



2018 OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

**Environmental Health and
Beautification**

Education

Finance

**Membership Concerns and
Community Relations**

Preservation and Urban Design

Public and Media Relations

Public Safety

**Zoning, Land Use and Code
Enforcement**

MEETING MINUTES

West End Neighborhood Development

April 3, 2018, 7pm

West Hunter Street Baptist Church, 1040 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd.

The meeting was called to order by President Tony McNeal at 7:06pm.

Officers Present:

Marquise "Tony" McNeal, President
John Mitchell, 1st Vice President
Denise Blake, 2nd Vice President
Sherria Saafir, Treasurer
John Ishmael, Secretary

Officers Absent: Kimberly Carlisle, Parliamentarian

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Tony McNeal welcomed the group and asked officers present to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was made by Daniel Velasquez to approve the evening's agenda as presented. Caleb Racicot seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 41 approving, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 2018 minutes were presented for approval, as they were not available at last month's meeting. A motion was made by Daniel Velasquez to approve the February 2018 minutes. Kim Parmer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 42 approving, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

The March 2018 minutes were also presented for approval. A motion was made by Stephanie Milanauskis to approve the March 2018 minutes. Daniel Velasquez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 41 approving, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- WEST END HEALTH AND WELLNESS FESTIVAL – Dionne Turner from Wholistic Stress Control Institute explained this family-friendly, community event. It will highlight health, wellness, and fitness activities for people of all ages - on the green spaces of Gordon White Park and the Atlanta Beltline Westside Trail. In collaboration with community partners, including Music in the Park, the West End Health and Wellness

Festival will offer wellness speakers, musical performances, art, exercise instruction, food tastings, a marketplace, demonstrations, walking meditation, health screenings, children's activities and more! **Saturday, April 28, 11am to 3pm at Gordon White Park.** The event was made possible by a \$100K grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation. A motion was made by Walter Slaton to support the event. Stephanie Milanauskis seconded the motion. 46 voted to recommend approval; 0 voted no; 0 abstained. Motion passed.

- **HAMMONDS HOUSE** – Robert Thompson presented on behalf of Hammonds House, sharing a reduced membership offer just for WEND members. This special offer is good from April 3 through June 3 and can be obtained on site at the museum. **Hammonds House is hosting a happy hour porch party for WEND members on May 3, 2018.** Robert's company, Insight Cultural Tours (www.wetoursatl.org) includes the Hammonds House Museum in its walking tours.
- **NPU-T VOLUNTEERS** – Terry Ross, NPU-T Chairperson, appealed for volunteers. Many of their committees, overseeing the many applications for liquor licenses, zoning variances, and public safety issues, are down to one or two people and additional support is needed. Volunteer at the next NPU-T meeting – **Tuesday, April 10, 7pm**, KIPP Strive Academy, 1440 Lucille Avenue.
- **WILLIE WATKINS FESTIVAL** – Andre Gates and Sylvania Watkins presented the 26th annual Willie Watkins festival. Happening each Memorial Day, this year's event will take place at **Howell Park on Monday, May 28, 2018.** The event includes free food, hose and carriage rides, music, and a kids zone. A motion was made by Walter Slaton to support the event. Joanne Rhone seconded the motion. 45 voted to recommend approval; 0 voted no; 0 abstained. Motion passed.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- APD's Lt. Schwarz stood in for Lt. Sinks. He reported year to date crime is down 9-10% from 2017 in large part due to neighbor reporting incidents via 911. APS continues to battle auto thefts, usually from gas stations and from the mall. Criminals are also targeting women at the gas pumps by grabbing purses on the seats and floorboards. Neighbor concerns reported to Lt. Schwarz were panhandling/sales on off ramps, including children; homeless persons under Lucille bridge; improper one-way signage on Gordon Place; and need for more crosswalks on RDA and Lawton.
- State Representative Pat Gardener (pat@patgardner.org) represents District 57, which includes a large part of West End. She reminded neighbors to register to vote; the next primary is May 22nd. Sign up for Pat's e-newsletter at www.patgardner.org.
- Cleta Winslow, West End's City Councilperson, District 4, also presented updates. There is brand-new play equipment at West End Park. Howell Park will receive the same next year. West End has received \$120K to update its Livable Cities Initiative plan. The original plan was created in 2001. There will be a process for neighbors to provide input.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tony McNeal presented the following:

- Music in the Park will close RDA on the afternoon of April 22, 2018 (similarly to Atlanta Streets Alive). They have asked WEND to partner on a beer garden as a fundraiser at the Wren's Nest. Wren's Nest is willing to apply for the one-day liquor permit. A motion was made by Naquia Mitchell to support the fundraiser. Caroline Sims seconded the motion. 46 voted to recommend approval; 1 voted no; 2 abstained. Motion passed.
- Two applications were submitted for the City of Atlanta's Placemakers Program. Funds are awarded to communities for transportation-related branding projects. West End applied for funds for bikes racks and street branding. Awards will be announced on April 23.
- The fully revised by-laws were presented to the body in March after a nearly two-year revision process. A motion was made by Joanne Rhone to approve the revised bylaws. Caleb Raciso seconded the motion. 50 voted to recommend approval; 0 voted no; 0 abstained. Motion passed. Joanne Rhone wished the record to show her appreciation for Cathy Witt's participation in the bylaws revision process.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Treasurer Sherria Saafir provided the following update:

March 2018 Revenue - \$728.80 in membership dues

March 2018 Expenses – AUDC parking; landscaping (January and February); new checks; egg hunt supplies - \$1,322.20 in expenses.

Beginning Balance - \$ 36,162.58

Ending Balance - \$ 35,569.18

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety/Neighborhood Watch

No report.

Education

No report. Chairperson needed for this committee.

Environmental Health and Beautification

Handy Johnson reported a successful neighborhood cleanup on March 10th from Park Street all the way to Rose Circle. The committee had an organizing meeting on March 15th. Topics raised included: maintenance/cleanliness of freeway ramps; interfacing with West End Merchants Coalition; regular cleanup schedule; homeless services; NPU-T wide cleanup; high visibility trash cans; Beltline upkeep; and coordination with Keep Atlanta Beautiful Campaign. The next committee meeting will be May 24, location TBD.

There will be a neighborhood cleanup on **Saturday, April 7 at 9am**. Meet at West End MARTA Station South End.

Stacey Wolford presented the first Yard of the Month of the year – 722 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. There will be a winner each month through the end of the year. For more information, contact Stacey at 347.893.1169.

Zoning

Walter Slaton reported there will be a meeting on zoning updates at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, April 9, 6-8pm. There is an application for rezoning of a commercial property currently zoned residential at 1126 Oak Street. The application will be presented at next week's NPU-T meeting. Members interested in joining this committee can reach Walter at wslaton@gmail.com.

Preservation and Urban Design

Caleb Racicot reported lots of illegal work. Monitoring and enforcement is incredibly important. A house on Rose Circle added a second story without permit. New residents may not know historic guidelines but we should all try to educate them. Historic building materials should not be discarded. Questions? wendpreservation@gmail.com.

Membership Concerns/Community Relations

Sonja Roberts reported that there are 112 paid members.

Announcements

- There is an NPU-T public safety forum, **April 24, 6-8pm** at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.
- Just Schooling middle and high school basketball tournament, **April 28-29, 9am to 9pm, Howell Park**. For more information, visit www.justschoolingtees.com

Next Meeting

May 1, 2018, 7pm – West Hunter Street Baptist Church

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Submitted this 4th day of April, 2018.
John Ishmael, Secretary