

MLPA Meeting – March 18, 2014

Carmen Pope opened the meeting and thanked DBA and Timone's for providing the snacks for the meeting.

Introduction of new Board Members:

Carmen Pope – President
Rae Conlan - Vice President
Laura Barton – Secretary
Chuck Tobias - Treasurer
Michelle Constantinides - Education
Tad Christian– Variance and NPU
Lillian Caudle– traffic
Sally Bayless – Parks and Recreation
Tom Coggin – Communications
Events - OPEN
Membership – OPEN
Security -- OPEN
Kevin Lyman – At large board member
Susan Schlittler – At large board member

Trav Carter makes a motion to vote in new members

Tracy Brown seconds the motion.

New members are voted in with the majority.

- From our President : We have tripled membership in the past 3 years – but need to quadruple; Only 787 members with 3500 homes in Morningside; thanks to Tom Coggin for membership drive work
- From our Treasurer: Chuck Tobias reviewed financial status – 3 past years of declining balances; we have \$75k in account now but \$82k goes to the Security Patrol per year and we'd like to focus on hiring more.
- Tom Coggin spoke about how great it is to be member of the MLPA; reviewed membership forms and newsletter; noted VaHi and Druid Hills both have security patrols and their membership dues are \$300 a year with no Senior Discount; Monumental Ball to be September 26th
- Carmen announces that Friday, May 23rd will be the Celebration of Summer; the big kick off event, then the Summer Concert Series with music in the park

- Susan spoke on the Monumental Ball; we still need a chair for the Ball – just a meeting once a month; asked for volunteers
- Michelle Constantides spoke about Education; a new superintendent will be taking over APS next year; possible that we may lose our extended day; MES has 800 students, the largest elementary school single campus in the APS system; Inman doing well with new interim principal – Inman has 1000 students and will be expanding; Grady will have new principal in the fall; very engaged community helps our schools; Grady to have a facilities audit to make sure they are adequate for the size but the enrollment has decreased over the past few years
- Tracy Brown gave a security patrol overview. We have a group of Atlanta police officers on the MLPA Security patrol – they will come talk to you about your home security; their presence holidays/warm weather tends to increase crime; keep doors locked, cars clean and windows closed; Atlanta police department – Citizens Academy – anybody can attend to learn more about the department, you can ride with an officer at any time
- Diane introduces Deputy Chief Joe Spillane of the Atlanta Police Department who is now over all the 1999 to 2005 was a commander in Zone 2 (was in 2, no) Zone Traffic Enforcement to handle traffic in our area; he sees a vision on what he wants to see in neighborhood (not MLPA having to spend \$80k a year on security)...mostly property crime in Morningside/Lenox Park – use the Clean Car Campaign; open to any questions and will be available after the meeting and will leave his cards/cell number as he lives in the City and is very assessable.
- A member spoke to note that The Legislature is still in session – Pat, Nan and Senator Carter are still working.
- Alex Wan spoke about our great neighborhood advocates; public safety and quality of life issues; efficiency in government – he and Mary Norwood on a board to get rid of waste; bond to address sidewalks, roads, etc
- Two out of Three Council Members “at large” that are in attendance one being Councilwoman Mary Norwood who spoke thanking the neighborhood for their support during the election; her focus is (1) quality of life/public safety.... Working on task force to address the repeat offenders (481 with over 7000 offenses) who are getting more bold as time goes on; we can really make a difference in an election year if we know what is going on – trying to get people “on the docket” and “out of the weeds” ; also working with neighborhoods that have a lot of foreclosures to bring those areas back to life to add to our property tax pool; 3rd issue – traffic.
- Question from the audience on sex trafficking in Atlanta with Mary Norwood addressed and so did Chief Deputy discussed the recent report which addresses; Stephanie Lamar (sp?);

undocumented citizens are by nature vulnerable to this risk ;Michael noted that the Mayor's office has a task force on prostitution that has been meeting since the summer that will give recommendations to address these issues – target date is this summer for the results. Much tougher to control now that so much is online and underground.

- Diane Olansky introduced Councilmember Michael Bond also spoke and noted his children when to Morningside Elementary. His priorities are public safety; alcohol license review to revise ordinance that works better; transportation – better mass transit for our city; legislation from community ideas; introduce Christina Garcia who works with him and can also help with problems and
- Jim Elgar spoke from the Council Presidents office and told us how wonderful our representation is with our Councilmembers. He discussed a new opportunity for children to take a PSat in a proctored environment but the scores do not count against you. March 29th – at Northside Highschool - totally free for any child, any school.
- Elena Parent spoke – running for State Senate – Jason Carter's old seat for residents of Dekalb County. She was in the Georgia House of Representatives until last year. Her focus is transportation – mass transit, health care (Georgia has the 5th most uninsured citizens in the US), education and budget cuts to our school system ; www.elenaparent.com
- Carmen concluded the meeting with remarks about the monthly meetings. Thanks to all the board members leaving – Trav Carter, Diane Olansky, Tracy Brown, Charlotte Gillis.
- Carmen adjourned the meeting.