

# HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – August 2014

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A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 8:00am at the Kroger conference room.

Present were Board Members: Lisa Martinez, Wade McKenzie, Brian Ruediger, Anne Culberson, Gay Colyer, Mike Elliot, Carole Simpson, Bob Connelly, Maribett Varner, Susy Stovin, Cathy Boston, Melissa Bryson, Frank Clementi, Tim Gartland, Hope Bawcom, Tom Hicks and guests Bates Mattison and Richard Diedrich.

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

## **Executive Committee Reports:**

### **President**

Lisa Martinez opened the meeting by giving the floor to Bates Mattison who provided the following updates from City of Brookhaven (COB):

- Concurrent variances proposal is under consideration.
  - Would allow zoning and variance requests to be heard together.
  - The council is in need of more education on it.
  - Public feedback is that checks and balances are needed.
  - Bates has asked the planning commission to make their case.
- All parks except Brookhaven Park have been deeded from the county to COB.
  - Status of the adult services center is a hold up to Brookhaven Park transfer
- Drafts of the following plans are on the COB website and will be voted on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Traffic and Transportation
  - Buford Highway
  - Parks and Recreation
- Brookhaven Innovation Academy, is a new city sponsored charter school in the works for COB – (Edivate is the consultant)
  - Goal to improve performance of Cross Keys H.S. (currently the lowest graduation rate in DeKalb)
  - Coordinate with DeKalb for development
  - Submit charter school request.
  - K-6 grade, 420 “live” classroom students plus 420 online students.
  - Has been endorsed by Michael Thurmond (DeKalb School Superintendent.)
  - Expect notice of approval/disapproval by 9/24/14
  - If approved, the start date would be August 2015
- Security Cameras, Chief of Police is available for consultation

Lisa Martinez next opened the floor to Dick Diedrich who provided the following updates on the proposed book of Historic Brookhaven:

- An LLC has been established via Historic Brookhaven Foundation (HBF)
- A mailer is being put together
- Soliciting sponsors for funding (a total funding goal of \$65K is proposed)
- GA Bank has been contacted as a lead sponsor at the \$8K level.
- In response to the question from Lisa Martinez about what level of involvement from the board is being requested, it was noted by Mike Elliot and Dick Diedrich that they already had support from a number of HBNA members and residents and that HBNA is being asked to provide invoicing and accounting support.

A motion was made for HBNA to be an official community supporter and to provide invoicing and accounting support for the proposed book of Historic Brookhaven. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Martinez referred the board to a copy of the new City of Atlanta (COA) subdivision ordinance which she had emailed previously. The NPU asked that the ordinance vote be tabled until they could clarify what the intent and the potential impact of the ordinance is to us. There was some discussion about how the ordinance may impact border properties in the HBN area.

Lisa Martinez clarified the city ordinance relative to political signs in the common areas after an issue arose between two neighbors over this topic at one of the triangle parks in HBNA. Political signs are not allowed in the common areas. An email will be sent out from HBNA regarding this and it will be posted on the HBNA website.

Lisa Martinez brought up the need for planning for board member succession per the by-laws with a goal of developing a slate of candidates prior to the General Meeting in October. A motion was made to remove Sam Levine from the board as he has been unable to attend the monthly board meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

A nominating committee was formed with the following members: Maribett Varner, Bob Connelly, Susy Stovin, Cathy Boston, Gay Colyer and Carole Simpson.

### **Secretary**

Wade McKenzie presented the minutes of the July board meeting 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. HBNA continues to be in strong financial position. We maintain approximately \$53,000 in reserves.

Starz productions, filming at one of our member's homes has now contributed \$1,250 to the neighborhood association. HBNA year to date has over \$8,000 in "other income".

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Tim Gartland reported the following items:

- Tree removal has been completed for the dead and dying trees:
  - (4) trees in the Brookhaven/ East Brookhaven triangle.
  - (1) tree and (1) stump in the Brookhaven/West Brookhaven triangle.
  - Miscellaneous debris along the Vermont park.
- Gibson is donating Japanese maples and have located spots for them. Tim has put together a bid sheet for the work.
- Mike Elliot has acquired some larger over canopy trees which may be helpful in some of the triangle parks. He noted that Gables is bulldozing on Hermance and, after Mike got bids, Gables has agreed to pay for the removal and replanting of 22 mature trees most of which will go into Brookhaven Park.
- Monuments: Fuller Rd is a potential site, but need to identify the specific location. The Alford's may be a sponsor for matching funding.
- Dirt is to be moved from the Brookhaven/E. Brookhaven monument site to the nearby hole at the same intersection.
- Gibbs is getting a bit slack in maintenance. Tim Gartland is following up with them to address it.

Lisa Martinez appointed the following members to a Monument Subcommittee: Maribett Varner, Bob Connelly (Chair), Tom Hicks, Gay Colyer.

#### **Transportation**

Gay Colyer reported that Foresite is doing more data collection and is in process of providing graphics and presenting to the committee within 60 days.

Nothing to report from public works/watershed at this time as they are waiting for response.

Gordon Certain, President of the N. Buckhead Civic Association (NBCA), is working on a master plan for NBCA and HBNA is sharing data in support of this.

#### **Zoning – Dekalb**

Mike Elliot reported the following items:

- **Walgreens – Colonial Drive and Peachtree Rd.** – Walgreens got all their requested variances (they must consolidate curb cuts on Peachtree). Mike is reviewing their plans.
- **Hastings / Kauffman Tire – Porter family – Colonial Drive and Peachtree Rd**– Nothing new to report.

## **Zoning – Fulton**

Cathy Boston noted:

- **Tomlinson property – Peachtree Road between Club and Bellaire Dr - FOLLOW UP\_** – After obtaining approval for the Peachtree Rd access, John Wieland Communities is not meeting with HBNA any more. They have basically shut off communications.
- **3700 Peachtree Rd.** – 12 townhomes are planned on this L shaped lot. There is no access to Vermont. Neighbors have complained it looks like a “war zone” as the developer took out everything completely clearing the lot of trees. They are supposed to reduce water runoff 30% and create a retention solution.
- The current tree ordinance does not seem to be effective at preserving green canopy in the city. Individual homeowners seem to have a larger burden in removing a single tree than a developer has in clearing an entire lot. Cathy Boston will draft a position paper on the issue for HBNA consideration.

## **Events**

Susy Stovin reported:

- The Capital City Club has work scheduled which may require us to move the September board meetings.
- Street party is scheduled for Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Band, BBQ. E. Brookhaven Drive/Davidson/Lakehaven intersection.

## **Communication/Membership**

Mark Roberts needs help with website development. This is a call for volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.