

Annual Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015
Morningside-Lenox Park Association
Annual Meeting Agenda
www.mlpa.org

Introduction – President Carmen Pope:

President Carmen Pope welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Led by Charlie Nalbene, the following actions were taken by the members (the “Members”) of Morningside-Lenox Park Association, Inc. (the “Corporation”) at the Annual Meeting of Members held on March 23, 2015 at Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30306.

Waiver and Ratification -- Annual Meeting

WHEREAS, Article II, Section A of the Bylaws of the Corporation require that the Annual Meeting of Members be held in the month of April;

WHEREAS, the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members was noticed and called to be held on March 23, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Members desire to waive the failure to hold the 2015 Annual Meeting in April, and ratify the holding of the 2015 Annual Meeting on March 23, 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members hereby waive the Bylaw requirement that the 2015 Annual Meeting be held in April, and ratify and approve the holding of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members on March 23, 2015.

Waiver and Ratification – Nominating Committee: Annual Election of Directors

WHEREAS, Article V, Section G of the Bylaws of the Corporation require that a Nominating Committee be appointed to select a slate of nominations for each Board position to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting;

WHEREAS, in connection with the 2015 Annual Meeting, no Nominating Committee was appointed;

WHEREAS, the Members desire to waive the failure to appoint a Nominating Committee for the 2015 Annual Meeting and elect the Directors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members hereby waive the Bylaw requirement that a Nominating Committee be appointed to select a slate of nominations for the 2015 Annual Meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Members hereby elect the following persons to serve as Directors and Officers of the Corporation:

Motions were made to approve the above amendments. The motions were seconded and approved. Carmen Pope introduced the Current Board (2015-2016)

Board Member Volunteers:

Carmen Pope - President (Membership)
Rae Conlan - Vice President (Membership)
Chuck Tobias - Treasurer
Laura Barton - Secretary
Sally Bayless - Parks
Tom Coggin - Communications (Newsletter/Advertising)
Tad Christian - Zoning
Bob Silvia - Security
Michelle Constantides - Education
Sonny Jones - Events (Sponsorships)
Kirk Rich – Traffic
Bill Long - Membership

At-Large Board Member Volunteers:

Kevin Lyman
Susan Schlittler
Lynn Ayers

Vote in New Members in for 2015-2016:

Tad Christian made a motion to approve – the motion passed and new Board was approved.

Presidents Report – Carmen Pope:

Carmen Pope spoke on the value of being member of the MLPA.
Alex Wan's website is very informative if you want to sign up to receive emails.
www.atlantadistrict6.com

Treasurer - Chuck Tobias

Chuck was unable to attend the meeting. Carmen Pope noted funds are up 18% from where we were this time last year.

Security - Bob Silvia-Security:

- Security Reports: If you haven't gotten a security report, it is because the APD has changed personnel recently and in addition, Bob will now start emailing it out from the MemberClicks System. One will be out in the next few days.
- The MLPA Street Captain program is initiated and up and running. Phyllis Wingo has been instrumental in helping Bob with this program. The current Street Captains for the streets that have them were announced. You do not have to be a member of the MLPA but it is encouraged.

Events and Volunteer Needs – Sonny Jones

May 22nd will be our Celebration of Summer – this is the 27th to 29th year (not totally sure). Sonny Jones is the Events Chairperson – we need money, volunteers and sponsors. Carter Rude volunteers to do the entertainment and is paid by the MLPA to do the Summer Concert Series – the first of which will be April 24th. You can email Events@MLPA or Volunteers@MLPA. This event is a \$17,000 expense to the MLPA. Volunteers just need to give up one hour of their time.

Parks – Sally Bayless

- Bob Kerr gave a brief update on the South Fork Conservancy (a 501c3 – not for profit – with a vision of connecting green spaces in our city). Phase 1 is from Cheshire Bridge Road to Emory – the GDOT built a loop for GA 400 and built a trail underneath – which should become park space once the City is finished. The second phase will be to cross Lindbergh – a grant request is out to make an underpass at I-85/400. Southfork Conservancy (SFC) is also planning to build a bridge over Adina at the confluence of the south fork and the north fork of Peachtree Creek. A grant was received for \$100,000 for the Zonolite area – the trailhead has been designed and built – benches are going up shortly. April 16th they will dedicate the new Zonolite Trailhead. A question was asked as to what SFC's plans were for ensuring security on the trails and for deterring any "urban campers" from moving into the newly opened areas. Bob Kerr responded that SFC believes most of them tend to leave areas that begin to receive more foot traffic.
- Sally Bayless spoke on how the South Fork Conservancy may affect Morningside. Gerlinda Grimes is interested in putting a picnic area in the Zonolite section – they are coming up with 3 proposals that will be presented before the MLPA board once finalized. Sally noted to email PARKS@MLPA.ORG if you have any questions.

Georgia House of Representatives – Pat Gardner – District 57:

Pat Gardner – District 57 – spoke. Pat has a weekly email Pat@PatGardner.org when the legislature is in session. Pat serves on the following committees: Health Appropriations (determines to Medicaid, etc), Transportation, Higher Education, Natural Resources/ Environments and is Chair of the City of Atlanta for Annexations. The Transportation bill was approved but now in the Senate – this includes \$1B to improve transportation infrastructure. A big portion of this will be given to Marta. The 50/50 bill is also up to be eliminated (currently, the State controls 50% of the funds distributed to Marta). The Governor has a plan to create “Opportunity School Districts” to help with failing schools in the State of Georgia – many of these in the City of Atlanta. The plan would be to create a separate “Opportunity School District” where he will appoint the Superintendent, etc. Pat is very concerned about the accountability of this program and how it will work.

Atlanta City Council Member – District 6 - Alex Wan:

Alex Wan – Council District 6 - spoke. Alex has been very beneficial to the MLPA out this year and comes to as many meetings as possible.

- Infrastructure Bond: The final Project List has been in the works for the last 6 months and 95% complete. There are several Morningside projects to be included - bike paths, many paving projects, traffic lights/school safety. Money is also set aside for Fire Station 19 (N Highland) and Fire Station 29 (Piedmont Heights). The final Project List will be voted on in April and action should start in the fall. They have 5 years to spend the funds. A question was raised about the transparency with the City of Atlanta and how the funds will be allocated. A “bond over-site committee” was formed with 13 members (comprised of engineers, council members, etc) what will meet quarterly to review and make sure everything is moving along correctly, timely and make suggestions on approvals, etc. In addition, \$500,000 has been set aside for 3rd-party financial audits on the contracts every 6 months.
- Neighborhood Sidewalks and Curbs: A question was raised about in-town sidewalks – During the Shirley Franklin administration, it was voted to make the sidewalks the responsibility of the owner of the yard abutting the sidewalk. There is movement to bring this sidewalk repair responsibility back to the City but before they do, they are making sure they have the financial ability required. Another question was raised as to whether the curbs the responsibility of the City or the homeowner? There seems to be a question on this. Alex Wan will research and let us know for sure. Susan mentioned the 50/50 rule in the past where if the homeowner paid half of the repair work, the neighborhood association would match the funds. Perhaps the City could consider something like this.
- Newsletter - Please sign up for Alex’s Newsletter: www.atlantadistrict6.com.

Atlanta Board of Education – Matt Westmoreland:

Matt Westmoreland – District 3 – spoke. He has been the rep since January 2014.

- Opportunity School District: The Governor has proposed the Opportunity School District – right now 27 out of 85 of the City of Atlanta schools would be on the list to be taken over under this new program. There are 139 schools listed for this in GA total. Matt is committed to have all 27 APS schools off this list before this happens.
- APS: The new budget will be adopted this April. The APS is moving to a Charter System. Under the new Superintendent’s rule, many Central Office positions in APS will have been cut as of July 2015. APS now has 18 Charter Schools – serving 8300 students out of 50,000.
- Grady Cluster specific: The planned expansion for Inman was paused due to the possible annexation of Druid Hills and additional, the number of projected students is growing faster than anticipated. The extra 7 classrooms planned would not be enough to fix the overcrowding in this Cluster.
- Morningside Elementary: Meria recently held council meeting there. There are 18 APS schools where the HVAC has been broken for years - \$38M in funds has been allocated to fix this. Haygood Church will renovate soon and asked for funding from the APS for an additional Policy Officer to help students with traffic and street/sidewalk closings. SPLOST was created in 1997 - renovations and new buildings at Mary Lin, E Rivers, Spark were funded by this initial SLOST funding. There is money earmarked for Inman. Morningside was last renovated in 1994 and should be included in SPLOST 5.

- Possible Annexation of Druid Hills into the City of Atlanta: Many questions remain. It is unclear as to whether Briar Vista, Fernbank and Druid Hills high school would come free of charge with the possible annexation.
- Under-performing City of Atlanta Schools: A question was raised as to how they plan to correct the Atlanta southern arc of under-performing schools? Matt noted that the Superintendent is well qualified to do this – right now she is focusing on 4 things - whole child development, talent (quality principals and teachers), systems (IT, HR, finance) and culture (trust, etc). Meria has already taken \$8M in personnel out of the Central Office showing her commitment to making it work.

Closing Notes – Carmen Pope and Rae Conlan:

- Haygood United Methodist is doing extensive work on the church basement starting April 13th – Dr. Sheila Bookout, Pastor, attended the meeting to answer any questions on sidewalk closings and the additional APD help.
- The first Summer Concert Series will be April 24th.
- Membership has moved from 3 manual spreadsheets to an operations system called MemberClicks.

Adjourn:

MLPA President Carmen Pope adjourned the meeting.