



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

January 2, 2018, 7pm

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

The meeting was called to order by President Tony McNeal at 7:04pm.

Officers Present:

- Marquise "Tony" McNeal, President
- John Mitchell, 1st Vice President
- Denise Blake, 2nd Vice President
- Sherria Saafir, Treasurer
- Kimberly Carlisle, Parliamentarian

Officers Absent:

- John Ishmael, Secretary

In absence of Secretary, Denise Blake served as meeting scribe.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

New 2018 president Tony McNeal welcomed the group and asked officers present to introduce themselves. All attendees were also asked to provide introductions.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was made by Caleb Racicot to approve the evening's agenda as presented. Terry Ross seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 29 affirming, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

During the officer transition, the December 2017 general body meeting minutes were not completed or disseminated. Terry Ross moved to table the review of minutes to the February 2018 meeting. Joanne Rhode seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 30 affirming, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

There were no guest presentations on the evening's agenda.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

APD's Detective D. Williams, CID Zone 4 brought the crime update, standing in for Lt. Sinks. Officer McDonald is the other CID officer assisting in our zone.

- Detective Williams reported that area burglaries are down 22% from November. APD has apprehended several burglary suspects due to DNA processing.
- Overall crime is down 20% over the same period.
- Our biggest issues are shoplifting at the mall area and car break-ins.
- There were 12 vehicle larcenies since December 1. Stolen cars are usually used in the commission other crimes.
- There were five larcenies at West End Mall since December 1.
- There was one residential burglary and five non-residential burglaries

A neighbor raised the question regarding porch thefts. Detective Williams had no information about these crimes.

For further information, residents can contact Detective Williams at 404.472.3708.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tony McNeal's remarks focused on encouraging members to join committees to handle the project-based work of the organization. Denise Blake provided an overview of the eight standing committees and indicated that sign-up sheets for each would be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

Now's the time to pay your membership dues for 2018!

1. A Regular Member is any resident who lives in West End. Annual Dues are \$20 per calendar year. A Regular Member must pay his/her Annual Dues by March 31 of the current calendar year. Any new candidate for membership must pay his/her Annual Dues at the time of notification of his/her intent to become a Regular Member or no later than the next Regular Meeting.
2. An Associate Member is any residential or commercial property owner who espouses and promotes the goals and objectives of WEND but who does not reside in West End. Annual Dues are \$50 per calendar year.
3. A Sponsor Member is an organization or business that espouses and promotes the goals and objectives of WEND and may or may not reside or operate in West End. Annual Dues are \$100 per calendar year or a minimum of \$100 in in-kind services per calendar year.

Dues may be paid at the next general body meeting on February 6, 2018, or online at <http://atlantawestend.com/join-wend/>.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Treasurer Sherria Saafir provided the following update:

Current Balance: \$33,857.53

December Income:

\$250 – Sponsorship for Holiday Party

\$20.00-Membership Payment

\$615 – Cash from Holiday Party

December Expenses:

\$112 – WEND PO Box

\$145.54 – Holiday Party Banners

\$9 – Parking Reimbursement (Preservation committee)

\$375 – November Island Landscaping

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Public Safety/Neighborhood Watch**

Kimberly Carlisle described the work of this committee's effort to reduce crime in West End. A neighborhood watch has been formed and we seek to have a block captain representing each street in the residential area. The next meeting will be announced soon.

Education

Joanne Rhone urged members to support our elementary school, M.A. Jones; our middle school, Brown Middle School; and high school, Washington High through PTA membership and volunteerism. WEND supports two major initiatives for Brown Middle School – an annual coat drive and school supplies each semester.

Environmental Health and Beautification

Handy Johnson will soon convene a 2018 organizing meeting for this committee. Members are urged to participate in community cleanups and identify areas for aesthetic improvements, including the West End Library and other commercial sites. There is a temporary maintenance agreement in place for upkeep of the medians on Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. by the Exxon station.

Zoning

Walter Slaton reported that this committee keeps neighbors informed on zoning changes and variances. There will be important updates presented at next week's NPU-T meeting that neighbors should be aware of. More information can be found here:

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/planning-community-development/office-of-zoning-development/zoning>. Members interested in joining this committee can reach Walter at wslaton@gmail.com.

Preservation and Urban Design

Caleb Racicot reminded the audience that most of the residential portion of our community is a local historic district. In this area, WEND worked with the City of Atlanta to establish guidelines and regulations that apply to construction activity. The committee promotes awareness of and conformance with those documents. The committee meets with applicants on an as-needed basis to review their plans and point out areas that may be inconsistent with regulations. Additionally, the committee can advise members on potential tax incentives that are available for historic preservation. Lastly, the committee coordinates with City of Atlanta staff to ensure that construction complies with approved plans.

The committee has recently reviewed plans for homes on Atwood and Hopkins at are going before the Urban Design Commission. Any resident has the right to inquire about work permits approved for any property by calling Urban Design Commission at 404.330.6145 or by visiting Accela Atlanta at https://aca3.accela.com/atlanta_ga/.

Membership Concerns/Community Relations

This committee promotes active membership in WEND and handles our events, including our annual concert, Tour of Homes, porch parties, holiday party, Easter Egg hunt and National Night Out.

Bylaws

An ad hoc Bylaws committee has been established to help streamline this internal working document and make it more amendable to conducting business in a timely manner. Tony McNeal explained the desire to make the amendment process faster and easier so that all proposed changes can be presented to the membership in one fell swoop.

The relevant text is below:

ARTICLE XI Amendments

Current Text

Section A. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be presented in writing to the Executive Committee at an Executive Committee meeting. Supporting documentation for the amendment(s) must be attached to the proposal. Such amendment(s) must have the signatures of at least 20 Members in Good Standing or 40% of the signatures of Members in Good Standing (whichever is greater).

Upon receipt of the proposed amendment, the President must establish a Bylaws Committee to review the proposal within three weeks of the date of the submission of the proposal. The Bylaws Committee must review and submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee within eight weeks of the date of the submission. The entire amendment process must be completed no later than three months after the date of submission of the proposal to the Executive Committee.

Section B. A vote of two-thirds of Members in Good Standing present at the appointed Regular Meeting is required for adoption of all amendments to the Bylaws provided the amendments were proposed in accordance with Section A in this Article. Any Member in Good Standing unable to attend the appointed Regular Meeting may vote by proxy provided that he/she has obtained an authorized voter's proxy from an authorized member of the Bylaws Committee and submits said proxy to such committee member by the designated deadline.

Suggested Change

Section A. Proposed amendments and/or revisions to these Bylaws must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors determines that such amendments and/or revisions warrant consideration, they must appoint a Bylaws Committee. Bylaws Committee must develop the language of the proposed changes. They must then submit this recommendation to the Board of Directors. Upon simple majority approval by Board of Directors, this recommendation must go before the General Body for a vote of approval.

Section B. A vote of two-thirds of Members in Good Standing present at the appointed Regular Meeting is required for adoption of all amendments to the Bylaws provided the amendments were proposed in accordance with Section A in this Article. Any Member in Good Standing unable to attend the appointed Regular Meeting may vote by proxy provided that he/she has obtained an authorized voter's proxy from an authorized member of the Bylaws Committee and submits said proxy to such committee member by the designated deadline.

A motion was made by Stephanie Milanauskus to approve the proposed bylaws change as presented. Terry Ross seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed, 41 affirming, 0 opposing, 0 abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NPU-T meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, 7pm at KIPP Strive Academy, 1440 Lucille Avenue.
- The West End Merchants Coalition is having a Lunch & Learn with Invest Atlanta on Thursday, January 25, 2018. Learn more or register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-invest-atlanta-programs-tickets-41697674868?aff=es2>.
- It was announced at Mayor Bottoms' inauguration that there will be \$1 billion initiative for affordable housing along the Beltline. The AU Center was mentioned as a potential partner. We will share more information as received.

Next Meeting

February 6, 2018, 7pm – West Hunter Street Baptist Church

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Submitted this 3rd day of January 2018

Denise Blake, 2nd Vice President
West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.
(*substituting for Secretary John Ishmael*)