

# HBNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

19 August 2021

via Zoom

**Board members present:** Cathy Boston, Mark Bryson, Christy Campbell, Shelby Cobb, Bob Connelly, Rebecca Harvill, Gene Hooff, Cathy Iannotti, Wade McKenzie, Tom Mallory, Mark Roberts, Courtney Schickel, Carole Simpson, Maribett Varner.

**Board members absent:** Anne Culberson, Brian Rudiger, Ruth Skogstad, Susy Stovin.

---

**Opening:** In Susy Stovin's absence, Communications Chair Maribett Varner called the meeting to order at 8:05am. There was no President's report. Mark R. moved to approve the July Minutes, Carole seconded, and the Minutes were unanimously approved. Brian's Treasurer's report, sent to Board members prior to the Board meeting, was accepted into the Minutes.

## Committee Reports:

**Transportation / Drainage:** Shelby reported that the Transportation Committee did not meet in August, due to having only two updates to pass along this month, in summary form from Shelby and Gay. **Brookhaven Dr. / West Brookhaven triangle:** Don Sherrill, Public Works Director, COB, wrote that they had evaluated the triangle of concern and that they could make several recommendations covering signage, vegetation, crosswalks, and other pavement markings. Summary: replacement of damaged or faded signage; removal of vegetation obstructing sight visibility; restriping of stop bars at intersections as required. Work orders have been prepared. No timeline for completion, but there will be an effort to finish this work in a timely manner. The Committee's approach will be to see what measures are taken and, if necessary, fine-tune the area's needs to satisfaction and safety. **Drainage Project for Vermont, Winall, and Stovall:** COA DWM signaled that they have completed additional surveys pursuant to concerns of affected neighbors and that they have a revised storm drain plan to present to residents. This presentation took place August 18<sup>th</sup>, following a neighbors' meeting at the home of John Robbins on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The affected neighbors came away from these meetings feeling heard and feeling happy. There will be five drains placed on Vermont instead of nine and they will be installed on property lines, as requested by the neighbors. DWM will meet very soon with affected Stovall residents to address their needs for water flow down Stovall.

**Cameras:** Tom shared that he had an excellent meeting earlier this month with a dozen officers from the Brookhaven Police Dept., including a chief, to discuss the current state of cameras and the information gleaned from them, as they are now working much better and

crimes are being solved by the presence of cameras. FLOCK members also attended. The September HBNA newsletter will include an article detailing incident stories, as opposed to just data, as this way of dispensing information about the value of the cameras will resonant with neighbors. Since April, three cases have been solved, thanks to our cameras here in Historic Brookhaven: a homicide, a kidnapping, and a wanted person. Tom reported that our cameras are also helping solve crimes just outside of our neighborhood. Since January 2021, there have been 37 TAS (instant alerts to COB police cruisers) alerts, resulting in 19 arrests, mostly for theft, and wanted persons. Police have stressed the importance of reliable, working cameras in crime solving. COA police are working to obtain similar technology to send alerts directly to police cruisers. Tom stated that we are still not getting complete billing from GA Power; FLOCK sends the bills to GA Power, whose billing is erratic. Tom believes this will resolve itself in time. Maribett asked if there was something that could be written about the Atlanta police efforts in the HBNA Newsletter article, to reassure the two-thirds of Historic Brookhaven residents who live in COA. Courtney offered to write a brief addition to the article emphasizing the cooperation between COB and COA police departments. Wade offered to help arrange a meeting with Atlanta police to learn more about where the Atlanta side stands on implementing this technology. Mark R. reiterated that Atlanta police are receiving information from FLOCK.

**Communications:** Maribett, Courtney, and team are finishing up work on the fall newsletter which will be ready for distribution soon. Volunteers are needed to assist with getting the newsletter into mailboxes and an email request will be sent requesting help for delivery by Labor Day. A review of the new neighbor list will be accomplished by Mark R., Cathy B., and Cathy I., then sent to Courtney.

**Historic Brookhaven Foundation:** Mark R. stated that there is still \$12 – 15 K in the Foundation fund, which should be used for cleaning / refurbishing / adding monuments. He made a count of eleven monuments and noted that Fuller needs a monument, and the older-style monuments at Carter and Brookhaven / West Brookhaven should probably just be taken down due to deterioration. There is a newer monument at Carter. Mark also recommended waiting until the construction at West Club Drive is completed before replacing that monument and mentioned the difficulty of getting monument approval from City of Atlanta. Bob offered to locate his paperwork on previous monument specs by the next Board meeting so that plans may move ahead. Mark stated that he is not interested in fund-raising for monuments, given that we have money on hand for repairs and new monuments.

**Beautification / Maintenance:** Carole and her team continue to level the new benches. Regarding the flood plain area at Davidson and West Club Lane, several trees have fallen and need to be cleaned up. Christy has notified COA of a dangerous dead tree that needs to be removed. She will contact the city arborist. Native plants are ordered for Vermont Park. The neighborhood garden club donated \$5,000 and Park Pride donated \$2,500 to this project. More undergrowth clean-up is needed at Mayson Ravine and Vermont Park.

**Sponsorship:** Ruth requested that the Minutes reflect that the Sodemann-Skogstad team and Cathy Boston will be sponsors of the New Neighbor / General Meeting gathering to be held at Capital City Country Club on October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:00pm, in the Seasons room.

**Film:** Gene reported that Twentieth Century Fox filming went well earlier this month at Courtney's home on East Brookhaven Drive. They may return with several weeks advance notice. Gene followed up recently regarding the \$2,500 due. Neighbors who were inconvenienced have already been paid \$250 each for their trouble. Bob stated that traffic control needs to improve. Construction vehicles complicated that stretch of road.

**Events:** The annual **Neighborhood Street Party** will be held on Friday, September 17,<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm, and will be publicized on the front page of the soon-to-be-delivered September newsletter. Rebecca listed the food and drink vendors: Varsity truck (\$600 minimum paid in advance for fifty plates), Yumbii Taco truck (\$1,200 minimum), ATL Alcohol Heroes truck (\$1,000 minimum with \$500 paid in advance paid by HBNA, equaling 100 drink tickets), and Kona Ice. There will be a DJ, face painting, and a firetruck. Historic Brookhaven magazine gave \$500 as a sponsor. Rebecca's most pressing needs include a five-person clean-up crew, additional signs, and the flyer brigade to deliver the newsletter to every mailbox right after Labor Day. Cathy B. offered to coordinate having signs made. Discussion as to how meals would be paid for ensued and it was decided that an email would be sent to residents explaining how meals and drinks can be purchased. Regarding needed trash cans, Carole suggested lining cardboard boxes with trash bags. Neighbors will be asked to pitch in and haul trash away. **New Neighbor / General Meeting:** Rebecca will be planning for around fifty people. A projector will be requested. Maribett offered to check with Susy about past attendance numbers when the gathering is a combined event.

**Zoning: DeKalb:** Mark B. advised he had no activity to report. **Fulton:** Cathy reported that one variance request has been withdrawn, due to neighbors' protest. Canterbury Court expansion is projected to begin by early October. Approximately two weeks ago, Vermont townhome owners were alerted to the news that the construction company intends to access the property from Vermont Road, through a gated wall that was built years ago for the sole use of emergency vehicles. Our previous agreement with Canterbury was that all vehicles would enter and leave the construction site via Peachtree Road. Understandably, townhome owners are very upset at the prospect of large parked and moving vehicles taking over that upper end of Vermont. The first three homes on Vermont are owned by an investor who is trying to sell them to Canterbury. Canterbury failed to let HBNA know about the change to our agreement. It is recorded in meeting minutes from Jan. 2019 that Vermont would not be used for access. Cathy is reaching out to Howard Shook's office for support, and expressed frustration with this change of plans from Canterbury after months of negotiation to reach an acceptable compromise. It will be cheaper for Canterbury and more convenient for them to access the expansion project from Vermont. Cathy promised to dig deeper to see what was recorded with

the COA and look into determining our legal rights. We will need to look into signage to minimize parking on Vermont. Shelby will check for any existing signage. It was suggested that we might consult with Wade Copeland for possible legal advice. After further research, Cathy plans to meet with the person at Canterbury one on one. **Update 8/26:** Cathy met with townhome owners and the Canterbury representative on 8/22. Here is her comment from that meeting: Canterbury plans to start construction by the end of September or early October. Even though the original plan has been modified and downsized, it is still a very ambitious project and is expected to take twenty-two months. The expansion will include buildings along Vermont Road and on Peachtree from the existing building to Club Drive.

**Old Business / New Business:** None voiced.

**Closing:** There being no further business, the August meeting adjourned at 9:20am. Respectfully submitted by Shelby Cobb for Anne Culberson, 26 August 2021.