

HBNA Board Meeting Minutes – September 2013

A meeting of the Historic Brookhaven Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, September 11, 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, Sam Levine, Hope Bawcom, Anne Culberson, Melissa Bryson, Carole Simpson, Gay Colyer, Mike Elliott, Lisa Senters-McDermott, Cathy Boston.

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

Executive Committee Reports:

President

Lisa M. gave opening remarks reporting that the Capital City Club has been very supportive of accommodating the HBNA board meetings and that Frank and Lisa have been invited to attend monthly CCC board meetings for updates and to facilitate partnership.

Bates Mattison (City of Brookhaven Council) attended the meeting to provide updates and answer questions regarding the new city of Brookhaven. He communicates with three neighborhood associations in the City of Brookhaven: HBNA, Brookhaven Fields, Lenox Park.

Bates asked the Brookhaven Police Dept. to attend the HBNA board meetings going forward at HBNA's invitation. He also will ask the city's Manager to provide HBNA with NPUB monthly report to keep us apprised of latest events. They are receiving a large load of land disturbance permit requests and are trying to keep to their goal of 10 day turnaround.

He reported the BPD has 54 officers with 4 officers pending hire and 4 civilian employees pending hire. They are trying to maintain a maximum 3 minute response time to all calls. He noted their officers have an average of 11 years of experience and are outfitted with all new equipment.

He noted the city's goal of "cleaning up" Buford Highway with the Apartment Inspection team working collaboratively with apartment owners to conduct code compliance inspections of all apartments, which faced a 6 year backlog, within the next 18 months. They have given apartment owners advance notice and expectations of what the inspectors would be looking for. There is a \$500K block grant available to assist owners with financing any needed improvements.

COB is set to hire their Parks Director October 1st and developing a Parks plan is a high priority for the city.

A transportation plan is also a high priority. There was discussion about the increasing problem at the intersection of Brookhaven Drive and Peachtree. COB doesn't have a point person yet for traffic but has an RFP out for traffic engineering work.

Bates introduced Lt. Branden Gurley, brandon.gurley@brookhavenga.gov the Public Information Officer for BPD. Lt. Gurley gave an update on policing activity and offered to meet with HBNA each month to provide communication and crime stat updates. He also cited stepped up patrolling on Buford Highway, fluid communication with other agencies, neighborhood patrols, seized asset policy, illegal drug use issues (increased meth amphetamine vs. marijuana).

Bates concluded mentioning a Food Truck Rodeo upcoming at Blackburn Park.

Secretary

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

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 and a receipt of \$200 dues for 2014.

Committee Reports:

Zoning-DeKalb

Mike E. reported the site line issues for the Rockhaven area monuments should be resolved. The site for the E. Brookhaven monuments are still being worked out. SunTrust declined funding, Mellow Mushroom, Dunkin Donuts and Hudson Grille may contribute.

Mike E. reported that the “charrette” for the MARTA property is still being scheduled.

Kroger met with DOT, DeKalb County and City of Brookhaven re: several issues with their remodel plan. Lisa and Frank plan to meet with Kroger execs to express concerns from a customer as well as neighborhood perspective. It was again suggested that any 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. Kroger’s position has been that they are doing a remodel already approved by DeKalb and therefore do not need to make major changes.

Zoning-Fulton

Cathy B. reported the 3700 Peachtree Rd property owners are working collaboratively with HBNA Zoning Committee to develop plan that would warrant favorable recommendation from HBNA ZC to the NPU.

Cathy also reported that COA will be patrolling re: sign and setback compliance. She also reminded of the deadline to register alarms with the city.

There was discussion about whether a committee should make a formal recommendation without prior board approval.

Community Maintenance and Enhancement (CME)

The committee has discussed potential solutions to requests for micro park naming rights i.e. possibly allowing permanent plaques at ground level. The committee will come up with a recommendation.

Gay C. noted there were some areas of the neighborhood which potentially needed homeowner attention and the committee suggested mailing encouraging letters to several specific homeowners. A motion was made to mail the letters out. After some discussion about our lack of knowledge of homeowners specific situations, concern about being perceived as heavy handed, lack of enforcement authority, and lack of success of similar letters in the past, the motion failed by a vote of 9 against, 6 for and 1 abstain.

Mike E. received accolades for coordinating a successful Brookhaven Park clean up in August.

HBNA will send out an announcement for the upcoming Roots and Brews Event.

Community Estates Garden Club wants to connect with CME Committee for possible collaboration.

Transportation

Wade M. reported that the Transportation Committee met with Foresite (traffic consulting team) and we are continuing to develop design concepts for the Vermont/Winall Down intersection. Gay C. distributed copies for the Board to review. Howard Shook has asked to meet with the Board for an update and Lisa is scheduling that.

The Brookhaven Moms Club reported another close call at the crosswalk to LNCP. FOLNCP is leading the effort with the city for some improvement at the intersection. They have been told a stop light is not warranted due to low traffic volume on the side street (Winall Down) and they are pursuing other alternatives including a [HAWK Beacon](#).

There has also been a request to have the TC look at the intersection of Peachtree-Dunwoody and W. Club due to the difficulty of exiting left from the neighborhood there.

Increased traffic backing up Brookhaven Drive from Peachtree all the way back to E. Brookhaven was discussed.

Wade noted that the TC still needs to develop a comprehensive list of traffic issues in the neighborhood and prioritize them for future work.

Gay C. successfully ordered signs and they have been installed for the following locations:

- Club Dr. NE/W. Brookhaven Dr. NE
- Davidson Ave. NE/W. Club Lane NE

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

Lisa M. asked that committees make an effort to solicit neighbor represent a balanced viewpoint on issues being considered by the committee. She also requested consideration of communication within a committee being kept between committee members for discussion before being disseminated to neighbors not working on the committee.

Events

Ruth S. has secured two Co-Chairs for Events (Emily Gartland and Christy Campbell) who have committed to coordinating the 2014 Street Party.

Lisa M. reported that the Sip and Soiree party will take place on October 23rd from 6-8pm at CCC. Menus are being finalized (there will be further discussion about quality cheese) and there is likely to be some form of live music along with a kid's area where families can bring their children to watch movies during the party. Verbal commitments have been received from two sponsors totaling \$3,000 in sponsor funding.

Communication/Membership

Mark R. reported invoices are planned to go out in October. There was discussion about including a letter with the invoices appealing for voluntary contributions for specific items like zoning, foundation, etc. After further discussion it was concluded that the invoices would not be changed for this and that any appeals for additional voluntary contributions would be related to a specific need should one arise.

Mark asked for current photos of each board member so they can be included on the HBNA website.

Suzy S. reported progress on merchandise for new members.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

The upcoming election for city council involving Howard Shook was discussed. Howard has previously run unopposed but has two challengers in November both of whom are unknown to HBNA. Howard has a track record of being very responsive to HBNA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.