



**Westview Community Organization  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2015**

8/3/2015

Octavia Vogel (President) opened the meeting at 7:11 PM

In attendance: 44

**Main Meeting**

Invocation

Skip the invocation (no chaplain).

Approval of Minutes

Eric motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Rebecca seconded. 16 ayes, no abstentions or nays.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

*Northside Drive Study.*

GA DOT here for a presentation. Marisia Robinson. Doing a study to see what kinds of improvements can be done along Northside Dr, and if there's any way to connect to I-20. Sean Farr is here as well, a project manager with AE Com. GDOT personell with the public information group. The maps they are showing, fact sheet, etc are on the web site. Any future meetings will also be posted on the web site.

They also handed out a survey. They have been collecting these surveys at other meetings to find out what changes and improvements the community wants.

"AECOM" is the name of the firm. It's an acronym.

Sean Farr is giving an overview of the project. They have been hired by GDOT to study the corridor. Currently in the listening phase, seeking public input. Traffic, multi-modal connections, etc. for the corridor. Working on a traffic study. In the middle of doing a history survey along the corridor to identify the historic properties. Have also looked for streams, wetlands, etc. to do ecology study. Bounded by just outside the right of way for Northside Drive, coming down to I-20. Where it goes underneath I-20. This is simply a study; they are only funded to do the study itself.

Are they studying how to synchronize the lights? Yes, they are taking that into account.

When saying you're looking next to the street, is that looking into the possibility for off-road bike trails? The goal is to make sure that whatever is planned, through Beltline, Invest Atlanta, etc. we'll make sure we provide connectivity. Have reached out to the city of Atlanta.

Are you looking at improvements for trash receptacles, seating, sidewalks, etc.? Short answer is yes. The key is to provide that input in the survey.

Is there a timeline, not just for the study, but for starting the work and finish the work? Not until they know where they money is. Their intent would be to break it up into multiple projects that could be funded separately. Goal would be to look at a corridor-wide project rather than a spot operational project.

Is the money for the study coming from the bond issue that was voted for in March? No, that's City of Atlanta. This is federal money.

Are you not in the wrong neighborhood for Northside Drive? Yes, it ends near I-20. But we want to keep areas that could be impacted informed.

At an earlier meeting there was a map showing where Northside interacts with I-20. It has been brought to my attention that the idea for that connection is perhaps a much bigger idea than was originally presented. Response: The original map showed a bigger circle to show the area, and that caused some concern. That was just to show the area we're studying. As we develop more ideas, we'll be coming back out to the community.

When you're doing this study, are you going to be looking at how communities on the east connect with communities on the west? In particular, connectivity between the areas? Or is this just a north-south focus? We are definitely looking at the other areas. We have met with Friendship Baptist, AUC, etc. We are looking at the projects they are working on as well, and we want to make sure whatever we recommend matches up with what else is being done.

Is it equally weighted for all modes? As far as the study goes, they will be looking at all issues. But the focus will be on cars, because that's what our agency does.

There is work being done further down Northside? The work being done north of I-75 is a GDOT project, but through the city of Atlanta. This project is not connected to that one.

What's the time frame for finishing the study? They are working on that. Fall of 2016 for a draft.

Ms. Battle suggested to the chair that they come back after they have pooled all of their information.

#### Cesar Mitchell

President of City Council. Came to hang out and listen before heading home. This week we are starting 4th annual "back to business" conference. Great opportunity for small businesses to interact with larger businesses and create B2B relationships. Tomorrow there is a seminar for small businesses on utilizing and leveraging social media. This is a new seminar for us. On Wed will have a networking session. Tomorrow is a general assembly at Ponce City Market. On Wed there will be a networking session for small businesses, talking about successes and failures. Atlanta Metro City College will be the keynote presentation. Buyers from private and public sector will come and interact with businesses.

404-330-6052 for his office if you want more information or if you want to register.

Time and dates?

- Tomorrow general assembly starts at 6:30pm and goes till 8:30pm.
- Wed at Georgian Terrace for the networking panel discussion. Starts at 5:30pm.
- Atlanta Metro City College session is from 9:00 till 1:00.

Cost? It's free. The college prep series is free as well.

For more information: [atlantabacktobusiness.com](http://atlantabacktobusiness.com) or "back to business week". For college prep series, [CesarMitchell.com](http://CesarMitchell.com).

We are about to start school. But I've been telling people that it's Back to School and "Stay in School". Encouraging families and neighborhoods to encourage youth to stay in school and attend school regularly. We've seen some success, but we need to double down. Program that interacts with APS and APD. Want to encourage the communities to take part as well.

On October 17th, 15th semiannual college prep series. Young person in middle school or high school, please get them engaged in this series. Opportunity to take SAT exam for free. They have been doing that for almost 10 years. Note that there are seminars for parents while the kids are taking the exams (on college applications, etc). This program might be

done at Morris Brown College. Typically ready to take the PSAT around 9th grade. But we've never turned away someone from 6th, 7th, 8th grade. They've had 125 kids up to 300. The college prep series is a program, but he's working on folding it into the APS program. Working on folding it in with Dream Jamboree. Every year, they have interactions with college admissions officers. That program was discontinued. In partnership with the school board, we've brought that program back. Now there will be a dual focus on career readiness as well as college readiness. Trying to align the skill set with the jobs that are out there. There's another program that they will be unveiling soon called "Dream Up".

No potential date yet for the college prep program.

Anything for technical school for kids that aren't interested in college? The Dream Jamboree will be great for that with the focus on career readiness. Goal is to get young people focused on what their future is going to be.

Anything in place for teenagers that aren't coming up, but are basically already at the end of their high school careers and were caught up in the APS teaching scandal? Good question. We need to get them doing something that is useful, and trades may be the answer. There was a movie shot here last year, and they needed 2000 carpenters. They were able to get 200 from here. Had to import other ones. Pinewood Studios is scrambling to find talent. Note: when you turn 16, you can legally say you're done with school. Cesar has an issue with that.

Chad expressed his disappointment that the city council didn't stand up to the mayor on the Fort McPherson issue. Cesar says he is concerned as well and says we need to keep pushing. He thinks there is still an opportunity there.

Is there a veto procedure? No, it doesn't. This is why your voice is important. If rezoning is required, then community has to weigh in. If there are public dollars being invested public dollars may come through TAD, and he thinks that is an opportunity (through Invest Atlanta) to express desires and opinions of the community. There has to be a plan of course, and that will be an opportunity to weigh in.

Chad noted that he has sent email multiple times on multiple issues. Cesar is giving us a number where you can reach Cesar personally. 404-408-7068. If he doesn't answer, text him.

#### Police / Public Safety

Sgt. Connor - Works the overnight shift. In past 28 days, we show a decrease in the overall crime by "2". Any decrease is positive. Asks for questions about concerns that people have.

CJ: We've had two vehicle thefts on E Ontario in the past several months. And there were several others as well. Sgt: Apparently there were 9 in this period last year, and three this year. I did check that before I came. There is a person that is specifically doing road checks on E Ontario, W Ontario, etc. They drive that corridor quite a bit. Kipp sees people on the monitors and call about walkers. We are trying to address the issue of auto thefts. It's hard without concrete details to potentially lead to a suspect.

Someone asked to speak about the dirt bikers. She almost got hit. The bikes and 4-wheelers. And they are so disruptive that she has to leave sometimes. They have yellow and black masks, and they have 2-year olds with no helmets. Three dirt bikers came out of nowhere when I was on Lionel Hampton trail. She fell and got hurt, and felt very threatened. She made a police report. Derek recommended contacting the Betline task force as well. She said she has, and nothing has happened. She has heard about the chase policy, and apparently some neighborhoods have a chase policy.

Sgt: We generally don't pursue motorcycles because the potential liability is much higher. On a motorcycle, you're probably talking about juveniles and they're traveling at a high rate of speed. The liability is on the officer. If you aren't pursuing them for a felony, we're not allowed to pursue because the liability exceeds the situation.

The neighbor said she has video of them parking, and the police said that doesn't help. The sgt asked about the time frame. She said between 8 and 9, but in general they could be out riding at any time. Sgt says he is going to call the dispatcher right now to see if they are out there now.

Note: Cesar asked for the minutes to be sent to him.

Bruce recommended that we keep track of the reports that have been made so we can track the progress of them.

Any questions, comments or concerns, see him in the hall.

Motion to extend the meeting ny 15 minutes. 28 ayes, 1 abstention, 0 nays.

## **Committee Reports**

### Beautification

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

They are planning a cleanup at Cascade and S. Gordon.

John requested that a letter to be sent to the property owners at Rogers and Cascade (the mini-mall) about maintaining the grass.

### Membership

Rebecca Cater  
678-350-6927  
[rebfafe317@gmail.com](mailto:rebfafe317@gmail.com)

Currently have 39 members. Membership is \$20. 39 is not enough. Supports various activities: newsletters, holiday parties, Solstice, etc. Dues are critical for our activities. All adult t-shirts have been sold. There are youth t-shirts for \$5 each.

Ms. Battle asked about what people are doing for canvassing. Rebecca said she is doing emails and fFacebook

### Public Safety

Darrick Young  
314-435-9088  
[darrickyoung2004@yahoo.com](mailto:darrickyoung2004@yahoo.com)

No report.

### Community Affairs/ Special Events

Bruce discussed National Night Out tomorrow (August 4th). From 5pm until 9pm. In front of 1711 S. Olympian. Setting up there and grilling. Young people from the camp will be showing artwork. We will be giving out back to school bags with school supplies.

404-447-5804 to get in touch with Bruce.

Talent show will be going on. Performances begin at 6pm.

### Development

Patrick: still have one parcel remaining for Enota Park. The special master who was assigned has his recommendation, so now they're waiting on a signature from a judge.

### Treasurer's Report

Kendal Carey  
[kenscarey@yahoo.com](mailto:kenscarey@yahoo.com)

No report.

### Youth

Ms. Catherine. Had a fantastic STEAM camp. Had a 4-week free camp for our kids. Had a few kinks that we had to play by ear. But when all was said and done, the kids had a good time. Kids didn't want camp to end. She recognized Bruce, who was there from the first day till the last day. Also recognized Kevin and other people that volunteered.

### Garden

Abiodun "Abbey" Henderson  
404-914-4682

We got the garden back. We are one of the very few community groups that own the land we're going to be working on. On the 22nd, Patrick and Steffi are putting together a big art auction/fund raiser at the old fire station at RDA. \$50 per person. Free food, drinks, music, DJs. Some of the food will be catered by urban farmers that have catering companies, with great Vegan cuisine.

Also about to start getting ready to build.

They handed out flyers.

### Zoning and Code Enforcement

CJ Scott

If your'e on twitter:

@wcozoningandcodes

email:

[wcozoning.codes@activist.com](mailto:wcozoning.codes@activist.com)

Give CJ Scott feedback on how to reach people that don't have cell phone, twitter, email. There must be an alternate method. J doesn't want to hand out his personal cell phone # to everyone. If there's a problem with potholes, houses, etc, let him know.

September, J will have a survey done.

Bruce will work with J to get a Google voice number to use for reporting issues.

### Business Committee

D's cafe was selected for SW Atlanta Cash Mob. It was very successful. Lots of new faces.

Old Automotive Garage at W Ontario and Cascade was purchased and it will be reopened as an automotive business.

Westview Pizza Cafe is participating in a micro-loan program.

### Community Concerns/Questions/Announcements

- Neighbor said that she would like to see us support the performing arts center in West End. This Thursday: Old Ship of Zion at 8:00. \$5 for community members. They have group events as well. Would be nice to get us involved there.
- Neighbor said they spoke to a person in the dirt bike crew. Their motto is "wheels up guns down". So this is part of their effort to not be involved in shooting, killing, drive-bys. So the loud noise is a problem. But in some ways it is the lesser of two evils. Another neighbor pointed out that we need to encourage them to respect the laws.

### Important Upcoming Dates

- August 5th - National Night Out
- September 19th - The Veggie Taste

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, seconded, chorus of ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

## Contact Information

[www.westviewatlanta.com](http://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: [vmoore@atlantaga.gov](mailto:vmoore@atlantaga.gov)
- Pastor Willie Clyde from Pathways: 404-274-1810