

March 7, 2016
Morningside-Lenox Park Association
Annual Meeting Agenda
www.mlpa.org

Call to order and welcome:

MLPA Vice President Rae Conlan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Introductions:

Rae Conlan thanked everyone for coming—we hope to have a great meeting tonight and introduce a new board to you – As a reminder, please sign in if you have not and for any votes we take tonight, the MLPA by laws require that you be a member in good standing to vote. For those of you that may not be members of MLPA or need to renew, we have a membership table at the back with folks ready to help you.

We have a packed agenda and we will do our best to keep everything on schedule and work to get you out of here by 8:30 or so. Let me quickly review the agenda with you

Presentation of 2016-2017 Board	
2016 - 2017 Board Member Vote	
Community Speakers	
Pat Gardner, District 57	Georgia House of Representatives, District 57
Matt Westmoreland, District 3	Atlanta Board of Education, District 3
Caesar Mitchell	Atlanta City Council President
Alex Wan	Atlanta City Council, Council District 6
Deputy Chief Spillane	Atlanta Police Department
Major Van Hobbs	Atlanta Police Department
Sergeant Ric Vasquez	Atlanta Police Department
Scott Rosenberg	Atlanta CrimeStoppers
MLPA Speakers	
MSP and What it Offers MLPA	Bob Silvia, Security Chair
Street Captain Program	Bob Silvia, Security Chair
MLPA Membership	Bill Long, Membership Chair
Financials	Chuck Tobias, Treasurer
Closing Notes	President
Adjourn	

Also joining us today are APD Assistant Chief Shawn Jones and City Council President Caesar Mitchell.

Caesar Mitchell Atlanta City Council President

Contact: 404-330-6052

Caesar Mitchell spoke about the public safety campaign he is sponsoring called Atlanta Slow Down. The purpose of this campaign is to draw attention to problem of distracted driving. Yard signs are one way of publicizing the campaign. If you would like a sign, contact Caesar Mitchell's office and one will be sent to you free of charge.

Public safety walks are being conducted by the Atlanta Police Department in conjunction with the Code Enforcement Department. The idea is that a city official will walk through the neighborhood with a community representative to identify the safety issues that need to be addressed in that particular neighborhood: missing sidewalk, missing stop sign, etc.

Another initiative is a college prep series targeted to students in middle school or high school. It is offered every semester free of charge at Caesar Mitchell's office. The concept is to expose students to the SAT and ACT and to offer information about the college admissions process.

General MLPA Announcements

MLPA Traffic Chairman Kirk Rick and Councilman Alex Wan are sponsoring a Traffic Forum which will be held at the end of March. The date will be announced shortly. Our goal is to create a master traffic plan that will address the variety of traffic issues in Morningside Lenox Park as a group rather than doing so one by one. We hope to be able to address issues more quickly and more effectively by using this approach.

Reminder of other neighborhood meetings that you can participate in.

- Zoning Committee -- meets 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pm, at Morningside Presbyterian Church. To become a voting member of the zoning committee you must attend 3 of the most recent 6 meetings and to maintain voting privileges, you must attend a minimum of 5 of the prior 12 meetings.
- Monthly MLPA Board Meeting – meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm at Morningside Presbyterian Church. All neighbors are welcome to attend. The board votes on variances and any zoning requests in addition to discussing other issues affecting our neighborhood.
- NPU-F meeting – meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm at the Hillside Facility. This meeting also includes the Virginia Highlands, Lindridge Martin Manor and Piedmont Heights. Variances, zoning requests, events permits, and any other issues that affect our group of neighborhoods are discussed and voted on at this meeting. Any one residing in NPU F is eligible to vote at each meeting.

Kirk Rich made the following motion:

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 2016 Annual Meeting of Members was noticed and called to be held on March 7, 2016;

WHEREAS, the Members desire to waive the requirement to hold the 2016 Annual Meeting in April, and ratify the holding of the 2016 Annual Meeting on March 7, 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members hereby waive the Bylaw requirement that the 2016 Annual Meeting be held in April, and ratify and approve the holding of the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members on March 7, 2016.

Tom Coggin seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the MLPA Members.

Rae Conlan introduced Phyllis Wingo and Vern McCarty, the Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for their involvement in the neighborhood and in the nominating process.

Presentation of 2016-2017 Board Member Slate

Phyllis Wingo introduced the slate:

2016 MLPA Board of Directors Slate

Officers

President: Sally Bayless

Vice Pres.: Charlie Nalbhone

Secretary: Kevin McGlynn

Treasurer: Chuck Tobias

Committee Chairs

Communications: Marti Breen
Education: Amanda Strawser
Events: Sonny Jones
Membership: Bill Long
Parks: OPEN

Security: Bob Silvia
Traffic: Kirk Rich
Zoning: John Ayers
Member At Large
Susan Schlittler

Chase Horner
Alex Munoz

Phyllis Wingo made a motion that the 2016-2017 MLPA Board Member slate be approved as presented.

Tom Coggin and multiple others seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the MLPA Members.

Rae Conlan turned the meeting over to Sally Bayless, new incoming president.

Sally Bayless thanked Rae and the outgoing board for their service to the neighborhood and asked everyone to give them a round of applause. She also announced that the MLPA has been awarded a grant from Park Pride in the amount of \$2,500 to assist with the renovation of the fountain in Smith Park. The MLPA still needs to raise approximately \$2,000 to be able to fund this project. We welcome donations from anyone who would like to support the project. To donate, please go to www.mlpa.org/smithpark and click on the DONATE HERE link. Then select Smith Park from the dropdown menu. Donations are tax deductible and you will receive a letter to that effect from Park Pride, our fiscal partner.

Community Speakers**Pat Gardner, District 57 Georgia House of Representatives, District 57**

Pat Gardner commented on two of what she considers the most important bills currently under consideration.

1. A bill that allows students to carry guns on campus except in dorms or frat/sorority houses. – This bill has passed the house and is going onto the Senate. This will be a tough fight on the floor. If you want to stop this bill, please call the governor and Lt Governor. The Board of Regents have not been as eloquent as previous years in their opposition.
2. A bill to fund MARTA out of the funds approved for last year's transportation tax bill. Fund approved in last year's bill can only be used for roads and bridges. A bill was proposed in the Senate to take half a penny of that tax paid by residents of City of Atlanta, DeKalb County, and Fulton County and spend it to upgrade the MARTA system. This bill was opposed by those representing North Fulton County and did not pass the senate. Pat Gardner and her colleagues are still considering ways to expand the MARTA system. She believes that the Clifton Corridor is an important improvement and noted that they are also looking at alternatives for the bus system including a "fuzzy" bus line or bus line on request.

Matt Westmoreland, District 3 Atlanta Board of Education, District 3

Contact: mwestmoreland@apsk12.org or 404-408-0890

Alex Wan spoke for Matt Westmoreland. Matt could not be with us tonight because he was at the APS School Board Meeting to vote on the Superintendent's turnaround plan. He encouraged anyone to call or email him to discuss education and APS.

Alex spoke for Matt and himself in that they were both relieved to have the APS/Beltline issues settled so they could focus on better education and continuing the progress of the Beltline.

Alex Wan, Atlanta City Council, Council District 6

Alex expressed his condolences to the entire Grady family and especially the family of the teenager who lost her life. The recent tragedy put a spotlight on the Monroe traffic situation. The good news is a

plan (Monroe Road Diet) is already included in the infrastructure bond that passed recently and has been included in several plans including the Beltline plan and VaHi Master Plan. The City will begin hosting public input meetings as early as mid-April. Please participate in the process – we have already received a lot of opposition email. This is ABOUT SAFETY for all.

Alex noted that one thing we plan to discuss at the MLPA Traffic Forum is the traffic on Piedmont. Once construction at Mill Creek is complete and the traffic is normalized, we hope to identify any remaining issues and identify solution(s) for them.

We are fighting a lot of different up-zoning proposals in the district. There are pros and cons to the various proposals and neighborhood feedback and participation in the NPU process is very important.

The City of Atlanta still recycles glass – please continue to put it in the blue bin. Waste Pro is the contractor. The City of Atlanta also recently opened CHaRM -- The Center for Hard to recycle materials. For more information, visit www.livethrive.org.

With regard to public safety, we are constantly working to ensure that our neighborhoods are crime free. There are, however, periods during which crime rises in a particular location. Please know that your concerns have been heard by the Atlanta Police Department (APD). Their strong presence here tonight is an indication of the commitment they have to our city and our neighborhood.

Cameras:

1 to 1 grant match ... Neighborhood partners with Atlanta police foundation...

Alex Wan introduced the APD Speakers:

Assistant Chief Shawn Jones

Assistant Chief Jones stated that Mayor Reed has made public safety a priority. The APD is adding officers and we are focused on maintaining public safety, especially as the city grows. The APD plans to hire 300 new police officers this year, both to replace officers lost to attrition and to cover the new areas added to the city.

The best way to help the APD address crime is to call 911. The 911 database of calls helps the APD know where crime is currently occurring and to identify where the next crimes are likely to occur. The See Something / Say Something Campaign is an important part of addressing crime in the city.

Zone 2 which includes Morningside Lenox Park is 40 square miles and is the largest of the zones. The APD focuses on maintaining a response time within the tolerances they have set, though traffic is sometimes a complicating factor. Every 911 call is assigned a priority, with calls indicating imminent danger or a risk of bodily harm receiving the highest priority. The 911 operator determines what priority to give a call.

Technology is a “Force-Multiplier” – helps us have more eyes, ears and be in the right spot at the right time. The APD puts an emphasis on using technology to catch criminals and Assistant Chief Jones gave several examples. As part of its plan to use technology as a “force multiplier,” the APD is working with neighborhoods to install security cameras and license plate readers that are integrated with the City of Atlanta’s police system.

Deputy Chief Spillane **Atlanta Police Department**

Deputy Chief Spillane noted that, in this week alone the APD has located three stolen cars by using license plate readers (LPR). They were also able to make an arrest related to a shooting as a result of information from an LPR.

Auto Larceny continues to be an issue in Zone 2. One issue is that people are keeping guns in their cars and the thieves are aware of this practice. Guns are often what a thief is looking for when breaking into a car. To help combat auto larceny, the APD has launched a new initiative that uses bait cars with locators.

Major Van Hobbs Atlanta Police Department

Specifics about what's going on in the neighborhood –burglary suspect – got a warrant out – he has 4 felonies ... hopefully get him picked up soon...

Major Hobbs spoke to the specifics of crime in our neighborhood:

- Have a warrant out on a burglary suspect and hope to arrest him soon.
- Making a case and establishing someone's identity takes time and the APD must go through the appropriate channels to do so in order to ensure that any charges made will hold up in court. For example, as with the checks recently stolen from a neighbor, sometimes the APD must request information from a bank multiple times before receiving it.
- APD relies heavily on technology and Major Hobbs related a number of successful arrests in which technology was a key component.
- APD patrolling this neighborhood focuses heavily on the traffic coming in to and leaving this neighborhood because that is how most criminals are ultimately caught. Getting drivers to obey the walk light on Monroe and 10th Street is a challenge and will continue to be a focus.

In responding to a question about response times, Major Hobbs gave the following information. There are 4 priorities:

Priority 1: imminent danger, immediate response

Priority 2: perpetrator on scene, 2– 10 min response time

Priority 3: not described

Priority 4: crime already committed, no injuries, 50 minute response time.

Once you call 911, the operator assigns a priority and your call goes in the queue. If a call with a higher priority comes in later, it will be addressed before a lower priority call. Response time has remained stable despite the fact that call volume has increased.

The Atlanta Public School system is forming its own police force so Atlanta police officers currently employed in schools will be returned to the regular police rosters and will help to increase the police presence in the city. The next class of recruits will bring 8-10 new officers to Zone 2.

In answer to a question about whether Zone 2 is fully staffed, Major Hobbs replied that Zone 2 is currently short about 70 officers. The goal is to keep attrition at 5% or less and pay is a key component of that strategy. Alex Wan has been very helpful in supporting measures targeted to officer retention.

In response to a question about what can be done about nuisance businesses, Major Hobbs replied that the most effective way to monitor them is to check that permits are in order and that all noise ordinances are obeyed. The neighborhood may also be able to put pressure on the owner of a property not to rent to certain types of businesses. Major Hobbs noted that extended stay motels like the one on Monroe attract issues and that the APD is encouraging the owners of these establishments to hire off-duty Atlanta police officers for security.

A question was also raised about the value added by neighborhood security patrols. Major Hobbs replied that neighborhood security patrols such as the Morningside Security Patrol (MSP) are very important. The officers in MSP listen to the police radio as they patrol and are often the first to arrive on the scene because they are already close. Major Hobbs allows MSP offers to use Atlanta patrol cars for neighborhood patrol if a car is available. He also stated that neighborhoods that have security patrols have much less crime than those that do not. If there is a crime, call 911 first then call MSP.

Citizens Police Academy 3/23/16 404-546-7511 abclay@atlantaga.gov

The Atlanta Police Department is proud to announce the first of three sessions of the 2016 Citizens Police Academy. Participation in the Academy provides citizens with an opportunity to learn about the operations and practices of the Atlanta Police Department. It is 8 weeks – one hour per week

Neighborhood Watch Training – Sat March 19 –

Contact: 404-546-5713 -- cyhines@atlantaga.gov

The Atlanta Police Department and the Crime Prevention Unit is proud to announce the First Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training on Saturday, March 19, 2016. It will be held at Public Safety Headquarters located at 226 Peachtree Street, SW, Atlanta, GA from 8:45 am-1:30 pm. **NOTE THIS TRAINING IS NOW FULL**

Scott Rosenberg Atlanta CrimeStoppers

Scott Rosenberg explained that security cameras integrated with the APD system can help us significantly. The storage time of a camera in the APD system is about 30 days. Police usually know in plenty of time if they need information from the camera. They access the information immediately and store it so that the 30 day window is not generally an issue.

Alex Wan is using part of his budget to assist neighborhoods in his district to purchase security cameras and license plate readers and to become part of the APD network.

Sally then introduced the MLPA speakers:

Morningside Security Patrol (MSP) and the Street Captain Program, Bob Silvia Security Chair

Bob Silvia, MLPA Security Chair thanked the APD officers for their dedication and commitment to public safety. He went on to give a brief description of the Morningside Security Patrol (MSP) which is completely funded by MLPA membership dues at the Security Plus level.

The MSP's main job is to augment the typical Atlanta Police Department patrols in our neighborhood. The MSP currently patrols 8 hours a day and adds patrols on an as needed basis. As Major Hobbs mentioned, all MSP officers are off duty Atlanta Police officers. They listen to the police radio as they patrol our neighborhood and are often first on the scene. **If you see a crime being committed, call 911.** It is the only way to ensure that the crimes in our neighborhood are being included in the police database.

The other major task of the MSP is vacation patrol. When you're out of town - they will check on your home daily.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is run by the City of Atlanta. It relies on volunteers to serve as street captains who will keep the residents on their street informed about crime and safety concerns in the neighborhood. Bob introduced Phyllis Wingo, our street captain coordinator who is the driving force behind the success of the street captain program. He also asked all street captains present to stand.

Our Neighborhood Watch Program is approximately one year old. We have grown from 8-9 street captains a year ago to 45+ street captains today. Every two weeks, street Captains send out an email report detailing the incidences of crime in our community. If warranted, additional reports are distributed to provide information about specific incidents or a recurring pattern of crime.

Ongoing efforts to improve the program include recruiting street captains for streets that do not have one. Those streets without a captain are listed on a flyer at the membership table.

Please consider volunteering to be a street captain. Reviewing the requirements for becoming part of the APD city-wide Neighborhood Watch Program – we need every street covered to be a part of the City of Atlanta Neighborhood Watch program.

MLPA Membership Review Bill Long, Membership Chair

Bill could not be in attendance.

Financial Report, Chuck Tobias, Treasurer

Chuck Tobias stated that 2015 was a very good year for MLPA. We finished with balances of \$87,000, up 30% from 2014. The reason the MLPA maintains such large reserves is that they allow us the flexibility to increase security patrols as needed and to fund other initiatives on behalf of the neighborhood. Our security patrol is 80% of our current expense.

Sally Bayless adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.