

HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – October 2013

A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 8:00am at the Capital City Club.

Present were Board Members: Lisa Martinez, Wade McKenzie, Suzy Stovin, Brian Ruediger, Frank Clementi, Mark Roberts, Bob Connelly, Hope Bawcom, Anne Culberson, Carole Simpson, Gay Colyer, Mike Elliott, Lisa Senters-McDermott, Maribett Varner, Tim Gartland. New neighbor and prospective board member: Lauren Connelly. Bates Mattison attended the first part of the meeting to give an update on the city of Brookhaven.

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

Executive Committee Reports:

President

Frank and Lisa reported on some board member and committee changes. Karen Spitz has resigned from the board. Wade McKenzie has resigned as the acting Transportation Committee VP. Suzy Stovin has agreed to become the Events Committee VP.

In order to the meetings moving along promptly the agenda will be organized with specific time allocated for each item. Frank will now be acting as Sergeant At Arms in an effort to keep us on pace.

Bates Mattison (City of Brookhaven Council) provided updates and answered questions regarding the new city of Brookhaven. He announced that there will be a new city attorney and that they are planning into implementation on the things that the city was created for, i.e. improvements at Buford Highway, parks, security improvements, etc.

Lisa asked how people are to communicate the city regarding neighborhood events. Bates said that is a work in progress and that they are trying to improve communication regarding events planned within the city.

Regarding the zoning issue at the Tomlinson property said personally believes the development as originally proposed should not go forward on that site. Rather, something more suitable to the overlay should happen.

Bates said he would like the Brookhaven Police Dept. to attend the HBNA board meetings going forward at HBNA's invitation.

Secretary

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

Carole asked if we could get the board meeting agenda out in advance. Lisa noted that she tries to put the agenda together in advance so that she can send it out but that she is usually not in receipt of the VP's agenda items. Mark said he will set up a constant contact email prior to each board meeting reminding the VPs to send in their agenda items in advance. Wade will also include a reminder in the email accompanying board meeting minutes.

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. He is in receipt of (34) the 2014 dues checks so far.

Committee Reports:

Zoning-Dekalb

Mike reported that Wieland Homes is coming in with a proposal for the Tomlinson site. They are setting up a meeting with neighbors and HBNA.

Frank reported that Mark Miller, a developer wants to get HBNA by in for a retail/office/condo complex along Peachtree Road. He wants to buy Walgreens and U-Haul sites. Frank referred him to Mike and the zoning committee. Mark Miller apparently is trying to go directly to the board and circumvent the committee.

Mike noted that the foundations have been poured for the monuments and they should start building vertically this Saturday. Mike will call neighbors at the corner of Mabry to give them an update.

Mike gave an update on the charrette. More information can be found on the neighborhood website. Mark and Maribett have worked on the website and constant contact systems to enable better communication of charrette information to the neighborhood.

Lisa and Frank met with Kroger execs (Bruce Lucia and Bob Smith) to express concerns from a customer as well as neighborhood perspective. Specific issues are safety in the parking lot, entry and egress, removal of Brewster's ice cream, etc. Kroger mentioned they expected up to 50% increase in sales from the renovation. It was again suggested that feedback regarding these items from residents as shoppers of Kroger may get the attention of Kroger if residents were to email their concerns to Kroger directly.

Community Maintenance and Enhancement (CME)

Tim reported the following items:

Leaning/Hazardous trees at triangle across from Gipson's. The committee voted to confirm this as a CME Budget Item. Since then, Mike brought this to the attention of City of Brookhaven and they have agreed to remove trees.

The Club Estates Garden Club has expressed interest in contributing to projects in the neighborhood. Gay contacted Elizabeth Payne, Chair of the CEGC, to determine the money available. CME is considering project opportunities at the Brookhaven Drive/E. Brookhaven triangle.

Two dogwood trees at the Club/Davidson triangle have died. CME is proposing replacement with the hope to match the tree in the triangle. Awaiting estimate from Gibbs.

Following discussion of requests for micro park naming rights, the committee recommended to the board a minimum contribution level of \$2,500 with agreement for maintenance and indemnity. There was extended discussion about the ability to maintain memorial monuments in perpetuity. Frank made a motion to approve a plaque, honoring Shirley Smith by designating the corner of Davidson/E. Club Drive as "Shirley Smith Corner" for a minimum contribution of \$5,000 along with signed terms and conditions to be approved by the board. The motion passed with Gay and Maribett voting "Nay", Carole "Abstain", all others "Yes".

Anne asked if Gibbs could blow off Winall Down/Vermont triangle as part of their regular maintenance. Tim will see if this can be added.

Josh Peeler asked for mulch at the Mayson Ravine. HBNA will do this in the Spring. Gay will follow-up with Latosha Haney at the city parks department.

Transportation

Wade M. reported that he, Lisa, and Frank met with Howard Shook, Richard Mendoza - COA Office of Transportation Commissioner, Nursef Kedir - COA Public Works Manager and Cotena Alexander - COA Transportation Engineering Manager on September 19, to discuss the Winall Down/Vermont intersection situation.

We presented the concepts Foresite had done and brought them up to speed on where we are in the process. We discussed whether or not there would be any funding available from the city. It appears that there may be some funding available. We stressed to the city the importance of not disturbing the current water flow patterns. They all understood that any changes in the intersection would have to be made so that there was no increased impact to water flow.

DPW reiterated that the improvements were for safety issues and that removing them and going back to nothing at the intersection is not an option. They acknowledged the current improvements were done without a great deal of consideration for aesthetics to the neighborhood. They recognize that the current improvements are more utilitarian in appearance and they are open to altering the intersection with a more appropriate aesthetic feel.

Nursef requested that we consider a third option similar to option two and/or three of the original city alternatives. We discussed some of the initial concerns that were expressed regarding those two options and he discussed some ways which might improve the aesthetics of that option. He also suggested that we consider how that option might actually help address waterflow. We agreed to put forth a third option for consideration. DPW requested a CAD file so they could draw up an example of the third option for our review. Gay contacted Foresite who forwarded the file to Cotena Alexander.

We also talked with Howard about the intersection of Winall Down and Peachtree Dunwoody Road. The city has been working on this with LNCP. Mike suggested that LNCP consider relocating the park entry drive to a more suitable location on Peachtree Dunwoody Road.

One of the speed signs at CCC entrance is still not working. Wade will follow-up with Kitty Correll who has reported it previously and offered to continue to follow up with COA on the repair.

Events

Suzy reported that the Sip and Soiree party will take place on October 23rd from 6-8pm at CCC. Please invite folks. There will be a notice on the website and an email has already gone out from HBNA.

Communication/Membership

Mark R. reported invoices have been sent out and payments are rolling in. Approximately half are paying with PayPal.

We need someone to keep up with the directory now that Karen has resigned.

Aaron Bawcom is planning on coming to the next board meeting to discuss the website.

Suzy S. reported she has put together 46 new member packets to be distributed.

Old Business

Jed is trying to get COB to respond regarding sidewalk repair process.

New Business

Cathy Boston and Bob Connelly are hosting a meet and greet for Howard Shook at Bob's house next Thursday at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.