

HBNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

19 May 2022

4345 East Brookhaven Drive, Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Roberts, Bob Connelly, Mark Bryson, Anne Culberson, Ruth Skogstad, Gene Hooff, Courtney Schickel, Christy Campbell, Shelby Cobb, Hope Bawcom, Brian Ruediger

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Carole Simpson, Susy Stovin, Cathy Boston, Rebecca Harvill, Wade McKenzie, Tom Mallory, Cathy Iannotti

OPENING and President's Report: Mark Roberts led the meeting for the HBNA President, Maribett Varner. Mark called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. with an update on the traffic light issues at Cherokee Plaza. Ben Raney has acted as the contact person for HBNA for a proposed traffic light at Brookhaven Drive and Peachtree Road. Most traffic issues at Cherokee Plaza are at Starbucks. The new owners of Cherokee Plaza are New Market Properties. Currently HBNA and the City of Brookhaven propose Starbucks find a traffic solution to handle the high volume of traffic at their business. Starbucks is not a part of New Market Properties. New Market Properties is asked to find a reason that the proposed traffic light is needed for Cherokee Plaza.

Secretary, Anne Culberson: Anne distributed the April Minutes by email for corrections. The Minutes were approved and will be posted to the HBNA website.

Treasurer, Mark Bryson: Mark reported, "The financial position of the HBNA is strong and the organization is operating in accordance with the approved 2022 budget."

Committee Reports:

Transportation, Shelby Cobb: Shelby gave the following report:

Signature Streets, Peachtree Dunwoody Road: On April 21st, our group walked Peachtree Dunwoody from Peachtree Rd. to Carter Drive taking pictures and notes of pedestrian impediments, hardscape needs, beautification needs, etc. Participants on this discovery walk included: Gordon Anderson, HBNA Transportation Committee member; Shelby Cobb, HBNA Transportation Committee chair, Matt Gore, Buckhead CID; Matt Oja, North Buckhead Civic Association; Gil Rapley, North Buckhead Civic Association; and Aubrey Sabba, Pond & Co. I requested an update of plans and timeline from Aubrey this week; she is ill with Covid and will update us when she returns to the Pond & Co. office.

Storm Drain Project, COA Dept. of Watershed Management: This project has stalled for reasons known and reasons yet to be explained. Five months have elapsed since an engineering contract expired with Watershed. Gay Colyer, co-chair, asked Sally Silver from Howard Shook's office to further probe the reasons for the delay. On May 6th Sally reported, "The funding has not been lessened for the project; it is an issue with the Dept. of Procurement that has caused the current circumstance." On May 16th Sally advised, "I have spoken to Commissioner Browning. She was apologetic and indicated her displeasure with the time that has passed regarding this project. She promised to reach out to the consultants, etc., to get all facts in order to put things back on track. I expect her to reach back once she has details. Commissioner Browning is good at keeping her word." Once we have full details of where the storm drain project stands, we will advise affected and expectant neighbors and decide whether to go ahead and request ATL DOT to clean up and restripe the below-standard triangle at Vermont and Winall Down.

Vehicle Speeding Follow-up on Brookhaven Drive: The word from the Brookhaven Police Dept., who conducted the Dec. 2021 speed study, as to "further education" for drivers speeding on Brookhaven Drive is that they simply do not have sufficient staffing in the Traffic Unit right now to follow through with citations, further monitoring, etc. This week, Gay sent in a request for a permanent speed monitor to be placed for westbound vehicles, per the speed and percentage findings of the Dec. study. We received information from COB Public Works Director Don Sherrill outlining the steps required to proceed with placement of a permanent speed monitor. We will study and update.

Speed Monitor Requests for Five COA Streets, Filed on Feb. 4: After a three-month delay and intervention from Howard Shook's office, we heard from Angela Campbell, ATL DOT, on May 3rd. She wrote, "The five traffic study cases have been assigned to the engineer and the studies should be completed within the next two weeks." As of May 18, there is no sign of the requested speed monitors, despite our goal of pushing their installation before schools dismiss and the Capital City Country Club decreases operations during renovations. Will update. You may have read that Josh Rowan is leaving his position as head of ATL DOT.

Grace Note: James Whitten, Kroger's New Manager: As you know, James Whitten is on the list of persons to write to in objection to the proposed traffic signal at Peachtree Rd. and Brookhaven Drive. He is the new manager of Cherokee Plaza Kroger. He created electronic files and passed ALL OF OUR LETTERS OF OBJECTION TO NEW MARKET PROPERTIES. Earnest and eager to connect with our neighborhood and the neighborhood behind his store, he is addressing the terrible trash situation in the Kroger lot (placing trash cans at each cart return, picking up trash for an hour every morning himself, and re-engaging the clean-up service that was discontinued back in February by the former manager. He is holding employees accountable for their departments, for shelf-stocking, etc., and has replaced the carpet in the entrance lobby. He is getting to know his customers and what they shop for at Kroger. James gave \$2,000 worth of hydration and snack items for the Brookhaven Bolt and looks forward to further community

engagement. After more than one year of financial period deficits at the store, James told me that in the latest financial period, the store actually made about \$35,000. He has reinstated daily meetings and huddles with department heads. All this to say, if you still shop at Kroger, make a point to say hello and thank James. He is trying hard to put a new face on the store and ensure it will be a better neighbor to Historic Brookhaven.

Cameras, Tom Mallory: No report.

Membership, Mark Roberts: Mark reports HBNA has 749 members.

Historic Brookhaven Foundation, Monuments, Bob Connelly: Bob has secured a new vendor for monuments. His first goal is to have molds made to make the new monuments. Update to follow.

CME, Community Enhancement, Mark Roberts: Mark updated the Board on the Blue Star Monument project. The Club Estates Garden Club and HBNA approved a project to erect a Blue Star Monument to honor men and women who have served in the US Armed Services. The monument will be erected in Historic Brookhaven. The marker has been approved by the City of Brookhaven. HBNA and the Club Estates Garden Club will each contribute \$1000.00. Christy Roberts and Carole Simpson will help coordinate the marker project.

Sponsorship, Ruth Skogstad: No sponsorships needed at this time.

Film Committee, Gene Hooff: Gene discussed the upcoming Disney filming scheduled for next Tuesday, May 24, on Vermont Road, Club Drive, Stovall Blvd., and Winall Down Road. Confusion has arisen due to the change of dates of the filming. Gene discussed working with the film permitting office and protecting the neighbors. The Board discussed giving residents as much notice as possible and the importance of a definite date.

New Neighbors, Cathy Iannotti: No report.

Events, Rebecca Harvill: No Report. Bob Connelly has reserved 4345 East Brookhaven, Atlanta 30319 for our next meeting, June 16.

Zoning, City of Atlanta, Cathy Boston: No report.

Zoning, City of Brookhaven, Hope Bawcom: Hope discussed a variance request for 5 Brookhaven Drive. The request is to raise the height of the garage with no change in architectural footprint. No objection was made by the zoning committee. The variance was approved on May 17, 2022 by the City of Brookhaven..

New Business, Brian Ruediger: Brian announced he is resigning his Board position effective immediately. The Board appreciates Brian's long service on the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne G. Culberson

May 20, 2022