

HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – June 2014

A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 8:00am at the Capital City Club.

Present were Board Members: Lisa Martinez, Wade McKenzie, Brian Ruediger, Anne Culberson, Gay Colyer, Tim Gartland, Mike Elliot, Carole Simpson, Mark Roberts, Ruth Skogstad, Frank Clementi, Hope Bawcom, Bob Connelly, Maribett Varner, Tom Hicks.

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

Executive Committee Reports:

President

Lisa Martinez opened the meeting with a call for volunteers for neighborhood representation on the NPU. Lisa has been involved on the NPU for some time and said it is time for other interested and knowledgeable neighborhood residents to get involved to represent us going forward.

Secretary

Wade McKenzie presented the minutes of the February, March and May board meetings for approval by the board. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer

Brian Ruediger previously distributed current financials indicating the HBNA was in good financial standing, tracking to budget, all bills are paid. He is expecting another donation to the HBNA general fund from the production company filming "Survivors Remorse" in the neighborhood. They have pledged to make a \$250 payment for each film day in the neighborhood.

Brian also noted the \$53K budget reserve.

Committee Reports:

Community Maintenance and Enhancement (CME)

Tim Gartland reported the following item:

- Progress in the plan for removal of dead trees near W. Brookhaven/Brookhaven and at Brookhaven/E. Brookhaven triangles. He has been quoted \$2K for removing all.

Ruth Skogstad commented that the neighborhood entrance at Brookhaven Drive looks great and she has received several positive comments from neighbors regarding it.

Transportation

Gay Colyer reported the Foresite group has completed their speed and volume data collection and they are working on their report.

Gay also noted that we are not making much headway with the city watershed and public works department on the assessment of drainage impact from potential solutions to the Winall Down/Vermont intersection. She would like to meet with Howard Shook the next time a meeting is scheduled with HBNA.

Zoning – Dekalb

Mike Elliot reported:

- Tomlinson property at Bellaire/Club project by John Wieland Homes received approval for a curb cut on Peachtree pending GDOT approval.
- Walgreens (which was denied variances in 2007 and 2009) has a new developer (John Gipson, Brookhaven resident) and has applied for a 9 variances. One of the variances is for a curb cut on Peachtree Road. The Zoning Board deferred the hearing for 60 days so the developer could work with the neighbors on access issues.
- Nothing new to report on Bellaire property.
- A hearing on the Shell property was deferred 30 days.

Mike Elliot discussed in detail a proposed change to the zoning setback rules from the City of Brookhaven. He distributed a sketch which demonstrated in general how the new proposal would affect the current setback rules. This is difficult to describe here but essentially, the Mayor has proposed eliminating the average front yard setback method for permitting new homes. If this were the case, new homes could be built up to the current set back line.

There are many examples of how this would be detrimental to the adjoining property owners and create a very erratic and nonconforming look to a residential street.

After much discussion it was clear the HBNA board did not support this change in setback rules.

Bob Connelly made a motion for HBNA to draft a letter to the City of Brookhaven opposing this setback rule change. The motion passed unanimously.

Zoning – Fulton

Bob Connelly reported that the zoning committee has had conversations with the City of Atlanta supporting changing the zoning of the Bellaire property as long as HBNA supports the change. There are still concerns about entry and egress to the property.

Events

Nothing new to report.

Communication/Membership

Mark Roberts noted there will soon be a meeting scheduled to discuss the new neighborhood website.

Old Business

There was much discussion about the potential for a 60 day test trial of surveillance cameras in the neighborhood entrance monuments (CCTV) system. Questions remain as to what the goal of the test should be. Will it prove the technology? Will we learn how it interacts with police departments and what their response criteria will be? Will we be obligated to implement the system after the trial period ends in any case? More work is to come including inviting City of Atlanta and City of Brookhaven police to CCTV committee meeting. Bob Connelly and Frank Clementi will extend the invitations.

Following the last CCTV committee meeting, Maribett Varner and Gay Colyer discussed meeting with Stephanie McGarity to review BSA's position on the potential for installing surveillance cameras in the neighborhood entrance monuments (CCTV) and questions about the survey BSA presented at the General Meeting. Following was discussed:

- BSA's supports a trial of the CCTV system but BSA's position is to prioritize increasing patrol hours over allocating resources to CCTV.
- Did the survey go to all HBNA households? (Yes).
- Can the data in the survey be parsed by respondent type? (Not sure, Stephanie said she will follow up.)
- BSA has 525 members.
- BSA patrol is made up of off duty police in DeKalb, Fulton uses a mix of off duty police and other patrols.
- Interest in more joint cooperation between BSA and HBNA potentially including:
 - One membership drive
 - Joint mailings
 - Periodically including BSA in the board meetings
 - Link to website
 - Block meetings

New Business

Carole Simpson discussed that Friends of Brookhaven Park is in the process of incorporating and is looking for money (approximately \$3,000) to help start up their organization.

Lisa Martinez directed that the discussion be moved to the CME Committee for review and a recommendation to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.