

HBNA Fall General Meeting

12 October 2023

Location: St. Martin's Church, Gable Parish Hall

Approximately seventy-five neighbors gathered to enjoy refreshments and conversation at the HBNA Fall General Meeting. A big thank you to Events Committee Chair Rebecca Harvill for organizing the welcoming buffet, prepared and served by Carole Parks Catering.

Opening: HBNA Board President Maribett Varner called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

City of Atlanta Arborist: David Zaparanick: Carole Simpson, Community Maintenance and Enhancement Chair, introduced Mr. Zaparanick, the City of Atlanta's Arboricultural Manager and certified landscape architect of the past seventeen years. He presented a "City in a Forest" overview of tree-cutting permitting, pruning issues between neighbors, trees cut on Saturdays, fines, and the new phase II tree ordinance timeline. The arborist office is set-up with two divisions: private property and public property, the later being handled, in part, by the Parks and Recreation Dept. **The public may receive assistance with questions and/or receive action assistance by calling: (404) 546-6813 or by going to the customer service help page at parkscustomerservice@atlantaga.gov For illegal cutting of trees on Saturday, call the Code Busters Team at (404) 330-6178.**

Regarding fines, David stated that there is currently no follow-up after the initial report is sent to a homeowner and he urged the audience to talk with our City Councilman, Howard Shook, about adding to the "rules" on the Phase II ordinance. Those meetings begin on November 23 and, with luck, by the end of February they will be writing the language for the ordinance that will go before the Atlanta City Council.

Overall, David feels pretty good about the general state and health of Atlanta's tree canopy. The canopy boasts over twenty native species, with white and red oaks, pines, red and sugar maples, and hackberries forming the most prolific of the native species.

HBNA Board Election and Returning Members: The following slate was presented for new HBNA Board members beginning their two-year term and their chosen committee work:

John Higley: Zoning, Brookhaven

Justine Regnier: Events

Julie Train: New Neighbor

Steve Wakely: Treasurer

Two-year term officers were proposed: Mark Bryson, President; Steve Wakely, Treasurer; Maribett Varner, Secretary.

Cathy Boston made a motion to approve the slate and Gene Hooff seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The following Board members will return for a new two-year term: Mark Bryson, Bob Connelly, Christy Campbell, Carole Simpson, Maribett Varner. Lisa Wargo made a motion to approve, Brooke Weinmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The following Board members are returning to complete their term in 2024: Cathy Boston, Shelby Cobb, Anne Culberson, Kevin Dwyer, Rebecca Harvill, Gene Hooff, Jamie Lawson, Tom Mallory, Jullia Lanese, and Mark Roberts.

The following Board members will retire: Hope Bawcom, Courtney Schickel.

A sincere thank you to all who have served and will continue to serve on our active, effective HBNA Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Bryson reported that HBNA has \$119,000 currently in our bank account and that the budget is in great shape. The final neighborhood monument was scheduled to be completed by Oct. 13th and the cost of the project will be fully paid as planned in 2023. Full-year budget is \$230,000 and we are 15-20% under budget as we approach the end of the year. The Board is finalizing the 2024 budget which will include an anticipated cost increase from Flock for the cameras and from Callahan Landscape for the routine landscape maintenance. The Board does not plan to ask for a change in the members' dues amount for 2024.

CME: Carole is calling for volunteers to adopt one of our cherished parks, just to keep an eye out for extra needs beyond the Callahan Landscape maintenance crews. Weeding and minor tree trash collection would be helpful. Volunteers are also need to help plant 800 bulbs in designated parks, near mid-late November. Please watch for a notice as to time and place to gather!

Update from COB District 3 Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons: Madeleine discussed completion of the final monument placed at Fuller and Osborne Rds., the resolution passed for COB Historic Designation, speed table request process for City of Brookhaven, and paving on East Brookhaven. On October 30, City of Brookhaven Police Department Chief Gurley will lead a Town Hall meeting from 6:00-7:00pm.

BSA Security: Susan Helms was present and available for security dues drop-off at her table.

Closing: The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Submitted by Shelby Cobb for Courtney Schickel, 10/16/23.