

HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – Feb. 2013

A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 8:00am at the Capital City Club.

Present were Board Members: Frank Clementi, Lisa Martinez, Wade McKenzie, Tim Gartland, Mark Roberts, Karen Spitz, Brian Ruediger, Anne Culberson, Bob Connelly, Hope Bawcom, Lisa Senters, Susy Stovin, Jed Beardsley, and interim Board Member Gay Colyer.

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

Glenn Delk

Glenn Delk, attorney and member of the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods, attended the first part of the meeting and briefed the board on the following topics: Atlanta Police Zone Chief's report to BCN (2,100 car break-ins in 2012), the GA400 Trail Project (<http://livablebuckhead.com/>), the following pieces of state legislation currently under consideration at the capital: [HB 170](#), [HB 171](#), [HB 172](#), [HB 123](#)

By-Laws

Lisa Martinez presented an updated and revised version of the HBNA By-Laws. After review the Board voted unanimously to approve the changes. The revised By-Laws need to be approved by a majority of the Members at the next general meeting in order to become effective.

Executive Committee Reports:

Lisa Martinez discussed the desire to have the committees meet regularly between board meetings and to publish meeting times so that members could attend if they want.

The January minutes were presented and approved by voice vote of the board.

Karen Spitz presented an overview of the 2012 Financial Statements and detail of the major expense items by category. HBNA had Revenue of \$70,850, Expenses of \$43,355 for a Net Income of \$27,495. The balance sheet ended the year well in the black which is an improvement over some recent years. It was noted by Brian Ruediger and others that we need to have plans to spend the funds on Neighborhood items in order to maintain the current favorable tax status.

There were a couple of questions about specific expenditures and Lisa asked that for the sake of time and staying on agenda, those items be addressed directly to Karen or Brian outside of the board meeting. It was suggested a conference call could be set up to accommodate specific questions.

For 2013 Karen recommended increases in the budget for maintenance, zoning, and projects. She recommends dropping the printed newsletter from the budget.

Lisa Martinez and Karen asked that each committee bring their budget request to the next board meeting so that the 2013 budget could be established.

Committee Reports:

Community Maintenance and Enhancement (CMEC)

Tim Garland and Hope Bawcom presented the Community Maintenance and Enhancement Committee report.

Tim has assessed the neighborhood micro parks and concluded most need "help". He intends to develop a plan for each park, make capital improvements first, then develop and implement a comprehensive maintenance plan. Jed Beardsley noted the desire to really make a noticeable improvement this year utilizing resources from the increased member dues. Creating a uniform theme for the neighborhood parks was discussed.

Hope Bawcom updated the status of new monuments.

- DeKalb County permits for ROW encroachment issued for Mabry & E. Brookhaven December, 2012.
- Issuance of permits for Mabry & E. Brookhaven from City of Brookhaven expected 2/18.
- Preconstruction of Mabry can be started (utility finders, final marking / location) expected 2/25.
- Initial construction (pouring foundations, building concrete block core, and placement of CCTV conduit/enclosures) expected to start March 5.

- Precast concrete ordered for Mabry monuments, deposit paid, delivery expected approximately 3/8.
- Precast concrete for E. Brookhaven Drive monuments to immediately follow Mabry precast. Expected both will be completed by April 1.

It was noted that the Mabry Road monuments were subsidized heavily by Rockhaven Homes (builder in Mabry Oaks) who covered cost of labor (~\$12K) enabling HBNA to only pay \$2K for materials. E. Brookhaven monuments by Brick Concepts. Bob Connelly has discussed proposed new price from Brick Concepts, which is approximately a 37% increase in price from their previous monument job, from \$6,550 to \$8,080 plus tree removal charge. Bob has gotten them to reduce the price some. It was noted that Brick Concepts price for the first monuments was based on building a total of ten in succession when in reality they were only given the first project and it took longer due to delays both within and beyond control. It was also noted that while lower bids were available those contractors would require much more day to day project management from HBNA.

Hope and Mike are continuing efforts to raise money for the monument projects.

Transportation

Transportation Committee report was given by Wade McKenzie in Mark Anderson's absence. Mark has been unresponsive to multiple emails and calls by several board members so it is assumed that he has decided to withdraw from the board and Vice President of the Transportation Committee.

The Transportation Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 11, 2013 and established a goal of assessing the transportation issues in the neighborhood, prioritizing those issues and working toward resolutions to as many as possible. It was also concluded that the name of the committee should be the HBNA Transportation Committee (dropping "Development" to avoid confusion).

The committee will survey the HBNA members to help identify any perceived transportation concerns, sort through the responses, produce a complete list of issues and prioritize them for potential action.

The committee will try and inform members to contact City or County offices directly for those items which are routine, i.e. potholes, to avoid the Transportation Committee being overwhelmed with routine requests.

The current status with the city of the Winall Down Rd and Vermont Rd Intersection Traffic Island is that "the traffic island remains for public safety" however the city is looking at options for "aesthetic improvement" per Richard Mendoza's email of Feb 1, 2013.

The committee reviewed the 3 alternate designs prepared by the city. The committee voted to contract with a professional traffic engineer to review the intersection and propose alternate solutions to the traffic issue there. It was discussed that any proposal should specifically address safety, functionality, aesthetics, and drainage. The motion was approved unanimously. Once we receive responses to the RFP, the committee will evaluate them and select a firm for this project. When we have results back from the traffic engineer the committee intends to hold a meeting for interested neighbors to attend and provide feedback.

We estimate there may be as many as three of these types of evaluation projects this year. The review of the WD/V intersection will be an opportunity for the committee to determine how effective this approach can be.

The committee anticipates proposing a budget request to the HBNA Board of \$7,000 at the March meeting.

Zoning

Lisa Martinez reported that the zoning update for DeKalb relative to the Bellaire/Club Drive proposed development is the same as the most recent email from HBNA. The proposed Zoning Board of Appeals application has been transferred to the new City of Brookhaven. Brookhaven's Zoning Board of Appeals members were approved by the City Commission on Tuesday, February 12th. Hope Bawcom and Jed Beardsley are now members of the City of Brookhaven's Zoning Board of Appeals.

There were no current zoning issues reported for Fulton County.

Events

Suzy Stovin suggested changing the plan of a membership survey regarding event timing into a call for volunteers to serve on the Event Committee. Lisa Senters, Suzy and Lisa Martinez plan to meet to strategize recruitment.

There was discussion about revitalizing new neighbor welcome efforts. (Gift baskets including a copy of the neighborhood directory used to be presented to new neighbors.) Susy volunteered to revamp our new neighbor

efforts. Gay Colyer will contact the person who used to help with the gift baskets to see if she is willing to continue that. Cathy Boston may have access to new homeowner information.

Communication/Membership

Mark Roberts reports 645 current members and expects the number to increase slightly through the year. Karen Spitz reported that directories will be ready 2/18 and delivered shortly afterward.

A motion was made for the board to purchase static cling car window stickers, two per member household. The motion was passed with a vote of 12 "yes", 2 "no" (Gay Colyer, Anne Culberson), 0 "abstaining".

Frank Clementi gave an update on sponsors for the next general meeting as well as sponsorship renewal interest for the directory. Frank expects we will cover meeting costs via sponsorships in 2013 the May general meeting is already covered. We need to decide on a strategy for selling sponsors where more sponsor interest exists than sponsorship opportunities. Lisa asked that we come to the next meeting prepared to discuss this. Frank confirmed that the 2013 directory ad space on back cover is reserved for Bob Connelly and Cathy Boston (they had reserved it back in November 2012), the May General Meeting sponsor is Jere Metcalf and the November General Meeting sponsor is Ruth Skogsaff.

Old Business

Dick Diedrich, golf facility architect and author, has interest in doing a book about the neighborhood. He would likely not be interested in working with Acadia publishing. He was out of town today but Mike Elliott intends to talk to him prior to the next board meeting.

New Business

Jed Beardsley proposed the HBNA join the Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce. As the cost was only \$150 it was approved without need for a board vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.