

## MLPA Board Meeting Minutes July 11, 2016

Sally Bayless called the meeting to order and welcomed all who attended.

Board members present: Sally Bayless, Kirk Rich, Chase Horner, Marti Breen, Kevin McGlynn, John Ayers, Bob Silvia, Charlie Nalbome and Bill Long.

Board Members not present: Alex Munoz, Phyllis Wingo, Sonny Jones

Approval of the June meeting minutes were postponed until the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Zoning**

**V-16-157** 1682 North Pelham Road NE-Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 30 feet to allow for a 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition to an existing single-family dwelling. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time. Motion was made and seconded to grant the variance based on site plan dated 6/21/16. Passed 10-0

### **Treasurer's Report**

Revenue is up from approximately \$80,000 to over \$95,000 year to date due mainly to the increase in membership. The COS was reported as profitable this year for the first time thanks to the efforts of Sonny Jones and Chip York in soliciting sponsorships. Lynn Ayers volunteered to send thank you notes to the contributing sponsors.

### **Communications**

Marti reported that there is a lot of progress being made on the website to make it easier to navigate. We will also change/update the colors of MLPA to make them more modern-looking. The red will be more like a Coke red and the gray will be a cooler gray. Also plans are underway for a print version of the newsletter to be published twice a year, probably September / October and January / February. The Communications Committee plans to sell enough sponsorships to cover the costs of a print newsletter. Experience has shown that paper newsletters (in addition to e-newsletters) are helpful in recruiting and retaining members.

### **Alex Wan**

Councilman Wan reported

- The city is no longer recycling glass, but citizens may take glass to the CHaRM center at 1110 Hill Street, SE, Atlanta GA 30315, 404-600-6386 or may recycle with Keep Atlanta Beautiful the second Sunday of each month.
- The city's solid waste department has had some staffing issues and if there are problems with garbage and recycling not being picked up, citizens should call 311.
- The runoff election is July 26<sup>th</sup>. The polling place for those who usually vote at Morningside Elementary has been permanently changed to Morningside Baptist Church.

- City Council has approved a referendum for November for a \$.005 sales tax with proceeds going to MARTA. If the referendum is approved, the funds raised will be used to focus on “the last mile” – that is, more flexible transportation that will allow passengers to get to their final destination more easily. The theory is that people do not use MARTA because they cannot get to their final destination. The biggest opportunity is perceived to be the Clifton Corridor initiative.
- A referendum for an additional \$0.005 sales tax (TSPLOST) is under consideration. These funds could be used for the Beltline, among other transit and infrastructure projects. If both sales taxes are implemented, sales tax in the City of Atlanta will be 9%.
- City Council has also approved an additional \$4.3 million for police officers’ salaries, effective July 1, 2016. The Atlanta Public School system is hiring its own police force; consequently the Atlanta Police force will get the 60 officers who were serving in the Atlanta Public School system.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the first public input meeting for the “Monroe Road Diet” program. Time and place to be determined. The goal is to get a sense of what the affected communities’ concerns are. The City of Atlanta hopes to have a firm plan in place by Spring 2017. The bigger challenge is the intersection at 10<sup>th</sup> and Monroe. There is some talk of placing a pedestrian bridge over the intersection to address the dangers caused by the convergence of traffic, pedestrians, and bicycles.

### **Traffic**

Kirk Rich reported that he is currently working on a plan that would incorporate protections of our neighborhood in regards to traffic, Morningside is expected to be affected by the “Monroe Road Diet”. He is working to organize traffic consultant Joel Mann to make a presentation to MLPA members and neighbors about the Monroe Road Diet. He also reported that he met with Charlie Nalbome and Sally Bayless recently to discuss the idea of a comprehensive master long term plan for Morningside that would be similar to the Virginia Highland Association’s plan. It would possibly require the hiring of a consultant. Kirk will email the Virginia Highlands Master Plan to the board and Charlie Nalbome will send a copy of the Piedmont Heights Master Plan.

### **Parks**

Sally reported that some design changes to the Smith Park fountain have been approved by the City of Atlanta. The new design will include a bubbler in each of the four arms of the fountain to keep the water moving and the floor of the fountain will be covered in concrete rather than river rocks. We expect that these changes will diminish potential issues with mosquitos breeding in the fountain in addition to being more visually appealing. Once the fountain is completed, we will need to raise additional funds in order to complete the landscaping. Ribbon cutting for the new fountain is scheduled for 8/20/16.

### **New Business**

Marti moved that the MLPA should spend up to \$200 for sandwiches to be given to the Zone 2 police officers as a “thank you” from our community. Motion was seconded and passed 9-1. Bob Silvia and Sally Bayless will deliver the sandwiches.

Charlie Nalbone noted that the variance that we denied last month ( **V-16-135 1205 Lanier Blvd.**) will be heard by the BZA on Thursday and encouraged anyone who could to attend the meeting. One of the neighbors who is an attorney will make a statement in opposition to the variance. The neighbor is considering appealing if the BZA overrules the vote of the NPU and the MLPA to deny the request for a variance. Charlie raised the possibility that both the MLPA and Virginia Highland might want to contribute \$500 to support the neighbor in his appeal and to make a statement about the need for developers to follow city building ordinances as they are written.

Meeting was adjourned.