

Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association

July 23, 2020 - Meeting Minutes

Call to order and attendance

A meeting of Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association was held via Zoom on July 23, 2020. The meeting began at approximately 6:30. Attendees included approximately 38 residents, community representatives and visitors. Melissa Hughley introduced the executive board and the meeting began.

Reports

Trees Atlanta: Jodie Yee

- Trees Atlanta is relocating from the east side to the west side. This is happening over the next few years.
- There was a brief background given of Trees Atlanta.
- They teach how to remove invasive species. They have a large education program. They have arboretum tours.
- Their website is treesatlanta.org.
- The purpose of tonight's visit was to talk about the upcoming move. It will take time to construct. They want to be good neighbors. They are asking for suggestions from community members.
- August 6th they will have a zoom meeting.
- They will be hosting a tree sale online in late august and early september. The pick up will be in october.
- Q: What is the plan for tree maintenance short term and long term? --When we plant a tree (6000 every year), Trees Atlanta will take care of them for two years. They then become the property of the city. Contact 311 if there is an issue.

Motion made by Ashley Keller to amend the agenda and have Kemberli Sargent speak next. Maria Geonczy seconded. The neighborhood nodded to agree.

Place Making Project: Kemberli Sargent

-Contact Information: ksargent@atlantaga.gov

-Sargent gave an overview of the place making grant process. There was a \$25,000 grant awarded to Sylvan Hills to take care of a dangerous intersection at Astor, Sylvan, Langston and Perkerson. It installed temporary safety features. That will provide extra safety measures.

-Comment/Questions from community members:

-The posts make it difficult to see cars. You can potentially use "turtles" instead or less posts.

-Will there be any reviews? --Over the next couple of weeks it will be completed. Give everyone a little while to adjust to the changes and we will come back and review the new additions.

-What about pedestrians? --It is very challenging to address pedestrians. This is a jumping board for ATL DOT to step in and make more concrete changes. There are lots of needs here and will not solve all safety issues with this one grant.

-What was the thought behind the parking spaces decision? - We needed to move parking to allow cars/trucks to conveniently pass.

-A community member expressed concerns about being able to effectively back out of the driveway with the new parking spots in place.

Tia McCoy- Habitat for Humanity

- Project update on Hood: Reviewed the new plan with 2 acres of greenspace, potentially 33 single family homes, 14 row houses, small multi family building
- They have a potential alternate plan if the first plan does not work. This will include 20 row houses, 10 residential homes, 15,000 square feet of commercial space and multifamily units that are 3 stories high
- Q: Date of completion? -Slower process due to COVID, impacting us moving forward, and unsure of completion date
- Contact Information: tia.mccoy@atlantahabitat.org 678.595.6536

Marvin Arrington's Office: Marvin Arrington

- Early Voting has begun. Vote early. If you vote early, you can vote anywhere in the county.
- Library's are opening back up. Curbside pick up and drop off.
- Covid 19 is still going on with an uptick in cases. The county initially did a three tier reopening plan. We are back in stage one.
- Must wear a mask.
- There is a backpack give away with school supplies for kids. It will be at Oak Hill on August 22nd.
- Q: Extension of Homestead Exemption? --Unsure but Mitsah will follow up with you
- Q: Old Fulton County Library turning into Urgent Care? --Unaware of what is happening. The building had no parking. They want to swap out land. Accepting ideas from the neighborhood. If you create a petition, I may be able to assist with acquiring that building.
- -Contact Information: mitsah.henry@fultoncountyga.gov 678.427.5142

Joyce Shepherd's Office: Tamara Warren

- CM Shepherd is taking a short needed break.
- She has been very active with the Use of Force Advisory Council with the community.
- Use the website to find information about 45 day plan.
- Continue to keep posted about meetings. The office is staffed.
- Q: Interview with Insider Edition? -Not sure about that. Strong possibility that happened.
- Q: Any police officers added to the Use of Force Advisory Council? -not sure of any changes, will follow up
- Contact Information: jmshepherd@atlantaga.gov 404.546.6469

APD: Karla Baldini

- There is no real business to discuss.
- We are focusing on keeping everyone safe.
- There have been several arrests with active looters, protesters and the death of Secoria.
- Q: Guy with a gun at Peace Center? -It is still owned by Wendy's, lots of activists out there. We are unsure of their end goal.

Association business.

- Treasury Report: Maria Geonczy
 - Dues are a donation of \$20. This is voluntary.
 - Currently our account is at \$1730.28
 - Budget can be found on the website.
 - Expenses in July were a \$50 donation made to a community member who passed away.
 - Donations are used to support the neighborhood.

- Flags can be purchased from the webpage.
- We are looking for projects from the neighborhood.

Community Discussions

- Jaqueline from Powerhouse: Providing breakfast and lunch for parents and students. They are looking for donations and help for the neighborhood. There is a need for boxes, bags, delivery drivers for Monday's at 1pm.
- Lisa Manka made a motion to have elections in September month. Debbie Westover seconded the motion. There was a large discussion on what was needed to be a voting member. 5 approve. 2 disapprove. 1 abstention. Motion carries.
- Melissa made a motion to vacate the last motion. Lisa seconded the motion. 2 approve. 3 against. 3 abstain. Motion does not pass.

Announcements

- Next Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting – Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

Adjournment

- The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.