

## **HBNA Board of Directors Meeting**

**20 July 2023**

**Location: Capital City Club**

**Board members present:** Maribett Varner, Mark Roberts, Carole Simpson, Bob Connelly, Mark Bryson (phone), Anne Culberson (phone), Rebecca Harvill (phone), Gene Hoof (phone), Courtney Schickel (phone), Shelby Cobb, Julia Lanese, Jamie Lawson.

**Board members absent:** Cathy Boston, Christy Campbell, Tom Mallory, Hope Bawcom, Kevin Dwyer.

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**Opening Business:** President Maribett Varner called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

**Secretary's Report:** There being a quorum present, Mark R. moved that the June Minutes be approved, Bob seconded, and the June Minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business:** The City of Brookhaven Police Foundation solicited HBNA to be a donating sponsor for their 5k run benefitting their annual Christmas toys- for-children drive. Bob made a motion for HBNA to donate \$500, Carole seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. Mark B. and Bob suggested we continue a donation discussion at the August Board meeting with an eye toward contributing to BSA and to the APD Buckhead initiative to increase the number of patrol cars for that area.

City of Atlanta requests that we talk with Mayor Dickens' ombudsman office about what HBNA sees as needs for the City of Atlanta. This project will include dialogue with representatives from many other neighborhood associations. Bob Connelly volunteered to be our representative and will enter into a conversation with that office. Thank you, Bob!

**The new date for the Annual Street Party will be September 29<sup>th</sup>, since Rebecca could not be present on the prior date of September 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark B. stated that the budget is sound and running as expected. Payments of just over \$8,000 have been made toward the \$50,000 budgeted for the monuments project.

**Monuments Project:** A stop-work order has been issued from the City of Brookhaven inspector regarding the placement of the new monument at the corner of Osborne and Fuller, because the sight line is an issue as is the COB ordinance prohibiting such structures in the right-of-way. Maribett will work with COB Councilperson Madeleine Simmons to resolve. Maribett presented a draft of a letter to City of Brookhaven City Council.

There has been a delay in working on the monument at Peachtree Dunwoody and West Club, but it is hoped that casts will be ready soon.

**Zoning Atlanta:** Bob reported that applications are static right now. The homeowner in Club Forest is reworking his plan to build a pool and entertainment area in the side yard of his property.

**Zoning DeKalb:** No report.

**Transportation:** Shelby shared that the **North Buckhead Storm Drain Project** continues and that a timeline update will be printed in the Fall Newsletter. A safety reminder was sent to all HBNA households asking pedestrians to stay clear of the active job site. DWM and ATL DOT are working to add additional signage advising pedestrians, cyclists, etc., not to enter the barricaded zone. **The Signature Streets Project** remains in the presentation / fundraising mode. Maribett will attend a meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> with ATL DOT Commissioner Caviness and will provide Shelby with an update.

**CME:** Carole noted that sod was installed at the entrance and in the upper circle in Club Forest. Residents expressed their delight and thanks. Daffodil bulbs have been ordered for several triangles and both planting and clean-up days will be announced to encourage volunteer help.

**Communications / Membership:** Mark R. explained that Board members working on content for the Fall Newsletter met on July 19<sup>th</sup> and received their assignments. Deadline for copy is August 25<sup>th</sup>, with delivery to mailboxes after Labor Day weekend. A big thank you to Mark, Courtney, Maribett, Rebecca, Carole, Julia, and Shelby for running down article leads and project updates.

Mark asked Mark B. to check the budget for the *possibility* of a membership dues increase for next year. Mark B. asked that committee chairs come prepared to ask for any budget increases that need to be added to committee budgets for next year in order to discuss more directly at the August Board meeting. An Agenda topic will be the budget for 2024. Mark B. confirmed that we are fully paying our Flock camera fees.

**Film:** Gene reported that there are no active film crews or permit requests.

**Cameras:** Tom sent a message that all cameras are working and bills are being paid.

## **New Business**

**Nominating Committee:** Mark B. has volunteered to chair and form a Nominating Committee well in advance of our Fall General Meeting. There are three spots open on the Board, with the most urgent position to fill being that of Board treasurer. Members are urged to offer some names of neighbors who have a financial background. A slate of returning and new Board members will be presented at the October Fall General Meeting.

**Brookhaven Security Association:** It has been reported that residents on one street in the neighborhood (COA side) are considering buying their own license plate readers. This is most likely as a result of the recent armed robbery on Moores Club Place. Stephanie McGarity has spoken with the group, encouraging them to install individual cameras on their properties. The

HBNA Board does not have a policy about a single street desiring to mount LPRs. The question becomes, who owns the footage from the LPR's? Mark R. offered to talk with the neighbors to learn more about their concerns and objectives. Other Board members concurred that the use of mailbox and front door cameras would be of greater value in spotting would-be criminals. There seems to be no deficiency in our existing neighborhood system. Mark will report back to the Board after his meeting with the neighbors.

Stephanie noted that vacation checks are at an all time high and BSA has dipped into the reserve fund to cover the hours needed without cutting back hours. Stephanie will make a study of BSA's current patrol hours and if additional hours are needed in light of current crime trends.

**Capital City Club Overgrown Hedges Along West Brookhaven and Brookhaven Drives:**

Historic Brookhaven resident and Capital City Club member Jim Letson (48 West Brookhaven Drive) studied the safety, historic, and aesthetic ramifications of the CCC holly hedge along West Brookhaven and Brookhaven Drive, ending at the triangle where Brookhaven and East Brookhaven Drives meet. A packet of photographic exhibits was delivered to Board members for discussion of support in his quest to have the overgrown Nellie Stevens hollies removed for the reasons cited above. The choice of this type of holly was a poor one, since their growing habit reaches 25 ft. in height and 8-15 ft. wide. The hollies are not maintained, obscuring street signage, visibility at turns, growing up into trees and crape myrtles, etc. Included in the photo exhibits was a photograph showing the stretch of road in question right after the hollies were planted, demonstrating the once-unobscured views and the historic concept and feeling originally intended. The Board made the recommendation that a meeting be arranged with the Brookhaven Committee of the CCC Board of Directors in order to present the gathered exhibits. Mark R. will coordinate a meeting time, place, and participants. The Board agreed on the validity of Mr. Letson's complaint and expressed willingness to present the problem to the Brookhaven Committee.

**Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods Discussion About Short-Term Rentals: See letter sent by Maribett ahead of Board meeting.** The Board discussed registering our by-laws with the state and then adding prescribed language to our by-laws. There were a number of questions about the process, including enforcement of rules about Air BnB's. Bill Chappell, the leader in this effort, will be invited to our August Board meeting.

**Closing:** The meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Respectfully submitted by Shelby Cobb for Courtney Schickel on 7/24/23.

