



**Westview Community Organization  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 7:04PM by President Ayana Gabriel.

**Invocation**

Jamie (Chaplain) isn't here. No invocation today. Moment of silence instead.

**Approval of Minutes**

Note: Ayana has been unable to find the July minutes. She will be working with tech support to try to find them.

Ken motioned to approve minutes. No discussion. Patrick seconded. 18 yae. None opposed. No abstentions. August minutes approved.

**Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

**New Business**

- Presentation from Ms. Deborah Hood from one of the institutions at Morehouse. She is discussing a jobs program. Her group created the STEM program for the camp. One of the new programs is the Job Seekers club. To assist, advise and support individuals in the West End community who are unemployed or underemployed. There are a lot of resources that aren't being used. Their goal is to show people what resources are available. For example:
  - Writing a resume
  - Uploading a resume
  - Computer skills
  - Learning how to speak at an interview

Have created a manual and a web site with the information, and we would like to share that information. Not promising a job. You can help us by helping get the word out. We can send Deborah information about anyone that needs help. She is leaving flyers and a sign-in sheet. Launch date will be sometime in the middle of October.

One possible function we can provide is to bring our group to a meeting that you host.

Ayana asked if her group could come out to an event in the community (for example, a clean-up day). Sort of a mini-fair. She said they absolutely would do that.

Pat Perdue mentioned a computer center that is already in place. Apparently there is a center on Lowery, under Arthur Blank, but they are only servicing people in their community. So it wouldn't apply to Westview. There are certain zip codes it applies to. Westside Works.

- The WCO is creating a new committee: the business committee. The goal is to have one of the business owners head that committee and become part of the WCO. Ayana will be bringing that to the next community meeting for a vote. Right now we don't have a formal connection with the businesses, and we believe there are opportunities we could be missing out on. For example, there are certain functions when working with the city that would be best handled by a business association, which Westview doesn't have.

**Treasurer's Report**

Claudia was unable to be here tonight. She reported to Ayana that there are no updates for the treasury. The previous balance from August was \$1962.45.

## **Committee Reports**

### **BEAUTIFICATION**

John: see DropBox for a scan of the specific items that John did.

### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/SPECIAL EVENTS**

Ken:

- National Night Out - Thank you to everyone who helped.
- Westview Splash - It was fantastic that day. Beautiful sunny day.
- Quarterly meeting this Thursday. This is where we talk about what we want to have in the community for the next 4 months.

525 Westmeath Drive  
From 7:00pm until 8:00pm  
404-788-3431  
[kenscarey@yahoo.com](mailto:kenscarey@yahoo.com)

### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Steffi Langer-Berry: 4 announcements.

- Tomorrow night is the Infrastructure Bond meeting. At Atlanta Metro College. 1630 Metropolitan Parkway. 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Since the last meeting, the next goal is for them to come up with the list of projects. Hopefully tomorrow we'll see items from Westview on there. Ayana, Darrick, Patrick and myself also had a meeting at City Hall to push the issue. They didn't want to share any projects with us at that time. Rebecca has t-shirts here that people can use. There are various people going that can provide rides if you need one.

Questions:

- How do you separate and stop duplication of work if you have an infrastructure bond action, and then you have the sidewalk initiative that's going on. (The commission to try to get the city to handle the sidewalks). Councilmember Norwood is working on legislation that would make the city responsible. Citizens have fought with the city for many, many years. If that goes through, the infrastructure bond is essentially the money they would use to provide the sidewalks.
- Another issue about streetcars that are being discussed. We don't see any conflict between that discussion and the items we would like to see addressed by the infrastructure bond.
- Another question: concerned about whether any improvements are directly tied to the Beltline. None of the money from the bond is for the Beltline, and the construction is physically separated.
- What is on your proposal? Patrick listed the three major improvement projects that we are requesting from the Westview Master Plan, plus residential sidewalks.

Ayana Gabriel mentioned the master plan, and asked people to talk to Patrick about the link to get to it online.

- Getting our neighborhood on the national register. That application has been submitted. We got initial feedback from the office to provide answers to additional questions. We're working on that.
- Yasim's on RDA is presumably going to turn into a CookOut restaurant. This will be discussed at the NPU-T meeting on Wednesday.
- Love Your Block grant application that we submitted did not get accepted

### **GARDEN COMMITTEE**

Every Saturday morning from 10 till 2 people work in the community garden. 1439 S. Gordon.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Rebecca Cater: We met our goal to have 50 members. We have reset a goal for 100 members for 2014. Membership supports garden, Solstice, etc. and all the other things we do. We are also sharing t-shirts and stickers as fundraisers for events that happen in the neighborhood. Membership also produces and distributes the newsletter. If you interested in distributing, that's the hardest part and we could use volunteers.

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **Police/Public Safety**

Darrick Young: Be mindful of what you leave in your cars. My car was broken into last week. On a positive note, we are working in conjunction with the events committee and the garden committee to prepare a movie night. Either at the garden or at the Stokes pocket park. Still trying to hash out the date. Probably 6-ish on a Friday or Saturday.

### **Officer from Zone 4**

Lt. J Ellis. Morning watch commander for Zone 4.

Zone 4 is having a big problem with vandalism. People aren't really stealing something. So be mindful.

See Something/Say Something. This is huge. Zone may be getting a little bit bigger. He believes the city council has control over that. If you see something, call 911.

Getting a new beat officer. We got some more folks, some folks quit. They should be coming next Friday. I will bring him/her around next month.

Racing bikes. See the article in Creative Loafing. We have a no-pursuit policy.

Pandhandling. Someone complained about that by the freeway. They made an arrest recently.

### Questions:

- Speaking of car break-ins: ~4 people in our neighborhood had break-ins. Our understanding was that someone was caught in the act. Was that someone from the community? Don't know.
- At the corner of Holderness and RDA, there was a house with a tile roof. Do you know what happened? He said fire departments can condemn houses in an emergency like that.
- Ferguson. We've seen what's going on with the police. We know the city council has passed an ordinance to explore the possibility of putting body cameras on officers. What discussions are you having in Zone 4? The officer says he thinks his guys do a good job (42). Few courtesy complaints. Zone 4 tests cameras. We have the car cameras. Tested three: shoulder mount, box on the torso, on the cameras. Zone 4 and the airport were the test areas. Has helped with fraudulent complaints. Has also helped with complaints between two parties, to help resolve he-said/she-said situations.

Follow-up: So you don't feel there is racial profiling going on? Patrick said he feels like as a white person he gets different treatment. The officer says he doesn't believe so. Tickets are based on probable cause.

- We have people working on cars in the public street yard behind DEAL\$. And they leave their trash there.
- Do we call about kids playing basketball in the street? You can. It will be a low priority call. It is against the law. It is also not legal for the goals to be in the street.

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Ms. Pat: This is the only committee I've lived in where there is absolutely nothing for our children. We've talked about creating an area for them to play in. That's something we need to look at.

- David, Ayana, Octavia, Abbey worked on a grant for next summer for the children. We just had a two-week program in July. We had about 15 children coming. Someone donated 10 bikes for the children.
- Some of our children will be going on a retreat this week with the students from Gordon College.

- The youth will be sponsoring a breakfast for the elderly in this community. We will be taping the stories of the people that lived in this community for a while.
- We had from Washington, Brown and Connelly: Morehouse helped our children write an essay: What do I like/dislike about my community? We have the winners. Sometime between now and Christmas, we would like to have a special occasion where the winners of the essay contest will get monetary awards and other certificates. We would also like to sponsor a pizza party. We had about 40 kids participate.
- We need to become involved with our schools. We need a representative from the neighborhood, particularly one with a child at the school, so you can report back what's going on in the school. Also, if there are kids having issues like playing basketball in the street, we want to be involved.
- The John Perdew Legacy Project: Every Wednesday in conjunction with Pathways Church, from 11 till 1 we feed the community. This gives us a contact with the community to find out their needs and concerns in addition to feeding them.
- We are looking at every month having something for the children. Next month we are thinking about a pizza party at Westview Pizza. In the future, perhaps a movie.

## **ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Committee head isn't here. Are there any zone/enforcement issues to bring to the group?

- A suggestion to check out an article in the AJC from 9/4/14 about issues related to code enforcement problems.
- Patrick asked Sherry for an update on the Beecher house. Sherry thought it should have happened already. 1535 Beecher.

Ayana informed the group about the Code Enforcement summit that she went to. Nothing new for most of the people there, except that people have created a Code Enforcement Commission. This is supposed to be the chance to do something different. At that time, all of the people on the committee were from the city or the county. Various neighbors were very vocal about the fact that that might not be the best strategy, and suggested they get some community representatives, reach out to GA Tech/GA State for experts on these issues, etc. They did move forward on creating community streets. Someone from West End is in there. People from Westview are talking to them as well.

Ayana said a few people (including her) have started a code enforcement campaign, including a video documentation campaign. A social media campaign. Hoping that will bring some notice. See Ayana if you want to get involved.

Ayana apologized for going over time.

## **Community Concerns/Questions/Announcements**

- Yoga in the park has started on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm. If it's raining, then things change. Tomorrow is early because of the bond meeting: 4:00pm at Sherry's house.
- Membership meeting has been cancelled for tomorrow night.
- Ron Shakir got up to speak. He likes the spirit of the meeting from what he's seen. He discussed his concerns regarding bringing in people from GA Tech, GA State, Emory, and how our policy concerns end up getting ignored. He is concerned about bonds, streetcar, sidewalk development, because there are authorities that operate on their own without much oversight. He is also concerned about the impact of the displacement of existing people in these neighborhoods.
- Ayana asked people who are new to introduce themselves.
  - Mark and Kiomi. The Good Hair Shop. On MLK Drive. 10 til 7 (Wed through Saturday).
  - A representative from the large church on RDA came in. They want to get involved in the community. Their church feeds on Sunday at 10:45am, and feed people immediately after the service. 404-867-3723 if you need anything and want to partner up with the church. Pat Perdew asked if they have a tutorial program, and they do not have that yet.
- Keitra announced business luncheons on Wednesdays. From 12 till 4. Free WiFi. 10% off.

## **Action Items**

- When we have a special event, someone needs to contact Deborah Hood about coming out to the event to meet people that might have job needs.
- Add Yoga in the Park to the upcoming events list.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26:00 PM.