

# HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – January 2014

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A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 8:00am at the Capital City Club.

Present were Board Members: Lisa Martinez, Wade McKenzie, Susy Stovin, Ruth Skogstad, Brian Ruediger, Mark Roberts, Bob Connelly, Anne Culberson, Gay Colyer, Tim Gartland, Maribett Varner, Lisa Senters McDermott, Melissa Bryson. Prospective board member: Tom Hicks. Brookhaven City Councilman Bates Mattison.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Martinez at 8:00am

## **Executive Committee Reports:**

### **President**

Lisa Martinez opened the meeting and reminded everyone that there will be a meeting to review the By-laws on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am at J. Christopher's.

### **Secretary**

The December board meeting minutes which were previously distributed via email were presented and unanimously approved by the board.

Wade McKenzie asked if VP's and officers could provide an electronic version of their reports each month to the Secretary by email in an effort to make producing the minutes more efficient.

### **Treasurer**

Brian R. previously distributed current financials indicating the HBNA was in good financial standing with all expense items either at or under budget YTD with a total unspent budget for the year of approximately \$18,000.

There was a brief discussion about the total reserves now in the HBNA treasury of approximately \$80,000. Lisa asked that the board begin to think about how that money might be allocated in the future (reserves, projects, etc.) so that it could be discussed during an upcoming board meeting.

### **Guest:**

Bates Mattison shared the following:

- Zoning Board of Appeals hasn't yet posted its calendar but he will communicate to us when it has.
- Planning Commission meeting is today. There are no projects on the agenda within or adjacent to the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood.
- The city is kicking off its planning process including: Comprehensive 10 Year Plan, Transportation plan, Parks and Recreation Plan, Buford Highway Improvement Plan. (Bates noted that Buford highway is among the top 5 most dangerous roads in the U.S. with an average of just under one fatality per month. The state DOT is working to complete the median project on Buford Highway.)
- 2014 budget is approved and posted on their website. The C.O.B. is the second lowest tax rate in DeKalb county)
- Parks Dept. Manager has been hired from Mississippi and starts 1-15-14.
- They are working on staffing for their communications department.
- Lawsuit by Century Center was ruled in favor of Century Center and is now on appeal by the city.
- Lawsuit by The Pink Pony was thrown out by the judge.
- C.O.B. Police now have radar speed guns.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Community Maintenance and Enhancement (CME)**

Tim Gartland reported the following items:

- Brookhaven Drive monuments are in work but stalled due to weather.
- Mike Elliot is going to take a step back from overseeing monuments, CME to discuss oversight and transition of the responsibility.
- Mason Ravine mulch arraigned for by Josh Pechter was dumped but not spread after CME received approval from the city parks department to dump the mulch in the park. Josh Pechter has claimed it is HBNA's responsibility to maintain the Mason Ravine park and that HBNA should arrange to have it spread. It was discussed that there has not been a precedent for HBNA to maintain the Mason Ravine Park area. There was discussion of having a work party to accomplish spreading the mulch.

There was a brief discussion about the potential need for a general sprucing up of the neighborhood and Lisa Martinez asked CME to prioritize areas for consideration of this.

### **Transportation**

Gay Colyer reported the following:

- Neighbors who have expressed an interest in the committee: Lisa Martinez, Anne Culberson, Tom Dolan, Tristan Plaisance, Hal Kravitz, Leigh Connolly, Gayle Sherlag, Karen Spitz and Tom Hicks
- Pending items:
  - Review of the 3 concepts for the intersection of Winall Down and Vermont Rd. Currently under review by the City of Atlanta Public Works Department and the Watershed Department.
  - Speed Monitoring Sign on West Brookhaven Drive which is not operating.
  - Stop sign at Brookhaven and East Brookhaven which has been reported by Mike Elliott
  - Correction of street signs: West Club Dr. sign which should be West Club Lane and Davidson and the Club Road sign which should be Club Dr. and West Club Dr. Stephanie McGarity has reported these to Howard Shook's office and those have been referred to Linda Glanville with the Department of Public Works who will order the new signs.
- Other areas of focus for the committee:
  - Entry/egress, cut through traffic and drive time backup for West Club Dr. and Peachtree Dunwoody, Winall Down and Peachtree Dunwoody, Stovall Blvd and Peachtree Dunwoody, and Brookhaven Dr. at Peachtree Rd.
  - Need for lower speed limit from 30 to 25 mph on Mabry Rd.
  - Need for a 3 way stop sign at Club and Carter
- Neighbors adjacent to the property at Davidson and West Club Lane are trying to get this parcel cleaned up and are researching who owns the property (i.e. City of Atlanta?).

Suzy Stovin suggested looking at the egress at Carter onto Peachtree Dunwoody.

Anne Culberson asked if any consideration had been given to reducing the speed limit on Peachtree Dunwoody by Little Nancy Creek Park.

Ruth Skogstad suggested looking at the egress at Brookhaven onto Peachtree.

Lisa Senters McDermott suggested looking at the potential for a light at Narmore and Peachtree. It was noted that the hurdle for getting a traffic light put in is very high.

There was discussion about ticketing of drivers turning into the neighborhood during restricted access hours and the fact that according to the police residents would be subject to this restriction the same as non-residents.

### **Zoning – Dekalb**

Bridget O'Donnell reported that most DeKalb issues which were largely unchanged from the time of the general meeting. She noted the following:

- Walgreens is looking for a variance (curb cut) and has submitted drawings to the city.
- Kroger – no significant changes other than they agreed to eliminate on traffic island. HBNA has exhausted all efforts available to influence the Kroger plans.

### **Zoning – Fulton**

No new activity reported on the Fulton County side of the neighborhood.

### **Events**

Susy Stovin reported that the annual HBNA Board holiday party will take place January 16<sup>th</sup> at the McKenzie's house. It will be a pot luck format with spouses invited.

### **Communication/Membership**

Mark R. reported the following:

- HBNA currently has 636 members for 2014. We are still receiving checks.
- Total revenue generated so far from advertising sponsorship of the neighborhood directory is \$5,000 since Frank Clementi has sold another \$2,000 worth of sponsorships in addition to the back cover.
- CCC is hosting a charity golf tournament for the City of Brookhaven Police. Organizers have asked to use the HBNA portal for collecting sponsorship fees.

### **Old Business**

Lisa Martinez again requested that each VP establish 2014 goals for their committee and be prepared to present them along with initial budgets at the next board meeting.

Lisa Martinez noted that the C.O.A. may be reviewing zoning laws and asked that the zoning committee stay abreast of this.

Lisa Martinez gave the following update on the special committee meeting to review the potential for installing surveillance cameras in the neighborhood entrance monuments (CCTV):

- Bob Carter (formerly with the now defunct Iron Sky firm) attended on behalf of X-7 a surveillance technology company.
- The technology is 2 step, video capture and license plate reader (LPR).
- C.O.B. does not have a system but is looking for that in 2014. They have budgeted for 3 mobile units.
- Mike Whittle, C.O.B. P.D. attended the meeting. He has experience with the system from his time at College Park.
- Question still remains as to how much this benefits the community.
- It is not clear how the LPR "pings" (when a sought after license plate is identified in the police system) would be prioritized. Need to discuss with Major Hobbs at C.O.A. P.D. to see their input on this.
- At current pricing the camera systems are \$14,500 each, plus 10% annual maintenance, plus the cost of installation. We have three monument locations which can currently accept the cameras.
- Will have at least one more meeting to flesh out the potential benefits and issues with CCTV.
- C.O.A. is very interested and we may wish to see if they would cost share.

Bob Connelly spoke with a friend who lives in Ansley Park and has some feedback on how they perceive the system they installed.

Anne Culberson asked how much patrolling the neighborhood currently gets. Lisa Martinez said that Stephanie McGarity was at the meeting and stated that in the last 2 weeks there were 90 patrol hours in C.O.A. and 89 patrol hours in DeKalb side of the neighborhood.

There was discussion of challenges with technology needing to be upgraded.

There was a question to how much crime is currently happening in the neighborhood.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.