



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Smith at 7:05pm.

Invocation – There was a moment of silence.

Approval of the Minutes – Scott Smith corrected that guest speaker Barney Simms was not meant to be on the March agenda. Lisa Ridley motioned to approve the March Minutes as amended. John Davis seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 13, No: 0

Police Report - Lt. Steed came to speak about Zone 4 related crimes and statistics. Officer Reece is in charge of Westview's Beat 402. Fourteen new Academy graduates are on foot patrol until they are re-assigned. They are continuing to hire more officers. Zone 4 Precinct: 404-756-1903.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Garden – A 3-year lease was signed for \$3 to rent a lot on South Gordon. The Atlanta Community Foodbank has received a grant where they will help us prepare the land. The lots will be sub-leased for \$25.

Development Planning – The master plan will address zoning, sidewalks, green spaces, and businesses Westview would like to attract. The community planning session will take place May 15. The plan will ultimately be adopted by the City of Atlanta. Neighbors will receive postcards in the mail.

GUEST SPEAKERS

AHA (Barney Simms) – Senior Vice President of the Atlanta Housing Authority, Barney Simms, came to speak about the Housing Choice Program and Section 8. All public housing projects have been torn down and former residents have received training to be moved into neighborhoods. All adults over 18 need to work 30 hours a week or go to school to receive the benefits. Call 1-888-AHA-4YOU 24-hours a day if there is a problem house. AHA does not own any single-family houses. Patrick Berry asked what the AHA is doing to prevent re-concentrated poverty. Mr. Simms said they will not redline communities and do not dictate where Section 8 rentals are offered. Tonyel Stewart asked who created AHA policies. Mr. Simms informed congress writes most of the policies.

Morehouse RTF (Sonya Buchanan) – Morehouse is looking for grants that will benefit the school and neighborhood. They are interviewing community leaders to figure out what the neighborhoods' needs.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Clean-Up April 17 – KIPP STIVE Academy will join forces with Westview residents to do a spring clean-up at 9:00am on Saturday, April 17.

June Cookout – The neighborhood is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2010. The BeltLine has proposed to do a joint event for the opening of the BeltLine trail on June 26. Our events chair, Ayana Gabriel, proposed to have a “taste” event as a fundraiser. Volunteers are needed.

Replacement of Officers (Assistant Treasurer & Assistant Chaplain) – We need to fill the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Chaplain.

1556 Stokes Problem Property – The WCO is working with UCDC’s Pete Hayley to have the owner of 1556 Stokes Avenue deed the property to the community to tear down the house and turn the lot into a community pocket park.

West Fest – Neighboring West End is hosting West Fest. More info: www.atlantawestfest.com. The calendar of events is as follows:

Thursday, May 6: Porch Dinner Night

Friday, May 7: Concert at the Wren’s Nest from 7-10pm featuring Avery Sunshine and Elliot Holden, \$25

Saturday, May 8: Dog Parade at 11am, Festival and Artist Market 11am-6pm, Tour of Homes from 12-6pm, \$15

Sunday, May 9: Tour of Homes from 1-6pm. Combo concert and tour tickets are \$35.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Creek Runoff – There was concern about creek water runoff and standing water on Westmeath. Patrick Berry will inform the community’s Watershed Management contact.

1640 Rogers – The house is dilapidated and the roof is falling in.

437 Westmeath – The house appears to be a rehab or assisted living house.

Dues - \$5 per family per month or \$2 per senior citizen family per month. Dues can be also be paid by credit card/PayPal at www.westviewatlanta.com.

\$60.00 of dues were collected by Treasurer Tonyel Stewart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Secretary