



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2014**

10/6/2014

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM by President Ayana Gabriel.

Invocation

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

Approval of Minutes

No discussion. Motioned and seconded. 18 yay. None opposed. September minutes approved.

Old Business

Ayana: Adding a business committee to Westview Executive Committee. No formal structure for two-way communication with businesses. Postponing the meeting until November.

Keitra spoke briefly about the Westview Pizza Cafe.

New Business

Old Fire Station 17 sale

Patrick Berry providing background. First discussed the purpose of the development committee, the fact that the Beltline is coming, etc. Developers are interested in the community and bringing money in. As a community we need to make sure we're steering the process. The fire station was Cascade House. Transitional housing facility for 5 families. Our community often donated to them around the holidays. Run by the YWCA. Cost \$250k per year for them to run. Last year only raised \$25k, so in January they made the decision to close the shelter.

At that point the fire station was not in use. The city is trying to sell assets they don't need. A developer was selected with the highest bid. Has not closed on the property yet.

Then the homeless shelter at Peachtree and Pine had issues with their water bill. The city refunded the developer's deposit and said they wouldn't tell him why. The development committee got active and found out they were planning on using that for a 75-bed shelter for women and children. The community is not opposed to having shelters in the community or women and children. What we saw as the development committee was a development opportunity that was being taken away in favor of an opportunity in another neighborhood. Unbalanced development is a long-standing issue in this city. So we pushed against the city. Made it very clear we are not opposed to shelters in our community.

Found out that they are going to allow the sale to go forward. But they asked the community to work with the city on finding another place for a shelter in Westview.

A general discussion followed about the potential use of the fire station as a shelter and the way the city handled the process. The general tone of the discussion was that the city had not handled the situation transparently or communicated well, and that Westview was not an appropriate neighborhood for a shelter. Further discussion is planned. Further notes on the conversation are available on the Westview DropBox folder (file name: WCO\Meetings\WCO minutes\2014\2014-10-06-minutes - Fire Station Conversation.docx). Those notes have been removed from this document to keep the minutes succinct.

Officer from Zone 4

Sgt. Jaquawyn Smith: Sector north of Cascade and down to MLK. That sergeant. Stepping in for Lt. Ellis. We work overnight over the morning watch hours. Hopefully keep most of ya'll safe. One of the initiatives we started working on is an overlap. Officers work on a 10-hour shift. We try to have those extra officers that we do have an employ them into hot spots, hot neighborhoods from stats we've gotten the week before. Do field investigations, traffic sweeps, etc. Have been coming up with a lot of individuals that are unwanted in the neighborhood.

- Have served 99 warrants in the past month.
- 99 traffic tickets

None of the part 1 crimes like homicide, rape, robbery, burglary non-residents have happened in the past month. I at least want to tell you that since I've been here, I've personally selected the officers from a pool of officers because they are go-getters, high-integrity. Looking behind the scenes, working with crime analysts.

jdsmith@atlantaga.gov

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Ms. Pat Perdeu: Neighborhood Fund Grant. We had a STEM program this past summer. Most of it came out of our pocket. We wrote a proposal. We made it to the second round. They will be doing a site visit this coming Wednesday.

David spoke about the grant, the importance of the site visit, etc.

Jomo Williams spoke briefly about his appreciation for the community.

There was a suggestion that people wear their Westview shirts.

Pat: There are a lot of things going on in the community. We need people to volunteer. And there is nothing for the children. I'm a veteran of the civil rights movement. And I don't want to think that things we did, that we aren't carrying that on. We must have someone in the school system that reports back to the committee. And our boys are not thugs; we need to be very careful with how we label our children. Every day children come to our house and need something to do. We give them money. Next summer we want to make sure there isn't a child walking the streets with nothing to do. We need to create a space for children to do something. And there are several things going on. Every Wednesday at Pathways we feed people from 11:30am to 1:00pm. 1517 Ralph David Abernathy. We're telling them "we're here for you". We were able to direct someone to get help for a mental health issue. We're about to start a GED program, because we found 10 people to participate.

Jomo: Something else we started was Resource Wednesday. After feeding people, resource people are there talking about what resources they have that they can provide. Math Tutoring at 12:30, for example. We're considering using that place as a resource center for the neighborhood as well.

Pat: Also, next month, November 1st, we'll be having an elderly mothers lunch. Getting young mothers and elderly mothers together to being mentoring them, supporting them, talking to them.

Gloria: I would like to know if there's a way to get together, different communities, and get representatives from different communities together. We meet second Tuesday of every month at Providence.

Claiborne: SW Community United needs to happen.

April Kohel: Representing Capitol View and Capitol View Manor: We're up for that too.

Treasurer's Report

Claudia was unable to be here tonight. The account balance for Westview Community is \$2386.91. Her full report was sent in email to the executive committee.

Committee Reports

BEAUTIFICATION

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

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Ken had to leave. At the bottom of the agenda, under important dates, you'll see important upcoming events. The Pathways feeding, the lunch for mothers will be on November 1st, location TBA. This Wednesday, if you would like to come to the site visit, that is at 1606 S. Gordon, and we ask you to be there at 5:30.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Steffi: October 9th: The Beltline is hosting another meeting. It's at the training center. Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00. With the results of the alignment of the transit.

Claiborne: The alignment is not set in stone, but it's getting there. Until they get their grants. They had to have a specific idea of what was going to be request before they could write the grants.

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Two announcements from Abbey:

- Books and Breakfast for donations to Ferguson. She'll be sending them October 15th. Abbey's email: kadeyannah79@gmail.com. 404-914-4682.
- October 18th (not on the agenda): Movie Screening in the Garden. But we need to double check on that.

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Rebecca Cater: If you're interested in joining, membership is \$20. If you want to get membership, t-shirt and sticker you can save \$4. Fall special. And if you want to be on the committee, contact me. rebfafe317@gmail.com.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Police/Public Safety

Darrick Young: Wanted to reiterate the screening on the 18th. Plan is 6 to 9 at the community garden.

ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Jomo: Want to clean some things up in the neighborhood. I haven't done the job I wanted to do. I don't want to resign, so I want to ask for assistance. I don't have anything to update. If you have anything you need to report.

Sherry: I have been helping as well. 1535 Beecher came down today. It is finally gone. No more prostitution, drug dealing, vagrants living there.

Jomo: I do want to acknowledge Sherry's work.

Ayana: Called for people to help with Development and Code Enforcement, because when it comes down to bricks and mortar, those are the two committees that really make a difference.

Ron Shakir: I'm a member of concerned black clergy. We've been mentioning that store there for a while. There is trafficking going on. When we talk about quality of life, we need to ask what the city is doing.

Community Concerns/Questions/Announcements

- Claiborne: Thank you for being a voice who spread information that needed to be spread.
- David: Thank you to Patrick and Steffi for making this known.

- Steven Bailey: I would like to propose that the WCO undertake a census of the people that live in the community. We have a lot of people who have needs that don't come to meetings. That don't have phones. We have a lot of youth that are transient through the community that we can get a better lead on. Then we have problems that we can perhaps identify and get a better lead on. So the problems of the community can be targeted in a rational way.

Pat: That's what we're trying to do. But that requires people and volunteers. Identifying the problems in the community, who is in the community, etc. The children will be taking their stories. So we need some more people to come and help. We need to be working on festival for next year.

Tamara Cammack (teammac@gmail.com): I work with a non-profit, so if you need a template for the survey, we can provide that.

Action Items

- Discuss the proposal to do a census of the people and needs in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48:00 PM.