



Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2015

6/1/2015

Ayana Gabriel (President) opened the meeting at 7:09 PM

In attendance: 34

Main Meeting

Invocation

Skipping the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Kyiom motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Jacinta seconded. 20 ayes, no abstentions or nays.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

- Kate from Trees Atlanta. Adult Education Manager. Conducts workshops and works on getting people excited. Mission is to protect the urban forest:
 - Planting back new trees. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, I encourage you to fill out contact info.
 - Preserving existing trees.
 - Educating.

She has materials, and a business card. She suggests handing out the resources to neighbors, including the pamphlet on English Ivy.

New walking tour coming to SW Atlanta Beltline. Wants us to help pilot this.

Kate Baltzell
Education Coordinator
kateb@treesatlanta.org
www.treesatlanta.org
225 Chester Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30316
404-681-4897

- Presidential Update - Ayana is stepping down as president at the end of this month. The reason is that she feels the need to take more personal time. Ayana will be on a sabbatical until the end of the year.

Ayana provided some copies of the bylaws for people to reference.

"Section 8. Should any position become available prior to the regularly held elections, the position will be filled by special election held amongst the Executive Committee (see Article VII, Section 1 for details regarding the Executive Committee), two-thirds of which must be present for the election to be valid."

The plan is for the June EC meeting to be public. Ayana is trying to work with Kipp. Two possible dates are 6/24/15 or 6/30/15.

Article 7, section 1: Gives the duties of the officer.

Under Elections, it indicates elections will be held in December. The bylaws aren't clear on who can run for president. Section 7 says officers must be residents, and "voting members", but there are no stipulations on who is a voting member. So any resident can run for president.

Two ways you can indicate if you are interested in running for president:

- info@westviewatlanta.com - Send email
- Call Darrick Young: 314-435-9088

The deadline for registering your desire to be president is 6/21.

Treasurer's Report

Kendal Carey - We have money. For now we should not incur any more expenses until after the Summer Solstice.

Someone asked about expenses we incur:

- John on the beautification
- Newsletter
- The garden normally has significant expenses
- The youth program
- Solstice costs money to put on

Kyiomis says she was hoping to have neighborhood kids pick up trash during the Solstice and pay them for that.

Ayana noted that the Solstice has traditionally cost around \$1500.

Police / Public Safety

Sgt. Hubbard - Evening watch shift supervisor. Stepping in for Lt. Hunt. Here to get any concerns or issues.

Crime report:

- Homicide: No increase.
- Rape : no increase
- Robbery: No increase
- Ag Assault: 1 more (4)
- Larceny from vehicles : 12 this year vs 2 in 2014
- Larceny not from vehicles: 7 this year vs. 4 in 2014
- No vehicle thefts this month.

Going to be putting more visibility on areas where there is more crime. The hope is to push the crime over more into Fulton County.

Have made some arrests:

- Robbery
- Assault
- Burglary
- Larceny from Auto
- 4 Larceny (other)
- 11 narcotic arrests

- 21 part II crimes (less serious than felonies)
- 27 quality of life crime arrests
- 3 citations issued for housing code
- 7 arrest warrants served

Any issues or concerns?

J Scott: How does the number of officers in the field for Zone 4 compare to this period in 2014?

Sgt. Hubbard: It evens out. They come and go.

?: There's a situation in the neighborhood regarding dogs getting off leashes. Is there a way to put up posters or something so that we can notify people about what the new law is concerning leaving dogs tethered when you're not at home?

He is going to take that feedback back to his department.

Michelle: Someone asked again about speeding in the neighborhood, particularly on S. Gordon.

Ayana: We had a radar sign up that shows your speed on Rogers for about 8 weeks. That was a significant improvement. If there is any way to get those signs up during the summer, in particular, when the kids are out of school, that would be really good.

He nodded.

Abbey: Is there any type of initiative...

Sgt. Hubbard: The judges and agencies have gotten together to try to come with an alternative to help the people get on a different path when they are released. They are working on coming up with a solution, but it takes time.

Abbey: Can we get any more specifics?

Sgt. Hubbard: I can't comment on that. The judges are the power. We just try to do what we can to make you safe. Our higher echelon is meeting with them and voicing their concerns, but it's up to them to decide when they're going to complete something.

Abbey: How many programs, what other agencies are you working with?

Sgt. Hubbard: The ones taht border the city. Fulton Co Sherrif, Fulton County PD, FULTon County judicial (magistrate, superior courts). All of those entities are working together.

Abbey: Anyone working with drug & alcohol programs, workforce programs, etc.?

Sgt. Hubbard: I don't know; the higher echelons talk to them.

Abbey: A lot of people I've spoken with say that they aren't happy with the fact that the only solution is simply arrests. We are very, very concerned about that. If the next person they send could address that specifically, I would appreciate that.

Ayana: I will add that to the agenda. There's someone here from the state senator's office. Does she have any information?

Gloria Smith from Pat Gardner's office. Abbey asked how hard we are working on programs that deal with the underlying issues of crime. Mental health, drug & alcohol...are there more holistic approaches beyond simply making arrests.

Gloria said there aren't any that she knows of, but she can check with Pat's office and report back.

Committee Reports

Beautification

John gave his report. The report has been uploaded to DropBox.

Business Committee

Keitra had to step out (not feeling well).

- First Saturday of each month at 10am at D's Cafe for breakfast. Support your neighborhood.
- Barbershop 3 facades: whatever it looks like now is how they're going to stay. Kyiomi encouraged people to keep up the foot traffic that was there during Barbershop 3!

Community Affairs/ Special Events

Bruce Jomo Williams is not present.

Development

Development co-chairs (Patrick Berry and Steffi Langer-Berry) are not present.

Garden

Abiodun "Abbey" Henderson
404-914-4682

Still haven't gotten the paperwork back from the FDIC to close on the property. Sherry Bailey is our real estate agent on that. She is in contact with them to try to speed up the process. We have a chance to join with Habersha. They have an urban farmers training program. "Extreme Green Garden Makeover". Their trainees would come to the garden and it would get rebuilt. They would be able to work with the campers as well. We can't move forward with that until we know we have permission to do that, or if we can close before June 10th. We are trusting the process, but we also have a form letter that you can send out to put pressure on the FDIC.

We have also been working in Stokes Park with Ms. Pippy. We're doing this every Saturday.

Also, we have a GoFundMe campaign for the garden. The link is on there on the Westview Neighbor's Facebook page. 8 families in the neighborhood have said they would contribute \$1000 each. We need money to pay them back and to build the garden back. That form letter, by the way, also encourages the FDIC to pay us money back for what they destroyed. Garden beds, picnic tables, etc. It's GoFundMe Westview Garden. So far we have only raised \$100.

Membership

Rebecca Cater is not present.
678-350-6927
rebfafe317@gmail.com

Update from Rebecca via email:

Membership is \$20. We currently have 35 members. Goal is 100 members.

Newsletters are being delivered. We have ads in this month's newsletters. The next newsletter comes out in late July.

Please Join! And remember to sign in! You can give money to the treasurer this evening if you want to join.

If you are interested in more information about:

- Membership
- Writing an article for the newsletter (welcome a new neighbor, neighbor spotlight, garden tips, neighborhood events, etc)
- Delivering newsletters to Mathewson, Wellington, or Laurel streets. Right now they will not get newsletters.
- If you want to be a Newsletter assistant contact Rebecca Cater at 678-350-6927

If you have extra newsletters from your route, please give them to David Cater.

Motion to extend the meeting until 8:30pm - J Scott. Kyoimi seconded. 21 ayes, none opposed, no abstentions.

Public Safety

Darrick Young
314-435-9088
darrickyoung2004@yahoo.com

Remind everyone to get to know your neighbors.

J Scott: Anyone know why the ice cream truck is going by at 11pm at night?

Michael Jones said there were kids buying ice cream.

Crime Prevention Unit

Another office is here and gave his contact information:

Wellington D. Clarke
Crime Prevention Inspector
Atlanta Police Department, zone 4
1125 Cascade Circle, SW
Atlanta, GA 30311

404-546-5575
Fax: 404-546-9236
wedclarke@atlantaga.gov

Contact him for anything related to community watch, community policing issues, etc. The Neighborhood Watch training has changed. They added more this year. To be a certified neighborhood watch, you have to accumulate points. 50 points for the regular community, 20 or 25 for a senior community. You have to attend training during the year. We just had one in March. There will be another one this month or next month. It will be like an expo. There are a lot of communities where the signs are up but the community isn't active in the Neighborhood Watch program. It's very important for the community to be engaged. I had a neighbor who watched a home being broken into for 30 minutes. You should know your neighbors and their cars.

Darrick asked about the point system. It's based on community cleanup, social event, block party. There is a list of things you can do as a community.

Michael Jones: Asked about the benefit of the point system.

Clarke: It starts with you. The points is to make sure you get involved. Without that, the neighborhood watch would usually go down because there wasn't much community involvement.

Youth

Catherine Aaron is not here.
678-508-5547

Octavia is giving her report. They are preparing a parent orientation on June 14th. Location and time forthcoming. 15 kids that are registered for the camp. Shooting for 50. The camp dates are 6/29 through 7/24. The ages are 8 to 18 (although we are taking younger).

Calvary UMC is providing free lunch from June 1st to July 31st. Rev Kimberlyn Sinkfield, Pastor: 404-753-8151. 11:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. Location: Cavalry UMC, 1471 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. Ages: Pre-K through 18 years old. This is in cooperation with the

Abbey noted that we have a bus available once a month and they are taking kids to a garden space. If you know of a family with kids, I would love for you to give me a call and let me know so I can go talk to them and see if they want to get involved.

Solstice Festival

Kyiom: Note that Sgt Hubbard is going to be our officer for the Solstice. It is on June 20th. Please talk to your neighbors about it to make sure they know about the event. We would love people to bring a chair, a cooler, a blanket. It's going to be in the Westview Village. We have until next Friday to have people enter the grill competition or become a vendor. They can go onto the <http://www.westviewatlanta.com> web site to become a vendor. It is from 11am until 8pm.

Gloria: Any particular reason why it changed from Muze to Westview Village?

Kyiom: The feedback we got was that you really had to know it was on Muze to know it was happening. And this way it's very clear that it's Westview.

Ayana: Huge shout out to Kyiom. It's a massive thing to run that. The longterm vision is for this to be like Candler Park festival. So moving it to RDA is a huge step forward along that plan.

Kyiom: And thank you to Ayana for arranging this with GA DOT.

Zoning and Code Enforcement

No chairperson for this committee.

Community Concerns/Questions/Announcements

New people introduce themselves.

- Louis Holiday - Lives on Wellington St. Since I've moved here, the recycling company has never come down my street until I call 311.

Darrick suggested that you ask to speak to the supervisor of whichever department you're calling. There are important numbers on the Westview Newsletter typically.

- Michelle on Olympian: I would encourage us to be more efficient in the meetings; seems like we always have to take time to have a vote to extend the meetings.
- Abbey : Fridays using Pathways as a food distribution site for families that are in need. If you know of a family that needs fresh vegetables, let me know. If anyone can help with distribution, that would also be good. We are also taking donations of clothing. We are also trying to support young mothers who are so stressed.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Pathways to a Better Community (PAC) - Wednesday, Weekly Free lunch from 11:30 - 1pm
- June 20, 3 pm Summer Solstice
- June 29 – July 24 Westview STEAM Camp

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Contact Information

www.westviewatlanta.com

Frequently Called Numbers:

- Zone 4 Police: 404-756-1903

- Pothole Posse: 404-768-4653
- Code Enforcement: 404-330-6190
- Sanitation: 404-330-6333
- Tax Assessor: 404-612-6440
- Watershed Mgmt: 404-658-6500
- Major Vince Moore: vmoores@atlantaga.gov
- Pastor Willie Clyde from Pathways: 404-274-1810