

## MLPA Board Meeting Minutes May 9, 2016

Sally Bayless called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Board members present: Sally Bayless, Kirk Rich, Alex Munoz, Phyllis Wingo, Chase Horner, Sonny Jones, Marti Breen, Bob Silvia, Kevin McGlynn, Chuck Tobias, Amanda Strawser and John Ayers

Board Members not present: Charlie Nalbone, Bill Long

Minutes of the April meeting were approved. Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed 10/0.

### Treasurer's Report

Chuck reported that our balance of \$128,537 is up 38% over last year. The increase is mostly due to new memberships.

### Zoning Issues

V 16-085, 943 Wildwood Road

Homeowner is requesting a variance to put a pool on his property. City of Atlanta interpreted the variance request as the pool was going to be in the front yard. It has been determined by our Zoning Committee after reviewing the site plan that it is not in front yard, but alongside the house. Motion was made to grant the variance, it was seconded and passed 12/0.

### Events

Sonny reported that he still has 41 volunteer slots open for the Celebration of Summer (CoS). Amanda will contact parents at MES once again to request volunteers and will promote CoS at the final PTA meeting of the year later this week.

Also, the City of Atlanta has notified us that we need to obtain an additional permit. Sonny will take care of that tomorrow.

Due to Sonny and Chip's efforts, \$5,150 has been received for sponsorships. This is a significant increase over past years. Direct mail pieces have been sent and Kirk Rich has distributed letters to affected neighbors. Tom Coggin was recognized for donating the postcard mailing for CoS. His gift is greatly appreciated. Sonny will send out an email about the picking up and displaying yard signs.

Sonny, Sally, and Chuck will discuss pricing for CoS.

### Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)

Phyllis posed a question to the board about sharing the MLPA member email addresses with their respective street captains. Doing so would help street captains who do not have many names of neighbors on their street and would help street captains to separate MLPA members from non-members. After much discussion it was decided to have Bob Silvia send out an announcement via the Morningside Security Patrol Report that this would be happening to see if we encountered any criticism. He will report back at our next meeting and the board will reconsider this question.

Her next question was regarding the level of crime around the Morningside Village area. It was discussed that the board should engage the property owner about what could be done to remedy this situation. Kirk, Bob and Phyllis will meet with him.

Lastly, the topic of security cameras was raised. We need to determine how many we need and in which locations as well as how to raise the money for the cameras. Each camera costs \$13,000 and a license plate reader (LPR) is an additional \$2,000. These initial costs cover installation and integration with the Atlanta Police Department as well as maintenance for the first three years. Phyllis will investigate what maintenance costs after the first three years are expected to be. The NWP committee has put a lot of time in regarding the locations of additional cameras. The City of Atlanta is also still deciding where to place additional cameras that will be funded by the City. After discussion, it was decided to wait and see if the already allocated 6 cameras from the city actually have measurable results. If they do, then the board would reconsider the question of whether the MLPA should purchase additional cameras. Alex Wan's office offers a one-time match up to \$20,000 of any neighborhood expenditure on security cameras and license plate readers. These funds will be available beyond this fiscal year.

Kirk Rich suggested that, as a first move, we may want to do fundraising for license plate readers for committed cameras without LPRs. There was general agreement that this is a good idea.

#### Alex Wan

Alex Wan reported that the City Council is in the middle of budgeting. Good news is property taxes will not be going up. And millage rates may be rolled down. The city plans to rely on new property tax revenue from new homes to maintain a consistent revenue from property taxes. All the action can be watched on public television on Thursday evenings. There will be a Jazz Festival in Piedmont Park on Memorial Day. Also, due to the Memorial Day holiday, trash will be picked up on Tuesday.

There are no contested elections in the race on May 24, but there are some important issues such as the vote on the E-Splost (continuing the penny sales tax to fund improvements to schools. Grady High School and Morningside Elementary are targeted for significant improvements to their physical plant. Also, several judges are running for election.

Alex reported that the City Council has approved three of the requests from the MLPA Traffic Forum in March:

1. There will be a protected left turn lane from Piedmont onto Piedmont Circle.
2. A four way stop will be placed at the intersection of Amsterdam and Lanier.
3. The 25 mph speed limit will be extended to include North Morningside Road between North Highland and Lanier (currently the speed limit is 30 mph on this stretch of road).

This is a big win and the MLPA expressed thanks to Alex for his efforts.

Ali Carter at Andre Dickens' office also attended the meeting and reminded all present that Andre Dickens is an at large member who is working on behalf of all citizens of the City of Atlanta. If we need to contact Ali, his number is 404-548-6480.

#### Traffic

Kirk reported that the master list of additional traffic improvements will be taken up with Alex Wan after budget meetings are over.

#### Education

Amanda requested “reasons to join the MLPA” so that she could share with the parents of neighborhood schools. Marti will write up a value proposition and send it to Amanda. Amanda is attending a PTA breakfast later this week where she will promote the MLPA and sell memberships.

#### Parks

Sally mentioned the upcoming Sherwood Be Good Benefit Party to be held Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at Smith’s Olde Bar. Proceeds will finish the funding of the renovation of the Smith Park fountain and any additional funds will be used for landscaping. All contractors involved with the project will meet with representatives from the City to finalize plans on May 10.

#### Security Patrol

Bob postponed discussing a pay raise for Morningside Security Patrol officers until the July meeting in order to have time to collect more information about rates paid by adjacent neighborhoods.

#### Communications

Marti announced the website is coming soon and the board members need to submit information for the new website by the end of May. Marti will send out an email with an outline of the new website.

#### New Business

Sally suggested that in addition to herself being our NPU rep that we add John Ayers (we are allowed 2 and the second representative is usually the Zoning Chairman). It was moved, seconded and passed 12/0.

In recognition of Susan Schlitter’s time serving the neighborhood the board decided to donate \$100 for a tree to be planted in Smith Park in her honor.

Meeting adjourned!