 - Communal theatrical experience,
 - Synthesis is an interactive, immersive, edutaining production
 - Project was born in the West End Queen St, Tassili’s Raw Reality,, Metro Lofts
 - Story: Futuristic town similar to SW Atlanta experiencing change
 - Includes yoga, meditation, music, sound, dance, and a variety of dialogue, speech, and clothing
 - Proposing 2 productions to do in the month of May: the 14th and 22nd , to include the entire community
 - Will include rehearsals that everyone is welcome to come to (if you have interest in improve, acting, fellowship)
 - Moneys used to fund costuming (world class designers working here in the West End, need more launching points)
 - Utilize West End residents to suggest unique and unorthodox locations spaces
 - Open to any locations
 - Part of money would be for Marketing to let people know about production, when it is happening
 - Use to pay a little money to the people – a 12 person team
 - Ananda Lo, producer, writer, director of the show – has lived here 5 years
- Music in the Park was not here to present, so president shared some details:
 - Contact is Latrice Ellzy
 - Kebbi Williams, head of Music in the Park, is an 11 year West End resident
 - Funds would be earmarked to artist fees/musicians for music in the park
 - Music in the Park has been providing arts programming in the West End for many years
- Both this and Synthesis will take place regardless of whether the city provides this funding or not.
- Simple vote will determine who gets the funding.

- Comment regarding Synthesis: We need more art-based programs in the community to get youth engaged - maybe if more people got in involved, they would commit fewer crimes
 - Most cast of Synthesis is between ages 16 and 25
- Comment: Synthesis is an excellent idea – music in the park will happen regardless. Addition of theater is amazing. Howell park is would be great location because it's on RDA.
- Question: is this going to be annual?
 - Done 7 times in the past year, but difficult because of lack of funding – people need to work their other jobs and you have to buy various things
 - Would like to make it annual
 - Working with Atlanta Black Theater Festival, who is interested in bringing more art in the west end
- Comment regarding Music in the Park: Kebbi Williams is Grammy Award Winner, has done this for free, has done fundraising on the side to get talent around the country, and been successful – would rather give people who have done it in the past on their dime some help, which has been a success.
- Question for Synthesis: interest in doing this at ASA?
 - Response: Yes that is another conversation happening
- Question: Could the grant be split?
 - Response: No, there is a single application,
- Question: What was the position of the board?
 - 5 to 3 in favor of Music in the Park (the executive committee)
- Question: Is Synthesis registered as a vendor with the city.
 - Response: No it's not a company, just a production – grass roots, guerilla.
 - This is not a requirement for the grant.
- Question: Will Synthesis move forward without this funding?
 - Response: Yes, but it won't be as effective.
- Comment: can be tough to be new and bootstrapping, but Kebbi has a long history, been bringing children in the park for years.
- Comment: Ali Carter from Andre Dickin's office to Synthesis: this can still happen, if you register with the city and solicit from council members, makes it easier to donate to the cause – they can donate a big stage, there's fundraising opportunities to make this happen, even if you don't get this grant.
- Given that executive committee supported Music in the Park, requested a motion to support music in the park.
- Motion by LA Thym, seconded by [name unknown – sounded like Donovan or Dawson]. Motion approved 36-25 in favor of the motion,
 - but the community is passionate about Synthesis, so talk to folks about how we can support you with city council members office. And let us know if there's support we can provide to get you in ASA.

8:10 – 8:18: 1107 RDA

- 1107 RDA is located just west of Lawton, next to Captain D's , it's a strip mall where there is also a salon and a tax place.

- 1107 RDA recently changed ownership, has a temporary liquor license and is requesting a permanent one.
- Owner presented at executive committee meeting, there were mixed feelings afterward.
- Included promises about security guards, lighting, etc., but Executive Committee members all went there and found to have been sold a “bag of goods”.
- Invited owner, but let him know we recommended a letter in opposition. He declined to come here today
- Owner doesn’t live in west end,
- Owner will go to NPU, so encouraged to go regardless of how you feel
- EC unanimously (11 parties) voted to send letter in opposition – and that never happens, so asking for letter in opposition.
- Henry Stokes motioned letter of opposition, Al Chenault seconded it. Motion passed 60-0, unanimously
- Reminder: if you feel strongly, go to NPU to inform yourself. He has lawyered up, and in Cathy experience, they ignore the community. He LIED, so please speak out against it.
- Kim Parmer: NPU-T is on the fence to make a letter of recommendation in support, so WEND letter of opposition will be attached to NPU’s recommendation, so be there to vote!
- Additional comment: Establishment is operating illegally, there’s loitering, drug activity, we think they don’t have a valid business license, and we have to have representation at NPU-T and LRB
- Will let community know what happens
- Comment: there’s a change in the community, so people are not selling drugs by houses anymore because residents are calling the police so they go to the businesses instead to sell businesses. Everyone’s not calling the police late at night (some disagree and say they are)

8:18 – 8:22: State representative Nan Orrick – district 36 state senator.

- In session now until March 24th, if you have anything to reach out about, please do
- Funding bill out now supported by Governor that is bad for schools
 - The last 3 governors have pulled over \$8 million from schools
- Also trying to get more funding for MARTA to build out further in Dekalb and Fulton, but there are many barriers.
 - Latest transportation bill didn’t address public transit
- There’s a Paige program (youth come down to the capital and do things like run errands, clerks office, etc. see how the capital works)
 - Representative Orrick will sponsor child.
 - Ages 12-18
 - Office number is 404-463-8054 emails on the website
- Pervasive problem of DOT cleaning right of ways, so continue to ring the bell – squeaky wheel gets grease.

8:22 – 8:25: Ali Carter from Councilman Dickens office

- Yesterday at Westview Community Meeting talking about recent death of two children and grandmother.
 - Went to GDOT to get restriping and flashing lights in front of KIPP Strive and to address missing signage.
 - Last month, started traffic study to determine if speed bumps on Gordon and other smaller streets are possible – they are expediting this process.
 - There was a concern about a fraudulent gofundme page, but it's confirmed it's OK to donate to this page
 - Ms D will be handling food. Westview will help, and Westview Commercial District Association.
 - If WEND wants to help as a body, that's possible.
- Settlement with APS and the beltline, Dickens was part of that getting the deal done and it's done!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

-8:25 – 8:26 Neighborhood Watch

- Ball is rolling
- Next thing is mobilizing people to make this happen
- If you're interested, see Stephanie at the end of this meeting – must be ready for March 19th training session, need coordinator and block captains – only 1.5 months to do a LOT of work.

-8:26 – 8:27 Board Vacancy

- Jason is moving out of state for a new job opportunity, so he is stepping down. If anyone has financial experience or wants to serve on the board, we would love to have you
- Reach out to Stephanie, at Stobben@gmail.com - put TREASURER in all caps in subject line.
- Would like to make a motion to have someone in place in the next meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 8:27 – 8:28 Beautification
 - We now have chair, Handy Johnson
 - He had to leave, but he wanted everyone to know that he's looking for members to sign up. Email for Handy is handyj46@yahoo.com if you'd like to get involved.
 - will be hosting first meeting soon, intends to deal with planning, island project, and is open to ideas and opportunities moving forward
- 8:28 – 8:39 Education
 - New Chair: John O, moved here at the end of last month, but been around for the last few years – stepped in last week to learn more, left as the chair
 - No report yet because just had first meeting
 - Josh attended Session on Public Safety and Education

- teachers, principals, students are extremely concerned about their safety at schools – GA ranks 10th in out of School suspensions, 6/10 of the worst are in GA, one in APS –
 - You need to learn about opportunity school districts. From the way it is worded, you'll want to vote even if you're against it, so inform yourself on the full consequences
- IF you want to hear more, Washington High Cluster Meeting tomorrow at 7pm to talk about cluster changes and what the OSD is
 - Washington high
- Question: are our schools in the cluster are on the takeover list?
 - Yes (Washington, Connoly, Bethune. Brown is on the border).
 - Bethune is closing, Connoly for sure can be taken over.
- Question: If they're failing, what's the alternative?
 - Response: Come to the cluster meeting tomorrow to learn more
- From Representative Orrick: OSD is not a tried and tested model
 - only been put in a couple of places, Bobby Jindal idea (from Louisiana)
 - governor appoints superintendent, schools get taken that they want, including taxpayer money out of local school system, no more control
 - no school board, appointed person goes to governor, no representation from the people anymore.
 - there are plans to improve APS, presented at the Cluster meeting tomorrow.
 - Transformation plans including drawing from models where they've been successful.
 - A big issue is poverty – students arrive at school that is under-resourced. They need school counselors, social workers, psychologists because they are suffering from trauma of seeing violence in their everyday lives.
 - E.g. 32 murders in one complex,
 - a lot of dysfunction, undeducated parents, parents who are victims of trauma
 - We need wrap around services,
 - DREW charter has wrap around service model – this was funded by millionaire dollars, they took down East Lake Meadows (called Little Vietnam for the constant gunshots) – put in nice mixed income development, some receive vouchers.
 - Change school population, built out a YMCA, library, amenity after amenity, so from age 6 weeks – 3 years, intensive wrap around services to prepare students for pre-k and kindergarten.
 - Been very successful
 - Issues: furloughed teachers, pushing costs down to local level, and some school systems raised taxes but we are very under-resourced, and then you pick out failing schools – to say what are we going to

do? As we recover from scandal, \$5million on children spent to bring back students whose scores were changed. You don't get a DREW transformation with what we currently have in the budget.

- 8:39 – 8:40 Finance
 - Chair: Susan Cobb
 - So busy working on bylaws, we haven't met
 - Bylaws is under finance – chair is Cathy Witt,
 - have met and have been given assignments,
 - another meeting at Monday night 7pm,
 - see Cathy after the meeting if you're interested
- 8:40 – 8:43 Membership
 - 121 paid members as of tonight
 - ***Applause!!!***
 - Memberships and events have been established, chugging along, ready to serve and plan events, rekindle welcome baskets.
 - Give time and we will get to you information on events and things coming up
 - My Mamas' brought pizza – recently opened less than 30 days ago, lots of love and regular faces already. 10% off coupons were given out
- Preservation and urban design
 - No report
- Public Safety
 - No report
- 8:43 – 8:52: Public Relations/Media
 - Mallerie and Bria chairs of Public Relations
 - Super excited, won curbed cup, hottest new neighborhood on Atlanta Business Chronicle, featured in HGTV,
 - hitting hard with social media, lots of interest in the neighborhood
 - Membership is 50% up from May of last year
 - There have been questions on the website about zoning, history, interest in buying or renting, etc.
 - HUGE increase in sign ups for newsletter shows probably increased traffic on website.
 - We are growing, so much more that we need from online presence, current website can't give us what we need
 - Need to make it functional for people who don't know how to code,
 - Need anyone to be able to do it
 - A lot of people go to neighbors facebook page for information about the neighborhood, but want to give as much info in as many places as possible.
 - A lot of people go to website – we want to put out as much info on website as possible so the information we can just have on the website, and it can be a resource for many
 - Want to give the most economical options to be respectful and resourceful, got several website quotes:

- Don Dodds, M-16marketing.com was the first quote – he has written several times on Huffington Post, involved in making sure websites are Search Engine Optimization is responsive (important because when you search West End, the first images show ghetto, unsafe. We can do a lot as a community to have control over messages and positivity): \$1000
 - Second quote: Brad Dedon, senior online engineer for Home Depot – quoted \$750, includes hands on training to make sure anyone can do the website, even if they don’t know code. There will be a template, Brad can train committee so we can update the website efficiently, and when a new board gets into place they can have the same training
 - This is the “Homie Hookup rate” for both because usually it costs \$3K - \$12k.
 - Neighbors will be taking pictures, but we can’t do a lot with website
 - Goal is to have new site up and running by March 1st
- Committee recommends going with Brad (\$750)
- Question: Is this quote one-time or continuous maintenance?
 - Just one-time, but built so we can manage our own content, and they will help if there are pressing issues
- Sign up to volunteer on the website
- Question: is there a way to find out when committees meet?
 - Contact Tigist
- Motion to pay \$750 for Brad to build website, motioned by Martin, seconded by Henry Stokes. Approved unanimously, 53-0
- 8:52 – 8:53 Zoning and Land Use
 - Report for Jan, not a lot of code reports
 - We Meet 3rd Thursday in coffee house 7-9pm
 - Huge responsibility because we cover zoning, code enforcement, and now cover economic development
 - Henry stokes is over Economic development part
- Retreat this Saturday at the People of the Way of Jesus Coffee House, 1384 Ralph David Abernathy at 9-12. Any interest in committees, please come!

WRAP-UP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

-8:53 – 8:58

- Julian Jackson starting a running group, posted info on facebook, does 3-5 miles running!
- Walter: Flyers for Team Building committee retreat are in the back
- Dr Herbert at West End Animal Wellness Grand Opening Feb 20th, flyers and business cards available – big event, music, food, discounts, etc 10-2pm, PLEASE WALK expecting 150 attendees.
- Joy: next Tue, feb 9th there is a meeting with fulton county juvenile judges and courts, coming to talk to us personally about issues in our neighborhood. 7-8:30 next Tuesday 1384 RDA

- Urban West ATL is a new blog – only highlights the amazing things happening on the West Side – just featured Joy and Corey in neighborhood shoutout. Follow on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter. Interested in having your house or business featured or writing? **Reach out through the website** www.urbanwestatl.com

ADJOURN
-TIME 8:58