



2014 OFFICERS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Web:
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Yahoo Groups
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COMMITTEES

Beautification

Finance

Membership

Preservation and Urban Design

Public Relations/Media

Public Safety

Zoning and Land Use

MEETING MINUTES

West End Neighborhood Development

May 6, 2014, 7pm - West End Library

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

Officers Present

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

Officers Absent

Alisha Thym, *First Vice President*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was made by Cami Gibson to approve the evening’s agenda as presented. Sawyer Gosnell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alethea Parker to approve the April 1, 2014, meeting minutes as presented. Nana Bekoe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Alena Harrison presented the statement of financial position.

- WEND’s bank balance is \$18,011.69.
- During April 2014, WEND received total revenue in the amount of \$1585.14 in membership dues, concert ticket sales, donations, and merchandise sales.
- During April 2014, there were total expenses in the amount of \$1473.60 for printing of OWEN, Atlanta Streets Alive marketing expenses, concert expenses, and printing of WEND merchandise.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Parmer expressed gratitude and excitement regarding last month's Atlanta Streets Alive in Historic West End. More than 16,000 attendees visited our community and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. APD also reported that there were absolutely no incidents or arrests.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity

Ms. Rosemary Kernahan, architect for Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, and Ms. Melissa Klein, who works with the program to prepare potential homeowners for the process of homebuying, presented renderings for two proposed Habitat homes in Historic West End.

The first is a 4bd/2ba home on a lot owned by Habitat at **410 Holderness Street**. This home is on a corner lot, will be handicapped accessible, and has two mature trees which will be retained. The second home is a 3bd/2ba at **1172 Oak Street**. It is also handicapped accessible and has one mature tree on the lot, which will be retained.

Both homes are of HardiPlank construction with masonry foundations and are between 1200sf and 1400 sf. The price point for both homes is anticipated to be approximately \$100,000 to \$140,000. Homeowners for both homes are already identified through Habitat's program.

Habitat for Humanity is following protocols for new construction within the West End Historic District and is in communication with the Urban Design Committee for approval.

West End neighbors expressed numerous concerns about ensuring quality design and building materials for these homes, as well as the more modest selling price compared to recent comparables in the community.

After extensive discussion, Jamie Kaufman presented a motion to **recommend approval** of Habitat for Humanity's plans as presented to build two homes in Historic West End. The motion was seconded by Angela Brown. Additional discussion ensued and the vote was called. Nine members voted for the motion; 12 voted against the motion. The motion was not passed.

Barbara English made a subsequent motion to **recommend rejection** of Habitat for Humanity's plans to the Urban Design Commission. Tony McNeal seconded the motion. The vote was called and 13 members voted in favor of the motion; eight were opposed. The motion carried to recommend rejection of Habitat's plans in Historic West End.

RDA and Joseph E. Lowery Streetscapes

Mr. Michael Frierson, PR Director for the City's Department of Public Works, provided an update on the streetscape project along our RDA, Lee, Oak and Lowery corridors. The project, which started in September 2013, includes installation of sidewalk paver art depicting West End's history and newly installed sidewalks. The work is scheduled to be completed by September 2014, but workers are ahead of schedule and the project is anticipated to end by July 2014.

The largest remaining piece of the project is the installation of three clock towers. These will be composed of granite, brick and sandstone to complement the existing sidewalk art. Each clock tower will be 11 to 12 feet in height and will have LED illumination at night. These towers will be placed at RDA and Oak; Oak and Lowery; and RDA and Lee Street. Similar clock towers exist at the intersection of Metropolitan and University and the corner of Metropolitan and Cleveland.

Questions about the project may be directed to Michael Frierson, publicworks@atlantaga.gov, 404.330.6333.

25th Annual Malcolm X Festival

Mr. Kokayi Issa reminded the body that the 25th Annual Malcolm X Festival will be held from noon to 8pm on May 17 and 18, 2014, at West End Park. Parking and ingress/egress accommodations will be made for residents in the immediate area that may be affected by the event. Security arrangements are in place, with seven APD officers secured.

State Senator Nan Orrock

Ms. Macedonia Vickerson appeared as a representative for Senator Non Orrock, District 36, and reminded the body that the election day primary is May 20, 2014. Information flyers on Senator Orrock were left for distribution to WEND attendees to peruse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety

Major Rodney Bryant and our new Zone 4 representative, Lt. Celeste Murphy, presented a brief update on crime statistics over the last month. Robberies are up slightly over this period last year. Historic West End residents are reminded to remain vigilant and to conceal/remove any visible valuables, especially in cars.

Member complaints:

- PANHANDLING at the freeway off-ramps. Major Bryant acknowledged that the current arrest/release revolving door is not working and that another solution must be employed. Neighbors offered several suggestions, including signage indicating that giving to panhandlers is not permitted, and looking into existing laws against children/families selling in the street.

- Concern about parking in the traffic lane on Oak Street adjacent to West End Park. This issues needs to be reinforced with area APD officers and tickets issued. It is a major safety hazard.
- The perpetrator of a robbery at Dunkin Donuts was shot and apprehended by police last week. The 19 year old suspect has committed a string of robberies in the surrounding southwest area.
- There has been an increase in gang activity – young men wearing red bandanas. APD is aware of the increased activity and is monitoring the situation.

Education Committee

- APS Board Member Byron Amos, District 2, addressed the body and confirmed that Kennedy Middle School will be closed at the end of this academic year. Approximately 150 rising fifth graders who would have attended Kennedy will instead join Brown Middle School this fall.
- Mr. Amos also reported that Brown will receive \$21 million in renovation funds. The Board and the community will weigh in on whether students will remain in the school during the renovation period or if they'll need to be relocated.
- A neighbor expressed concern about the litter that students leave in our residential areas when traveling to/from school.
- There will be another Education Town Hall meeting at Brown – May 21, 2014, 6pm.
- Mr. Amos can be reached at 404.587.6811 or bamos@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Beautification Committee

Chairperson Carlton Walker providing an update on current and proposed projects. We would like to purchase and install trash receptacles in areas of particular need, including the Lucille Street corridor under the overpass. Committee will work with Councilwoman Cleta Winslow to implement regular cleanups with community service workers. Councilwoman Winslow's cell phone number is 404.216.1701.

Additional completed projects included mulching and pruning of trees by Trees Atlanta and refresh of Rose Circle Park by Atlanta Park Pride.

Zoning Committee

Alethea Parker is the Chair for the Zoning Committee. She mentioned two key issues before the Zoning Review Board - regulation of community gardens and allowable signage in storefronts. The community gardens issue passed at the Zoning Review Board and the issue related to signage was tabled.

Alethea also presented a report of 207 zoning/code enforcement complaints in ZIP codes 30310 and 30314.

Membership Committee

You can still pay your dues! Membership is \$20 for the year and includes some new friends, great activities, and exposure to all things West End. Dues can be made to any officer or online at www.atlantawestend.com. There are 64 paid members, to date.

This is WEND's 40 anniversary. The committee will keep us abreast of planned celebration activities.

Preservation Committee

May is National Preservation Month. On May 19th, the Atlanta City Council will proclaim it to be Atlanta Preservation Day. West End will be included in a display of the city's historic and landmark districts in the atrium of City Hall. Historic West End materials will be provided for the display.

Concert Committee (ad hoc)

Tony McNeal reiterated that tickets are for sale for the June 21st concert. Visit www.atlantawestend.com for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- FitWit Boot Camp is held each Saturday morning at 9am at Gordon-White Park.
- A big thank you to West End neighbors who attended the last APS Board meeting. There was a great showing from the neighborhood.
- REMINDER – Election Day is May 20th
- Willie Watkins Funeral Home will have its annual Community Day Appreciation Festival on Monday, May 26 from 1:00 to 6:30pm in Howell Park. Free fun for the entire family!

Next Meeting

June 3, 2014, 7pm, West End Library.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Submitted this 6th day of May 2014



Denise Blake, Secretary
West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.