



MEETING MINUTES

2014 OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

Beautification

Finance

Membership

Preservation and Urban Design

Public Relations/Media

Public Safety

Zoning and Land Use

West End Neighborhood Development

April 1, 2014, 7pm
West End Library

The meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Parmer at 7:00pm.

Board Members Present

Kimberly Parmer, *President*
Alisha Thym, *First Vice President*
Angela Brown, *Second Vice President*
Denise Blake, *Secretary*
Alena Harrison, *Treasurer*
Tony McNeal, *Parliamentarian*

Welcome and Introductions

The 2014 officers introduced themselves, followed by meeting attendees and guests.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Maurice Gunter to approve the evening's agenda as presented. Joanne Rhone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sawyer Gosnell to approve the March 4, meeting minutes. Maurice Gunter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

REPORTS

Financial Report

Treasurer Alena Harrison presented the statement of financial position.

- WEND's bank balance is 18,015.15.
- During March 2014, WEND received total revenue in the amount of \$624.24 in membership dues and revenue sales.
- During March 2014, there were total expenses in the amount of \$404 for printing of OWEN and printing of Historic West End banners.
- Additionally, at the last Executive Committee meeting, \$225 was approved to cover expenses for annual storytelling at West End Library.

Alena reminded members that 2014 dues may be paid at tonight's meeting by cash or check, and that members can conveniently pay via PayPal at www.atlantawestend.com. A \$1 credit card convenience charge will be applied to online payments.

President's Report

During this evening's President's Report, Kim Parmer reminded us that our main focus is to beautify our historic district and to create a marketing plan that represents our interests. We want to reach out to businesses and ensure that Historic West End is a place where we live, work and play. We will have more beautification projects - more plantings, more landscaping. We need the help of all neighbors and we really appreciate our volunteers.

Public Safety

Zone 4's Captain Scott Kreher (404.756.1903) announced that Lt. Hampton has moved on to serve as unit commander for Homicide. Our new representative is Lt. Celeste Murphy, who has 17 years experience with APD. She has been in Zone 4 for three weeks.

Captain Kreher mentioned a number of points related to public safety:

- We should be conscious of what we leave in our vehicles. Criminal activity in the neighborhood definitely is ramping up with the warm weather.
- City Council President Ceasar Mitchell passed a law that cites parents for curfew violations. If youth under 17 are out on the streets past 11pm on weekdays and midnight on weekends, call 911
- We have had a 28% decrease in burglaries since this time last year.
- In response to a question regarding Zone 4's boundaries, it reaches West End, Murphy Avenue to MLK, to Fairburn Road to Camp Creek Parkway to Stone Road south of Greenbriar. Panhandlers are a city ordinance violation.

Member complaints:

- PANHANDLING at the freeway offramps. We have complaint letters going back at least 12 years. Captain Kreher confirmed that it's a revolving door in and out of jail for this offense. If it wasn't profitable, they wouldn't continue to stand there. Call 911 when you see this. Captain Kreher suggested we attend the court watch program. If someone in our community is arrested and jailed, we have an opportunity to be informed about the court date.
http://www.fultonda.org/community_affairs/community_prosecution/citizens_court_watch.php
- Concern about parking in the traffic lane on Oak Street by West End Park. One neighbor almost experienced a head-on collision here. Call 911.

Maurice Gunter, our Public Safety committee chair, also discussed the work of the committee:

- We want to make this community completely safe – a walking neighborhood.
- We have no blue lights in the neighborhood for students. Blue lights are emergency call boxes that connect to 911. The committee will investigate the process to obtain these.
- Citizens police academy – allows you as a citizen to learn what APD does.
- The committee will have a walking tour to identify some of our neighborhood danger spots.

Atlanta Streets Alive

Denise Blake presented the final presentation before Atlanta Streets Alive, which will take place in West End on Sunday, April 20, 2014, from 2pm to 6pm. Volunteers are needed! Let's treat this like the biggest street party ever to occur in Historic West End. All residents should consider themselves hosts to the anticipated 10,000 to 15,000 visitors. Sign up to volunteer at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gEWZeA5xxaBdaZUPzT2zH7KhjqEFBSxFzbfuaeOl-Zc/viewform>.

Education Committee

Barbara Williams reiterated the need to engage with Brown Middle School and to show our support and interest as a neighborhood. Nathaniel Dyer gave further information on alleged conditions at the school. For example, school suspensions have increased significantly.

A potential confounding co-occurrence is the impending closure of Kennedy Middle School. This would potentially affect the student makeup at Brown. On April 14, the APS Board of Education will meet to decide if Kennedy will remain open. Visit <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/40514> for details.

Zoning Committee

Alethea Parker is the Chair for the Zoning Committee. She has pulled a list of zoning and code enforcement complaints for ZIP Codes 30310 and 30314 and will be monitoring them regularly. These will also be addressed at NPU-T Meetings, 2nd Wednesday, 7pm at KIPP Strive on Lucille Avenue.

Membership Committee

It is time to pay your dues! Membership is \$20 for the year and includes some new friends, great activities, and exposure to all things West End. Membership Committee chairs are LA Thym and Naquia Harris.

Preservation Committee

The good news is that contractors are starting to ask questions about the guidelines in the Historic District before doing things to destroy the character of historic homes. This committee will have a column in upcoming OWEN newsletters.

GUEST PRESENTATION

State Senator Nan Orrock – State Senate District 36 (north to Sidney Marcus and south Atlanta down to Clayton County and one half of West End), presented updates on the legislative session that just ended.

- There will be a Town Hall meeting that's a session wrap-up - April 12 from 11 to 2. Location TBD.
- The gun bill was very controversial – she and other legislators are working to get the governor to veto it (guns in bars, churches, airports).
- Stand your Ground laws still stands in Georgia.
- Community Improvement Districts will now be certified by the county tax assessor.
- Tire disposal regulation – trying put some teeth in the law. Residents will have to have a state-issued decal if they have 10 or more tires. There will be stricter guidelines related to dumping vs. proper disposal.
- Education – over the last 12 years, taken 8 billion out of public schools. Every year public school funding has been cut

City Councilwoman Cleta Winslow provided updates:

- In response to a question re: students approached/abducted from MA Jones Elementary School – requested extra police patrols
- Incorrect wording has been corrected on RDA streetscape, but it will only be 75% completed by ASA.
- The Recreation Center in Oakland City will have a new pool and splash pad, along with \$2 million in park improvements. This should be completed by early fall.
- Renovations for Fire Station 7 are still on the drawing board. Bids are being sent out for architects/contractors. Work will commence in early 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There will be city-sponsored cleanups Saturday, April 5 and April 19.
- Easter Egg Hunt – West End Park April 12 – 10am ; Volunteers needed at 9:15am
- Flag football team – games on Wednesdays at 6pm at Adair Park (ages 14 to 18); West End, Pittsburg and Vine City.
- Concert – June 21 Wren's Nest – A Midsummer's Night's Drive 7pm; Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.atlantawest.end
- April 27 – Hammonds House fundraiser 6pm; www.hammondshouse.org

Next Meeting

May 6, 2014, 7pm, West End Library.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Submitted this 1st day of April, 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Blake".

Denise Blake, Secretary

West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.