

Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association

January 28, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Call to order and attendance

A meeting of Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association was held via Zoom on January 28, 2021. The meeting began at approximately 6:30pm. Attendees included approximately 21 residents, community representatives, and visitors. Charles Greene introduced the executive board and the meeting began.

Reports

Council Member: Joyce Sheperd

- Joyce was present, along with Tamara.
- 1919 Metropolitan Parkway. Lacura is legally a bar and restaurant, but it has been operating for years as a club. They're selling more alcohol than food. This is concerning because there are several crime issues around these types of establishments. The City Council is introducing legislation toughening our laws around these types of establishments. A lot of places aren't coming before the neighborhood board for a vote to renew their liquor license. Going forward, Atlanta will require a CPA to determine what percentage of restaurant sales is liquor and what percentage is food. They have also plastered over their windows, which is concerning, and they cut down 6 trees in front of their property without a permit. They were issued a \$10,000 fine for cutting down their trees. Police department is doing a thorough investigation. Councilwoman Sheperd will follow up next meeting. February 8 is the next NPUX meeting where this will be discussed. Forward concerns to NPU President, Zach, at zadriaenssens3@gmail.com.
- Charles discussed Silver Ultra Lounge - similar situation as Lacura. Neighbors have complained. This is a teen-focused club. Councilwoman Sheperd will ask the police department to do a thorough investigation and follow up next meeting
- Mondelez will close 2nd quarter this year. The union is still negotiating what happens with the 200-300 employees. They are looking at reusing the building in some way, either housing or another factory. Councilwoman Sheperd is still waiting to hear what will happen with the building and will let us know what their plans are as soon as possible. Maria asked what the neighborhood could do. We can send letters to Councilwoman Sheperd. We can also set up meetings with Invest Atlanta. The City of Atlanta does not own the land - Mondelez does, so they ultimately have the right to choose what is done with the land/building. Less than 10% of the workforce are Sylvan residents.
- There will be a meeting regarding the \$50,000 grant for cameras to addressing "major crimes". Ms. Young asked how to apply to have cameras placed in different places. They are having a meeting next week, but it is not open to the public. The area around Powerhouse Church is known as a problem area, so Councilwoman Shepard is fine with putting that area on the list.
- Brazas family: all tag offices are shut down in the City of Atlanta, forcing people to go to Greenbrier, waiting in line for 6+ hours. Asked to relay to the council that this is important. Sheperd explains that they are under Fulton's jurisdiction rather than the City of Atlanta. However, this is due to Mayor Lance-Bottoms regulations. If you are also concerned, contact: jmsheperd@atlantaga.gov.

Atlanta Police Department

- New police precinct. 2353 Metropolitan Parkway.
- All crime city wide: YTD up 4%
- 6 aggravated assaults, 6 auto thefts, 1 burglary. Spike in auto thefts, likely due to people cranking up their cars in the morning to warm them up. Avoid doing this.

- Find the running stat total for crime on atlantapolice.org
- Nicole brought up concerns regarding gunfire around Perkerson Park. Asked for a patrol vehicle to drive through throughout the evening/early morning.

Commissioner Arrington's Office: Mitsah Henry

- She heard our concerns regarding the tag offices. She will check on her end as well. They did recently have a week of closure due to system upgrades.
- In February, Commissioner Arrington will have black history films streamed every weekend. The flier will be posted to the Facebook group. A black history film contest will hopefully be issued to local children in the area.
- Fultoncountyga.gov - COVID testing locations and vaccine updates. There is currently a waitlist for vaccines.
- Contact Mitsah Henry with questions or concerns

Placemaking Committee: Vanessa Lira

- 1 year ago, she joined the meeting to get approval for the projects at Sylvan & Perkerson and Sylvan & Langston. Project has been completed. "After" evaluations will be performed when weather is better.
- Community Feedback: It is not pedestrian-friendly; very difficult for pedestrians to access the Marta stop. Difficult for mail trucks and delivery trucks. Difficult to see when you're coming onto Sylvan from Langston. The parking spots are ill-placed and unused. Zero visibility coming into the stop sign on Langston coming to Sylvan - mumble strips to slow people down. Can we add something to make these more aesthetically appealing?

Atlanta BeltLine: Lynnette Reid

- Community resources: "Draft Subarea 2" (includes Sylvan Hills)
 - Legacy retention fund: for communities around the BeltLine; aims to mitigate displacement by helping current homeowners pay property tax increases. Read more: <https://beltline.org/the-project/planning-and-community-engagement/master-plan-updates-feedback/>
 - STRIVE Atlanta: job training and information. Read more: <https://strive.org/atlprograms>. Interest Form: [Bit.ly/STRIVEATL-CP21](https://bit.ly/STRIVEATL-CP21)
 - Masterplan: mobility, land use, affordability, goals of the community. Read more: <https://beltline.org/the-project/planning-and-community-engagement/master-plan-updates-feedback/>
 - Proposed adding Spur Trails in the area to connect people in a safe, pedestrian-friendly way. Land-use recommendations are only made on mixed use areas - no recommendations are made in residential areas.
 - NPU to vote in February/March
 - CDP Public Hearing: March 22
 - Contact Lynette Reid with questions: Lreid@atlbeltline.org 404-477-3551

Trees Atlanta: James Moy

- Proposed planting on Arbor Day (February 22): planning on planting on Langston Ave. Would be the responsibility of the City of Atlanta after 2 years. They will replace trees that die. Homeowners can opt out.
- Free yard tree - 3 free trees absolutely free. Program Link: <https://www.treesatlanta.org/yardtree/>
- Contact James Moy with questions: jmoy@treesatlanta.org

Association Business

- By-laws Committee Report: Maria
 - New by-laws to review. Maria presented. By-laws can be found on the Facebook page and the website. Anything new is underlined. Anything that was deleted has been crossed out.
 - We will vote on by-laws in March.
- Communications Committee Report: Lindsey
 - Lindsey discussed ideas to create a Sylvan Hills mailing list which will be used to disseminate urgent information and reminders about upcoming events.
 - We are interested in seeking a Social Media Manager - if interested, please contact Lindsey Shoemaker or Clara Kelly.
 - The Communications Committee will be meeting to develop a community newsletter.
 - Anyone interested in joining the Communications Committee should contact Lindsey Shoemaker or Clara Kelly at lindseymshoemaker@gmail.com or claradoddkelly@gmail.com.
- Treasury Report: Andrew / Maria
 - YTD: 2 new membership dues. Pay your membership!
 - Total: \$1912.62
 - We purchased candy for Perkerson Elementary.
 - Fallen Arrows will no longer make custom products.
- Vice President Report: Ashley
 - Pet supply drive for Fulton County Animal Shelter. Donate pet supplies, towels, blankets, etc. to be entered into a raffle. Drop offs are at 3 locations around the community. Ashley will post a link with the flier to Facebook and to the Website.
- President Report: Charles
 - Elections are beginning next month.
 - Yard sign design. Looking for community involvement. 2 week window for community design ideas.
- Secretary Report
 - Minutes were reviewed by the body. Charles made a motion to approve the minutes for last month. Nicole seconded the motion. 14 approved. 0 opposed. 0 abstentions.

Announcements

- Next Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting – Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

- Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles seconded the motion. There was a voice vote of approval. The meeting ended at 8:31pm.