



Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2015

4/6/15

Ayana (President) opened the meeting at 7:04 PM

In attendance: 45

Main Meeting

Invocation

Invocation by chaplain, Saifa.

Approval of Minutes

No corrections. J Scott motioned to approve. Saifa seconded. 17 ayes, none opposed, no abstentions.

Old Business

- Atlanta Streets Alive - 4/19/15 2:00 - 5:00pm. Purpose is to have people do activities (biking, jump rope, etc.). Westview will have a table. Considering 4 activities:
 - Double-dutch
 - Tumbling
 - Yoga
 - Music

If you are interested with helping with the event in any way, please see anyone from the executive committee.

Saifa asked if we could get the Streets Alive postcards. Jamie from WEND said he could get some (Brent Brewer has access to them).

Hattie - Cooler

J Scott - Can mow if we know the location ahead of time

We need volunteers to:

- Prepare Set-up area (may require mowing). 11am - 1pm
 - Remove any debris
 - Need: Trash bags
 - Set up tables, chairs, tents
 - Need: Water, Ice, coolers, snacks
 - Need volunteer: DJ_____
 - Need volunteer: Generator_____
- Volunteers on the table in two hour shifts
 - 1-3 (2-6) Rebecca, Ken so far
 - 3-5
 - 5-7
 - 7-8 Breakdown

Membership Table:

- Information about Westview

- Information about The Summer Solstice
- Information about the Westview STEAM Camp

Activities will be:

- Jump Rope (double dutch)
 - Painting
 - Yoga
 - Street Chalk Mural
- Beyond Ferguson Workshop - Darrick Young (public safety chair) worked on this in conjunction with Morehouse Alumni Association and Wecycle. The goal was to provide helpful information to people who have had contact with the criminal justice system. The plan is to take information from that workshop and provide it to other people in the neighborhood.
 - Community Garden - Abiodun gave an update on the status of the garden, including the bank failure, turnover of the assets to the FDIC, and the destruction of the garden (except for the shed). We are trying to decide if the community wants to try to buy the property from the FDIC and make an offer. Sherry has some additional information. Got a call from the listing agent. She spoke with the contact at the FDIC. Apparently someone else wants to purchase the property. It's on the FDIC website. Apparently someone wants to build on it. Sherry says it would be around 4-6 weeks from now. It's two lots, and Sherry made it clear that we would be interested in getting them both for \$4500. That's a total of .49 acres. There was a comp of .5 acres for \$4500. It is zoned for residential only at the moment.

Ayana says the community does own a piece of property (Stokes Pocket Park). If we were to vote yet, there are a number of people in the neighborhood who said they would put in funds to purchase, and we would be doing that to secure the land. We would have to then as a community raise funds to buy the property back from the group of neighbors. Two things to discuss:

- Do we want to go through the process of buying the property?
- What is the maximum amount we want to put in? Sherry noted that we could do an escalation clause. We can put in an offer, and then have a clause that says we'll pay \$200 over the highest offer up to \$X.

Opening the floor for discussion.

Rebecca Cater: What are the long-term needs of owning that property? Property taxes, solid waste fee. Probably some kind of liability insurance. Jacinta says Stokes Park was about \$120 per year for taxes.

J Scott: This is an opportunity to do more than just complain. Show that we'll push back. We need to send a direct message to all of the business people that look into this community that there is a force here that needs to be reckoned with. Specifically: getting this garden is one of the things we can do. We need an anchor point for the neighborhood.

Rebecca Scott: 100% with J. I have watched the time and effort that Abbey has put in conditioning the soil. There's no reason to throw that away.

Nidhi: I agree with them. This is the time to buy the properties. We should buy anything that is going to be bulldozed. We don't own just our properties, we own 110%...the 10% being the garden, parks, etc. I think if we gathered signatures we could send a letter to them showing that this is something the community wants to buy.

Steffi Langer-Berry: Acquiring this piece of land isn't new. This was on our radar already (the executive committee)

Ken: I will donate \$100 to get the ball started. Perhaps if someone started a GoFundMe site for that.

Elijah: I'm willing to put in to help.

Rebecca Scott: I worked with a non-profit before. I can do the GoFundMe page.

Ayana: Opinions on going to the press?

Sherry Bailey: After speaking with the agent today, I think it sounds like someone has an in with the FDIC, and I think it needs to go to the press now.

Opened the floor to general, less ordered discussion.

Brandon Graham on E. Ontario has media marketing experience, and he can assist with the process of branding the effort, getting corporations like Home Depot involved, etc.

J Scott: \$5625 is 25% over \$4500. Is that a reasonable ceiling?

Saifa: My first thought was \$5k, and we go to the media.

Jacinta: It takes more time to organize people than to organize money. Perhaps we should go higher.

Ayana: If you want to help with the organizing, please see us afterwards. In particular, if you know someone in the FDIC, we need your input.

General consensus was \$4500 offer, escalation clause to \$10k.

Motion to extend the meeting to 8:45. J motioned, Saifa seconded. 21 ayes. None opposed.

Ayana: Need a motion that we as a community want to purchase. J motioned, Ken seconded. 23 ayes. None opposed. No abstentions. Ayana: Motion to pay up to \$10k to purchase the land, Rebecca Scott seconded. 22 ayes, none opposed, no abstentions.

Kevin: Outside of the GoFundMe, is someone going to organize the money?

If you would like to contribute money, tell Ayana by the end of the day tomorrow. Call her or text her directly.

New Business

- Tenant association meeting this Saturday. 6pm - 8pm at Good Hair Shop on RDA. Tenant Association meeting. Westview and surrounding communities. Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Association in conjunction with the WCO. Issues will include security deposits, evictions, mold, etc.
- Westview Summer Solstice. June 20th, 2014.
 - Grill Competition - "Best of the Beltline BBQ". Going to invite everyone to participate. Categories: Chicken and Pork. If 2 or more people enter in the fish category, there will be a fish category as well.
 - There is an EventBrite page to purchase tickets, including to be a vendor.
 - We are in hustle mode.
 - If you want to volunteer, see Kiyomi, Octavia or Keitra.

Treasurer's Report

Kendal Carey - We have money. Everything is fine. If you've made an expense, make sure I get the receipt so I can reimburse you.

Kiyomi: We would like to come up with film production standards for when companies come to the community. Donation possibilities.

Committee Reports

Beautification

John gave his report. Uploaded to DropBox.

Business Committee

Keitra isn't here. Kiyomi - Barbershop 3 will be filming May 19th - 23rd in the Village. We would also like to ensure that when the city picks up trash that they pick up ALL the trash.

Community Affairs/ Special Events

Bruce is on vacation.

Development

Patrick Berry -

- Infrastructure Bond passed
- Various neighborhoods banded together for a "Development Day". They went on a tour bus around SW Atlanta. Adair Park, Capitol View, Westview, etc.
- Beltline had the affordable housing meeting. Opportunities include buying a house or renovating a house.
- Beltline made a lot of progress clearing trees through the corridor.
- Still working on the historic district application.
- Grant was approved for the mural that will be done by Michael Jones. Got \$2499 (full grant).
- Have been working on a ghost house (Willard and Stokes) with Sherry and the FDIC. Prison detail came out and put up boards.
- With the master plan, the entire district is intended to be zoned neighborhood/commercial. Don't need as many parking spaces, limit particular businesses, etc. The Beltline is actively attempting to work on the rezoning. Our neighborhood will need to put input into that. When that comes, that is a big piece of getting the commercial district secured and locked down.

J Scott: What can we do to keep pressure on the city to ensure the infrastructure bond funds actually get spent as they committed to us?

Patrick: We think they will sell the bonds by June. Once they have the funds, we need to start asking for time frames.

Garden

Abiodun "Abbey" Henderson
404-914-4682

Nothing else for the garden.

Membership

Rebecca Cater
678-350-6927
rebfafe317@gmail.com

Currently have 26 members. My goal is 100 members. If you haven't joined, dues are \$20. They help everything we've been talking about.

Another way to help with raising money is by buying a t-shirt. \$10 each. Also have Westview stickers for sale.

The newsletter is being put together quarterly. Very expensive. I have an ad rate sheet. It is hand-delivered to 1100 homes in the neighborhood. If you place an add before May 1st, then you'll have it in there for the rest of the year.

Public Safety

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

He's on spring break

Youth

Catherine Aaron
678-508-5547

Met with Brown High on the 31st. Got maybe 3 families to sign up for the summer camp. I'm expecting Abbey and Octavia to give me some sort of information about Kipp. June 8th is the deadline for getting applications.

June 14th - Meet and Greet for the parents. Pastor John will have the key to the church on May 1st. I have a backup plan if things don't go as planned.

The ages are 11 to 17

Police / Public Safety

No representative from Zone 4 here.

J Scott - I have started making phone calls about sky firing and driving. I was given a direct number to call. I can't call them any more.

Don't call 911 anymore.

- Major Moore
- Captain Krayer

404-756-1903. Direct line to precinct office, which is Moore and Krayer's office. Ask for a directed patrol. Have to give them a location and an indication of why. Has to be linked to a 911 call. Note the date/time of your 911 call, and then request a directed patrol.

Zoning and Code Enforcement

Sherry Bailey
678-644-5820
sherrybailey68@gmail.com

Did a little research on the house where the guy got shot on S Gordon near Ontario. Apparently city of Atlanta owns that house.

Community Concerns/Questions/Announcements

New people introduced themselves.

- Jamie Koffman - With WEND. Washington Cluster Advocacy Group. All schools feed into Washington High School. This group works with all of the feeder schools. 2nd and 4th Tuesday night of every month at 6:30. It is at Kennedy Middle School. That's where Brown Middle School kids will go during renovation. We advocate for children first, and then teachers/admin. We want to open this to anyone willing to advocate for students in our community. Handed out postcards with WCAG information.
- CJ - Golden Hawk Motorcycle Club. Oldest African American motorcycle club in Atlanta. Wanted to come and introduce myself. We offer a food pantry. In the winter times we offer shelter for a lot of people. We have "Hello Racism" where people can view documentaries. Big Halloween bash for the kids.
- Julian Jackson - Real estate agent in the area.
- James re: Affordable Housing Activities related to Atlanta Beltline. Has flyers to hand out.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Pathways to a Better Community (PAC) - Wednesday, Weekly Free lunch from 11:30 - 1pm
- April 8, 7 pm NPUT General Body Meeting, 1444 Lucile Ave

- April 11, 6 pm Tenant's Association Meeting, 1548 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd
- April 16, 6:30 pm 3rd Thursdays Pizza Night, 1550 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd
- April 19, 2-5 pm Atlanta Streets Alive, West End Neighborhood
- May 16, 10-6pm Community Day, with health fair, games and food. Details tba later.
- June 20, 3 pm Summer Solstice
- June 29 – July 24 Westview STEAM Camp

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

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: vmoore@atlantaga.gov
- Pastor Willie Clyde from Pathways: 404-274-1810