



2014 OFFICERS

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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

October 7, 2014, 7pm - West End Library

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

Officers Present

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

Officers Absent

Angela Brown, *Second Vice President*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Maurice Gunter to approve the evening's agenda and the September 2, 2014 minutes as presented. Kathi Woodcock seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Alena Harrison provided the statement of financial position.

- WEND's bank balance is \$20,337.30.
- During September 2014, WEND received total revenue in the amount of \$1,026.89.
- During September 2014, there were total expenses in the amount of \$75.85 for WEND's annual web domain name renewal.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kim Parmer spoke primarily about the upcoming elections for 2015 officers. A nominating committee has been appointed, consisting of **Karl Barnes** (dewebis@gmail.com), **Maurice Gunter** (mgunter82@gmail.com), and **Carlton Walker** (carltonwalker1@yahoo.com). They will receive nominations until Tuesday, October 21. Thereafter, they will reconfirm eligibility of nominees and present a slate for voting at the November 4, 2014 WEND meeting. Members eligible to serve as officers in 2015 are:

Karl Barnes
Nana Bekoe

Denise Blake
Jeanette Blawn

Angela Brown
Aaron Eide
Sawyer Gosnell
Maurice Gunter
Naquia Harris
Alena Harrison
Jamie Kaufman
Tony McNeal
Carl Nes
Joyce Nottingham
Alethea Parker

Kimberly Parmer
John Pavlin
Jacqui Pinkney
Marques Richards
Leisha Starchia
Alisha Thym
LA Thym
Jason Tutt
Carlton Walker
Barbara Williams
Kathi Woodcock

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

APD Zone 1

Major Timothy Quillers, Zone 1 Commander, returned to WEND to share his fact-finding about placing monitored security cameras in West End. He discovered that Councilman Ivory Young found funding to provide three cameras in Zone 1 along Joseph E. Boone. Quotes received from the Atlanta Police Foundation and the Video Integration Center indicate that one camera, including installation, repairs, and monitoring is approximately \$8,000. Some of the cameras have abilities to tilt, zoom, and pan, and some have recording capabilities.

The next step for West End is to consult with Major Rodney Bryant of Zone 4, along with Councilwoman Cleta Winslow, regarding available funding for cameras in our community.

Major Quillers also discussed the ongoing issue of panhandlers and youth fundraisers along our freeway exit ramps. It is absolutely illegal for youth groups to seek funds in this way. Call 911. Additionally, Major Quillers is looking into the legality of “no panhandling” signs along these corridors to ensure that they are compliant with recent ordinance changes.

Major Quillers can be reached at the Zone 1 precinct, 2315 Donald Lee Hollowell, 404.799.2488.

ZipCar (www.zipcar.com)

Ms. Tedera Lipsey , Marketing Manager, and Ms. Sashoy Mattis attended our meeting to let us know about the availability of two ZipCars at West End MARTA Station. There are additional ZipCar Vehicles at Ashby and College Park stations. ZipCar is an amenity that allows you to reserve a car for a little as an hour. Monthly memberships are cost-effective, starting as low as \$6 per month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety

Investigator T. Jones was a last minute APD Zone 4 replacement representative and did not have a prepared report. He received questions regarding information on shooting on Dunn Street two nights ago; new gang activity at Lucille and Holderness; tires slashed as part of gang initiation; and monitoring of vacant homes with open doors/windows. He will take member concerns back to APD for answers.

Sgt. F. Claxton of APD's Code Enforcement Unit also provided information about the code enforcement process. Neighbors should call 311, the system that the city is using for customer complaints.

Sgt. Claxton's contact information is 404.546.3808 (office); 404.275.8598 (cell); fclaxton@atlantaga.gov.

Neighbors expressed concern about the condition of Howell Park. The park has drug use and sales, sleeping in the gazebo, and rowdy players on the basketball court. It is not a safe environment for children. We need to address this as a neighborhood.

Education

APS Board Member (District 2) Byron Amos provided updates.

Brown Middle School recently was hit with **theft of electronic and technology equipment**. APS' insurance claim for these items was denied because the insurance company claimed the equipment was too outdated to ensure. The question is...why was APS paying them a premium for insurance? Additionally, Mr. Amos confirmed that the security guard on duty was sleeping during the theft. The security company is being approached for damages to replace the stolen equipment.

The Brown Middle School renovation will take place in the 2015 academic year. There are talks to relocate students temporarily to Kennedy Middle School while renovations take place.

Mr. Amos talked about proposed "Quarter-mile Zones" that would create a zone around each school in APS Zone 2. He would work to identify the issues that are affecting education, particularly along the routes that children walk to school - vacant lots, open structures, pit bulls, prostitution. His team would identify the violating owners, including the city and county.

A question was raised regarding Patchwork City Farms. Their lease at Brown Middle School was initially terminated for noncompliance, then reinstated just a few weeks later for an additional year. Although their contract expired September 30, 2014, a legally-binding document signed by former superintendent Dr. Erroll Davis was found allowing them one more year to continue to fulfill grant obligations.

Mr. Amos can be reached at: 404.587.6811; bamos@atlantapublicschools.us.

Beautification

There will be a Trees Atlanta planting on **Saturday, October 11** beginning at 9am at West End Park. Trees will be planted on West End Place, Oak Street, Holderness; and Lucille Avenues. There will be a special tree planting in memory of our neighbor, Brenda Arrington.

There will also be a neighborhood cleanup on **Saturday, October 11**. More details to follow.

NEIGHBOR PARTICIPATION for beautification projects is crucial. Please don't complain if you're not part of our solutions!

Preservation and Urban Design

- The October AUDC meeting has been changed to October 15.
- The Eides at 665 Grady Place did present plans to WEND and they were unanimously recommended for approval to AUDC.
- Neighbors at 1047 Oak Street have applied for a variance for the height of the fence in their backyard and deck. West End Historic guidelines do not approve a ten foot fence. A letter recommending approval of the variance was sent to AUDC from Carl Nes. However, WEND's Preservation Committee recommended denying the variance. Carl Nes spoke on behalf of the homeowners, acknowledging that they did not obtain a permit for the work before its completion, but explaining their desire for privacy for a deck with street exposure. Extensive discussion ensued from neighbors that stressed guidelines compliance by everyone. Carl Nes made a motion to reverse the recommendation from the Preservation committee. Fifteen WEND Members voted - 2 ayes; 13 nays. The motion did not pass.
- Kathi Woodcock indicated that the committee was able to obtain four stop work orders last month for unapproved construction/renovation projects.
- The West End Preservation Association has been formed. It has its own 501(C)(3) designation and has as its mission to research, verify and record the history of West End. They can help neighbors research their homes. A dessert and wine gathering will take place at 1304 Oak Street, October 16, 7pm.
- Mr. Ali Amin Carter, Director of Constituent Services of Councilman Andre Dickens' (aacarter@atlantaga.gov; 404.548.6480) provided an update on the proposed supportive housing application for 825 Beecher. According to the mayor's office, they will be declined due to the presence of another provider in the service radius. Since they are already operating, they will be forced to cease operations.

Membership

- New member baskets are available to new residents. Contact Naquia Harris for info (naquiaharris@gmail.com). Welcome new neighbors!
- Our first porch party of the year will take place at the home of Yolanda Bell, October 18, following Art on the Beltline. Details to follow.

PR/Communications

John Mitchell is chairing this committee and needs new members!

Economic Development (Ad Hoc)

This committee has been formed to help attract new businesses to our community. See Kim Parmer for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS! WEND's annual holiday party will be held Saturday, December 6. Details to follow.

Next Meeting

November 4, 2014, 7pm – West End Library

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted this 7th day of October 2014.



Denise Blake, Secretary
West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.



Enjoy low-car living West End Residents with Zipcar.
Contact Tедera Lipsey with any questions at Tlipsey@zipcar.com

Meet our fleet. They're ready when you need a carload of groceries
or a long weekend at the lake, without the hassles or costs of car ownership.

And they've even got their own parking spots when you just want to park on the couch.

how it works:



1. join



2. reserve



3. unlock



4. drive

And that includes gas, insurance and 180 miles per day.
(Super easy, right?)



Hey West End residents! Get \$50 in free driving.
\$25 application fee used to pull your driving record

Sign up today at

zipcar.com and use promo code **WestEnd2014**



House of Representatives

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STANDING
COMMITTEES:
HIGHER EDUCATION
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS

September 2014 Legislative Activities

Scrap Tire

As part of the implementation of HB 226 that added to the requirements related to the transportation, storage, and removal of scrap tires, Sen. Nan Orrock and I worked with the City Councilwoman Joyce Shepherd, the Atlanta Police and the Department of Natural Resources to educate the public and dealers on the new law. This law toughens the enforcement available to law enforcement but citizen vigilance is still the best way to rid our neighborhoods of this dumping.

Along with Councilwoman Shepherd I also participated in an Scrap Tire Amnesty Day where more than 8,000 scrap tires were collected and appropriately disposed of.

Mental Health

After being asked to Chair a Committee of the Fulton County Delegation of the House of Representatives to look at the services for patients in need of mental health care in our county, the committee and I have visited Grady Mental Health and the Fulton Health Department and will make four more site visits before coming up with recommendations about how to enhance state and federal dollars for Fulton citizens and how those and other dollars can be spent more efficiently in Fulton. County Commissioners and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health are participating in the discussion.

Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission

Private for profit colleges in Georgia are regulated by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and a recent state audit revealed some weaknesses in their ability to do the job. Some of those problems were described in a recent investigative article in the AJC and, at my request, the Chairman of the House Higher Ed Committee has agreed to hold a meeting in early fall. This agency was created when these non public colleges were small training centers but this kind of college education has become a big business with aggressive marketing. Federal loans have helped students get specialized training enabling them to find good jobs, however some students have gotten involved in questionable practices and ended up with loans they can never repay and ruined credit.

Go to www.patgardner.org to sign up for my updates from the Capitol during the Session. To sign up a child age 12 and above to serve as a Page or for any question, contact me at pat@patgardner.org.