



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by President Ayana Gabriel.

The Chaplain, Jamie Fischer, read a prayer.

Approval of the Minutes – the minutes from the January 2014 meeting were submitted and approved. 19 yay, 0 nay.

Vote to change dues amount:

Ayana Gabriel (A): Pulling something up from committee reports because we need a vote for an item. We are going to change the amount of dues. Giving Rebecca Cater a chance to talk about it (membership chair).

Rebecca Cater (R): Membership committee met last year and compared dues to surrounding neighborhood. Felt our annual dues were out of line and make them \$20 for everyone across the board. Seemed to get good feedback. \$60 previously. Most are between \$20 and \$30. And we streamlined it. No other levels of membership. Just \$20 per household. And then realized we needed to vote on that.

A: I actually open the floor for discussion. This is in our bylaws, which is why we need to vote. If everyone is okay we can vote now to change them. It is article 6, section 2. Monthly dues \$5/household/month or \$2 for senior citizens. Rebecca suggested allowing people to pay monthly Feb to November and pay \$2/month. So what we're asking for is a vote to change dues to \$20 annually per household. Reducing the amount per household.

Claudia (C): I so move.

John Davis: Second.

Ayana: Discussion?

Patrick (P): This will change the flow of cash. I'm in favor, but what discussion or thought has been given to adjust for the cash that we'll be losing. It's a third of the previous dues. So there have to be more members that sign up in order to make the budget work.

A: I know the membership group has some initiatives.

R: I think the goal is to make membership more accessible to more people. Maybe people in the past were active participants but hadn't joined. Maybe this will make it more accessible. We've also talked about ways to advertise more, like the newsletter. Discussed trying to make it a big year for membership. So I don't have a good math answer. I'm a bit of an optimist. Not a great answer, but...

A: Any other items for discussion?

A: Can someone repeat the motion.

C: I move that we change the membership dues from \$60 to \$20.

A: Motion carries. 18 yay, 0 nay.

Police/Public Safety: Lt. Steve Zygaj (Z): Zone 4. I run the undercover team in this area. Unmarked cars. We're working plain clothes tonight. Trying to cut down crime. Working burglary. 404-895-5130. Send me a text. That's much easier. That is my city cell phone. Obligated to answer and reply.

?: Don't use it as 911 though. But if you have an area where you think someone is selling drugs or a possible burglary, contact us.

Darrick: All city, or just this area?

Z: Just this area.

Z: In past month our crimes have gone down 227 crimes compared to January 2014. Only 90 crimes last week, which is amazing.

A: Lt., we did have some break-ins that happened recently. I think most people who have more details are here. Some people may not want to talk in front of the group. If you can talk afterwards in the hall that would be good.

Darrick (Da): Are you coming in their place?

Z: I work directly for Maj. Bryant. I'll be the new person that is attending.

Office Segura is the other officer. We're the reactionary arm of the dept. When you have areas of specific concerns and problems, that's where we come in. We're more like a scalpel, vs. just patrolling areas.

Z: We're the guys hitting the warrants. When you see doors getting kicked in it's probably us.

C: At the end of my street, we have guys in ATVs and motorcycles down there. I spoke to one of them and said you aren't supposed to be there, and he kind of said he was sorry.

Z: Dept of beltline is supposed to be handling that. What's your street?

C: Rogers. But I've seen them on the beltline. I called them at the time...and wasn't real thrilled with the response. They said they have a no-chase policy.

Z: There are certain things you can do.

A: So you recommend calling the Beltline unit?

Z: I would say Zone 4. And 911. And Beltline...the more the merrier.

Raynard [ray]: who is over Beltline.

Bryant [br]: Beltline itself is under Comps, and they just changed Majors. Major Martin. He answers to Dep Chief Finley.

br: Zone 4 commander. I'm glad to answer any questions he wasn't able to answer.

?: I had an incident happen. My problem came between 911 and being dispatched to an officer. When officer finally showed up, I was upset. Took too long to get here. He took me to the car and showed me that the breakdown came from 911 getting to him. What are you going to do about that?

br: Give me your info and we'll research it and find out exactly what happened.

Da: I understand there was a break-in today on W. Ontario and some other break-ins about a week or so ago. Wanted to bring that to your attention.

br: We're seeing it. The one we saw today was a little different. The partnership in the eyes with the community calling in and giving us vital information...most of the time that's what solves the problem in the community. The witnesses are vital. All of that is really important in helping us resolve crimes. During winter months we typically see a slight increase. Don't know why. This is what we see. We're also seeing a slight increase in copper thefts. Once new legislation year before, we say it dip down. Now a slight increase. And again, Westview is an older community, and older community has better copper than new communities. Newer homes use a lighter gauge copper. Incident we saw today...they went for property, not a copper theft. We got some guys on top of that. I'm always positive that we're going to have some resolution to it. But we are aware of it.

Da: Speeding. Unfortunately, made the news from a hit and run...well, hitting a child, a young woman. Emerald and West meade...Friday.

br: 3 young ladies, and hit by a car.

Da: Any progress in catching the individual? And I know we're working on speedbumps...but maybe a consistent monitoring of speeding on some of the major streets in teh neighborhood...S. Gordon, Rogers, Westwood.

br: I can show you 3 emails on checkpoints in that community. Want to know why we're picking on this community. We get those. I deal with them. Typically, we can't have checkpoints to address crime. As far as doing the checkpoints...I had my big staff meeting come this Wed. where I put info out to command staff. One of our directives is traffic enforcement. We'll put Westview at the top of the list. Every time we do this I'll get a call and someone complains about getting a ticket. Our officers don't discriminate.

C: Let me ask you to clarify. If you're doing a traffic sweep and you find contraband...

br: We'll enforce the laws. But we can't be stopping people because of that. Has to be for traffic.

John Davis (jd): Do you send officers to the schools?

br: There's an officer there now. At the beginning of the school year we start putting officers in every school.

jd: Did they give information about where people should walk?

br: That's not their purpose...but I understand where you're going. Normally that's done through officer Friendly where they're trying to give people info on how to conduct themselves and be good citizens.

jd: Well, this happens. I wonder if it's the same lady on Westmeathe. If you're walking in the street, you're going to get hurt.

Da: part of the problem is that there are no sidewalks.

jd: But you still don't have to be walking in the street.

br: What we used to do...the team Lt. Zygaj deals with...they used to charge a lot of people with pedestrian in the roadway. Had to change the direction of that team to address bigger fish. But I do understand your concern.

Da: One last thing for me. In terms of speed limit signs. Who do we contact, how can we be effective in getting those...

br: Traffic Engineers. Under public works.

Da: That's just something I noticed just today. On Westwood, I can't recall seeing a speeding sign. We want it enforced. Might be hard to get it enforced.

David Cater (DC): Who does the signs that show how fast someone is going and how much over they're going?

br: There aren't that many. Comes out of special ops. And some communities get them themselves.

DC: Any idea where to get them?

br: No. I can do some research.

Octavia Vogel (O): Someone tried to break in my house, and the city sent me a letter saying it was a false alarm and I would be charged after another one. What do I do about that?

br: Will be through the courts, and you'll be able to dispute them.

A: I've told kids in the street that someone is going to hit them. And I usually get "yes, ma'am", etc. And I was one of those kids. I thought it was cute. Clearly it wasn't cute.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Work Force Housing (Jimmy Lee)** – Sherry Bailey introduced Jimmy Lee. He is attempting to start a business building “panelized housing” intended to be used to attract people in the Atlanta work force to live in the community instead of outside the city. They are focusing on finding empty lots to build in rather than tearing down existing houses. Their goal is to involve the communities and encourage new residents to know their neighbors. They want to create a program for mentoring children and teaching them how to build wealth, that would include having police officers serving as mentors. They want to work with the police union and get more officers to live in the neighborhood. The houses are \$129k - \$159k houses: all 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 2-car garage, landscaping, appliances from Sears, security cameras, fence, lights, security doors. They are working with a bank that can give mortgages to people with a credit score of 580. They plan to build in 7 communities around Atlanta and believe the program can help stop crime. They plan to build an area office in each community and employ 8 people building houses.

Some Westview residents brought up concerns about style and how the houses would fit in with the existing architecture.

No houses have been built yet. Atlanta would be the launch. The goal is to build a minimum of 100 houses in the Atlanta area, and to build a plant here to facilitate that.

They do not have a web site yet.

Treasury Report: Haven't had a lot of activity this past month. There were 2 checks that came in after the statement last time. \$4359.99. Only had three checks paid out for \$600. Claudia asked if the membership committee had discussed membership dues. Octavia and Rebecca (Cater) responded affirmatively.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: John Davis presented his report.
Scan of report on DropBox: WCO\Beautification\2014-01-06.pdf

jd: Not much has been done lately.
12/3/2013: Plants planted in flower bed at Ontario park, and Williard @ S. Gordon street. I know you've seen the beds. They were planted. Weather has taken a toll.

12/5: S. Gordon and Williard
12/12 & 12/13: leaves removed at S. Gordon and Ontario. Ontario Park as well.

12/? 1385 R.D A.
12/19 Leaves removed from the island at Olympic Circle
12/30 trash removed from storefront at 1371 RDA

?: Is there something the community can do?

jd: Give me your name.

Catherine (1542 S. Gordon): I'm new to the community. And I do see you out there. I'll give you my information. And I have sons. When I don't make it, they can.

jd; Be sure to do that, because I'm going to call you.

Development Committee:

P: One quick update. Started with the membership committee, the 3rd Thursday pizza day at Westview Pizza Cafe. Coming up on the 20th. 6:30 to 8. Social gathering to let people get to know each other. A lot of people that came last time are here. Was told by the owner that it was the most successful day they've had since they opened. Hopefully it will continue throughout the year.

Garden Committee:

Abby [ab]: Thanks to Patrick & LB for getting us seeds out of a seed saving program. On 22nd, last Sat of this month, starting at 12. I know it says 10, but some ladies sponsored by this community are in a program ending at 11:30.

On the 22nd, meeting at 1439 S. Gordon (community garden). We'll be there starting seeds, all different kinds of spring and summer fruits and veggie plants. Neighbors with grow lights are going to take them and park them. Please come and join us. It will be our first working day in the garden. Maybe remove some things out of the compost bin and bag up some leaves, transfer them into there. Youth will be out there. They love to have the neighbors join to see what they're doing as well.

DC: Can you pay on paypal on the web site yet?

R: Yes, it has been updated.

A: Any questions for garden or development?

No questions.

Membership Committee:

A: Newsletter?

R: We know everyone doesn't have ready access to the yahoo group. While we can't send out a newsletter every 10 days...we want to reinvigorate the newsletter. A paper copy delivered to the door. Updating committee reports for people that can't make it. Sharing information, contact information with the neighborhood, important phone numbers, and things like that. In order to make that successful, we need lots of volunteers that would be willing to pass out newsletters. Try to make that less cumbersome. Try to publish this month, and get it out by the end of this month. If you're willing to take 20, 25, 50 and at least around your home pass out the newsletter, put it at the door, that will bring more information. Hopefully will encourage more membership. If that is something you're interested in doing, give me info after the meeting.

Joh Perdeu: When do you hope they'll be available?

R: I'm hoping 2/24. Maybe earlier.

Pat: There was a list of block captains. Do you have that?

R: Yes.

Pat: Makes it easier if you give them to block captains in that neighborhood. Then they can be responsible for organization. That's something we were working on at some point. A way of organizing the community. And if people can come to the Solstice, make people aware that the Solstice is coming up, and that we want as many people coming out as possible. Maybe a contest that gets people involved. So many other people we've met that want to become involved. But they don't know what they can do. And it's a matter of everyone in this room reaching out. If we did that I think we would get a lot of people. There's one lady I want every one to know. Mary Nellon. On Stokes. 82. Every day she feeds people in this community. She needs bologna...she feeds from 15 and above every day. We've got some great people in this community, and we can make it one of the best. If you have bologna, paper cups (16ozs), bread, mayonnaise...lives right next to church. Opposite side of Jamie. Lives right behind the church. RDA down Stokes, big Higher Hope church, and then she's the first house on the other side.

?: She and I and Ms. Barnes used to feed the homeless person.

Pat: Mary Nellon. She uses dressing rather than mayonnaise because it's expensive. Marinades. She's feeding them sandwiches. Wherever she's getting stuff, this is our community. And we're responsible. The more we give, the less people will break in. The more we can do, the better the community. That's my point. I do know she's feeding people. Hands off and hats off to this lady.

A: Just a couple of minutes. Towards the aspect of us knowing each other. Teacher wants to do a quick mixer. Here are the directions. Need 100% participation. Find someone who lives on a different street than you or someone who is a guest. If you can, just introduce yourself, street you live on, etc. Find out something interesting. In the meantime, membership committee has provided some chocolate banana nut bread.

Pat: Are there any new people in the room? Please have them stand up.

DC: How many people are not on the Yahoo group?

7 people raised their hand.

DC: How many people do not have internet access so can't get on it?

2 people.

Safety Committee:

Da: I'm Da, safety chair for the neighborhood. If you're interested in talking further after the meeting, I'm open and around. Let's continue to look out for our neighbors. I think that will help at least reduce crime and help to add pressure against things that none of us want in this neighborhood. I wanted to thank the young kids to for coming out.

Ray: I have a quick question. I know there is info that comes through the Westview Yahoo group. But not everyone may have availability. Could you go through some of the things...? I know there were people knocking on doors trying to sell vaccuum cleaners. Maybe people that don't have access might want to bring stuff up.

A: Da?

Da: Maybe about a week or so ago there were individuals knocking on doors. Someone talked to them through the door. They were selling vaccuum cleaners. First and foremost...if you're not expecting someone, tell them to elave. If they don't leave, call 911. My personal belief is that if you have someone to protect yourself, then if they enter do what you need to do. But if someone just pops up at your house, and you don't feel comfortable in your gut, call 911. Don't open the door.

?: There was a car...the girl was trying to sell paper towels...

DC: Giving away paper towels.

P: That is a legitimate company.

Youth Outreach:

Jayme (Ja): Haven't met this year yet. We will be soon. Could Abby describe the program?

Ab: A couple of weeks ago, Daryl from outdoor center, he has a young lady Mona Scott has a program called BUilding Character Through Expression. Last SA of Month from 10 till 11:30, bring young ladies together to do workshops, Arts and Crafts, cooking, etc. to build girls' self-esteem. Down home training for young ladies. Perdews do a lot of stuff with boys. Asked people to sponsor the kids. Some neighbors came through and we were able to get them sponsored. Only 4 Saturdays, but small things can have a big impact.

Ja: We can give an overview i another meeting about our plans for the year. Last year WCO sponsored a week in the summer. There is a youth group that meets on Tuesday and Thursday, a spiritual empowerment group, and we can share morem information for parents that have children of that age. We wil have more information later.

R: The program...will it recur? or is it just the beginning of this year?

Ab: I think it's all about how many girls she got. I think she got 7 girls. I'll tell her we're interested in seeing this continue, and we'll be willing to support it.

Ja: Another thing I'd like to acknowledge. During December there were several neighbors who donated gifts to children in the community. Have they all been distributed?

Pat Perdew They have all been distributed.

Ja: Thank you to the Perdews and O for setting up the angel tree at the Big Apple Inn.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Committee:

No reps present.

MEET AND GREET

A: Okay, start meeting people.

New people:

- Tammy. Live next door to Claudia. Thank you for making me feel welcome.
- Catherine: Maybe 6 months in. Been renovating for a year. S. Gordon. Came out of Cobb Community. My house has been broken into. Roommate is Christine. Michael is son. Keenan is my grandson. 13 grandkids. 4 adult sons and one daughter. Glad to be back in City of Atlanta. Been in Cobb all my life, but my relatives raised here. Decided to come back to my roots. Want to make this work.
- John. I've come out here a couple of times. I know Mike on Rogers. Just coming out to see what's going on. Also been on P & LB's web site. I am considering moving into the neighborhood. Da: **strongly** considering.
- Justin Jones. Philosophy major at Morris Brown college. Wanted to interact with the people in the community.
- Joe and Natalie. Da: Wanted to introduce them. Joe is looking for a notary. Pat: I think Da Da Beecher is a notary. Catherine: I am one.

Da: I want to also make sure everyone knew about the mixer at Westview pizza cafe. It is here and it's open. 2/20, third Thursday, 6:30 till 8.

A: Thank you everyone. Close with a prayer.

ja: Since we have children here, and talked about youth needing our support, I would like to close with a prayer for children.

Meeting adjourned: 2/3/2014 8:08:24 PM