



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

DECEMBER 1, 2015 GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES

West End Neighborhood Development
December 1, 2015 7:00 P.M. West End Library

Stephanie Malinauskas, President
Tigist Slaton, Second Vice President
Jason Tutt, Treasurer
Catherine Witt, Parliamentarian

Call to Order

7:03 p.m.-Meeting called to order by President Stephanie Malinauskas

7:04 p.m.-Motion made by Kathy Woodcock to allow the new officers to preside over the general body meeting. Motion was seconded by Alethea Parker. Karl Barnes motioned to suspend Kathy Woodcock's motion. Chris Pleasants seconded Karl Barnes' motion to suspend. Kathy Woodcock then made a motion to suspend the rule in the bylaws to allow for the new officers to preside over the December 1, 2015 meeting instead of waiting until January 2016. Alethea Parker seconded the motion. 25 members voted affirmative-motion carried, no opposition.

7:06 p.m.-Motion was made by Henry Stokes to adopt the December 1st meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Bria Stokes. 25 members voted affirmative to carry the motion, no opposition.

7:07 p.m.-Christopher Pleasants motioned to approve November 3, 2015 general body meeting minutes. Yvonne seconded the motion. Motion carried affirmatively by 25 voting members, none opposed.

7:09 p.m.-Jason Tutt reported a starting balance of \$19,911.59. Credit: \$110.00; debit: \$269.88. Ending balance: \$19,751.71.

7:11 p.m. - Lynnette Reid of Atlanta Beltline and Cesar Geraldo, Office of Planning discussed RDA Corridor re-zoning. According to the 2010 subarea 1 master plan and land use comprehensive development plan, it was recommended to re-zone the parcels along RDA to be transit and pedestrian oriented. The city is ready to implement the development plan starting June 2016. Meetings to gather community engagement to come. SW study group and the NPUs encouraged to merge community engagement efforts. RDA/Gordon White Park/Lawton St. is getting a second look. The city is seeking a series of recommendations and they reached out to Kim Parmer, former WEND President regarding those

recommendations. Dates to come for first meeting in January 2016. They are also proactively taking a look at the potential uses for the Donnelly Ave and Langhorn corridor.

Questions from audience: Are you seeking to make RDA look like Edgewood Shopping Center? Answer: the zoning for that area will dictate what type of development is allowed there and what it will look like (ex. Curb cuts, design appearance, etc.)

-Link to website will be forwarded to the WEND President

Karl Barnes commented/suggested that the general membership body familiarize themselves with ZRB, Urban Design Commission and BZA. He also mentioned how new construction should look within West End (construction at zero lot line with paring on the side of the building).

7:24 p.m.-No other questions or comments, Stephanie Malinauskas thanked the presenters and moved to the next item on the agenda.

7:25 p.m.- Toussaint Hill, Pastor of West Hunter St. Baptist Church introduced himself to the general body and started the discussion regarding the renovation of Abernathy Towers. West Hunter Street Church transferred sponsorship of the building to the Vitus Group, the organization that will be responsible for the renovation. Pastor Hill introduced Aditi Mahmud, Project Manager, Vitus Group. Aditi Mahmud introduced Allan Carr, the architect for the project.

The Vitus Group is located in Seattle, Washington. According to Aditi, their mission is to create a positive impact one community at a time. The company acquires and preserves affordable housing for the disabled and senior citizens in partnership with HUD. Looking to mostly do interior renovations. Architects and Vitus Group spoke/met with the tenants of Abernathy Towers in November 2015 to discuss the renovation. They will meet with the NPU this month. Not seeking letter of support at this time. The group desires to make the neighborhood aware of what will be taking place at Abernathy Towers. Renovation at Abernathy Towers to begin in April 2016

- For renovation, will use HUD/Invest Atlanta Tax Exempt bond/Tax Credit to extend for 20 years
- Renovation will be done in place- no residents of Abernathy Towers will be displaced during
- Will create active design-exercise equipment, yoga and zumba classes
- Scope of renovation-Building will be made ADA accessible, modern cosmetic touches done to interior, fitness equipment added, exterior windows replaced and gardens added

Questions from the neighborhood- How will the renovation impact the tenants?

Answer: The tenants won't be displaced.

Question from Yolanda Bell: Will the alley way near Oglethorpe be improved and will adequate exterior lighting be added? Answer from Allen Carr: will seek to improve alley way and will improve exterior lighting.

Comment from the general body to the Vitus Group: Please consider the impact of large vehicles traveling along Oglethorpe/Lawton while the renovation is being done.

After no further comments or questions, the Vitus Group was adjourned by Stephanie Malinauskas at **7:42 p.m.**

7:42 p.m.: Stephanie Malinauskas presented the President's Plan of Action for 2016

- Vision for a superior website-Consider a complete over-haul
- Economic strategies: updating and creating over-all neighborhood master plan
- Make public safety top priority
- Begin and discuss fund-raising initiatives
- Update and amend WEND by-laws ASAP

7:44 p.m.: Tigist Slaton presented the 2nd VP Plan of Action for 2016

- Echoed Stephanie regarding amending the WEND by-laws. Requested the formation of a by-laws committee ASAP and asked for interested members to sign up.
- Will have a committee retreat to start off the year with a bang (tentatively January 2016).

7:47 p.m.: APD Public Safety Report- Lieutenant Sinks

Mentioned the success of the public safety town hall meeting that occurred in November 2015 (coordinated by Joshua McNair).

Crime down 31%; due to increased patrol

Discussed what is a gang (3 or more individuals collectively organizing to commit crime) and how to identify gangs in the neighborhood (ex. Type of belts, similar colors, etc).

Hybrid gangs: No colors to identify, look for other clues (rosary beads, belts, etc.)

Question and comment from audience: Increased patrols on Lawton St? Suspicious vehicles possibly casing houses. Mentioned an incident that took place regarding a possible suspicious vehicle parked in front of a house on Lawton. Lieutenant Sinks will follow up.

After no further questions or comments, Lieutenant Sinks completed his report. Stephanie Malinauskas moved to the next item on the agenda, committee reports

Committee Reports: 7:58 p.m.

Beautification: Carlton Walker, 2015 Beautification committee chair, provided an update on the J.E. Lowery traffic island landscaping. Phase 1 of the landscaping was completed and Carlton asked for a motion from the general body to approve additional funds (\$600) to begin the plantings for Phase 2. No motion was made. John Pavlin stated that the approval for the funds would have to be recommended from the WEND Executive Committee before approval of the funds could be voted on at the general body meeting. There was confusion between a few new WEND officers regarding the request of the approval of funds at the prior Executive Committee meeting. Tigist Slaton attempted to clear the confusion by by stating to the general body that at the executive board meeting on November 24, 2015, that the vote to approve additional funds for phase 2 of the landscaping was tabled by the Executive Committee until January 2016. The beautification chair then ended the report by stating "good luck to whoever chairs this committee next year".

Yard of the Month: Competition for best street with Christmas lights until mid-December.

Membership committee: 109 paid members

Preservation and Urban Design: 3 cases reviewed by the Urban Design Commission. All plans were approved.

Zoning/Land Use/Code Enforcement: Committee chair attended the Northside Corridor study open-house that took place in November 2015. The open house was another opportunity for community input. No plans for the addition of interchanges were discussed.

Public Safety Committee: West End Security Patrol was discontinued due to lack of adequate participation and financial support.

Education Committee: No report

PR Committee: No report

Announcements: 8:22 p.m

Tony Mcneal announced that the West End Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 12th from 4-7 p.m. At 1106 Oglethorpe Ave, home of Erika and LB Brown. The Adult Holiday Party will be held on December 5, 2015 at 1277 Sells Ave at 7 p.m.

West End Animal Clinic- Open for business December 14, 2015. Phone number to the clinic: 404-588-5001.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.