



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2020

Board members present: *(strikethrough indicates not present)*

President - Ben Nemo	Neighborhood Watch - Phyllis Wingo
Vice President - Donald Campbell	Parks - Charles Bayless & Marla Johnson
Treasurer - Lynn Ayers	Security Patrol - Tosh Wolfe
Secretary - Grant Gandy	Traffic - Kim Cobb
Communications - Micah Coleman	Zoning - Rebekah Falkler
Events - Alan Smith	At-Large 1 - Kevin Tanner
Membership - Sarah Chatel	At-Large 2 - Will Hazleton
Education - Kristen Pollock	

Call to Order and Welcome.

Ben Nemo called the Zoom meeting to order.

Public Officials.

City Councilmember Jennifer Ide

Transportation/TSPLOST - Lenox Road is nearing completion. Johnson bike lanes still need to be painted. Some on-street parking will be added near Noble Drive. The speed limit on Johnson Road may be changed from 30 MPH to 25 MPH. The Atlanta Department of Transportation is exploring a roundabout where Lenox Road intersects Johnson Road. East Rock Springs at Cumberland will get a roundabout in 2021 with funds from DeKalb County and a contribution from Councilmember Ide. ADA parking and walkways have been completed at the Lenox-Wildwood Park tennis and pickleball courts. Firestations #19 (Virginia-Highland) and #29 (Piedmont Heights) will be renovated.

Councilmember Ide, police, zoning and the city's law department are focusing on nightlife on Cheshire Bridge.

Micah Coleman asked about a new tree protection ordinance. Councilmembers Ide and Westmoreland have been engaged with citizens working on the ordinance. Councilmember Westmoreland is awaiting a draft from citizens in October.

Major Peter Ries, Atlanta Police Department

Major Ries introduced himself to MLPA. He has been on the police force for over 20 years and worked in many roles and zones. He has been an investigator, in narcotics, crime suppression, the crimes analysis unit, the intelligence unit and the body cam unit. He was previously in Zones 1 and 4 before his present role in Zone 6. He can be reached by e-mail or phone at pjries@atlantaga.gov or by cell phone at (404) 561-2776.

Zoning.

V-20-084	1775 Wildwood Drive	Board Approved: 15/0/0 Committee Approved: 6/0/0
Applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning ordinance to exceed the maximum height requirement for two retaining walls in the required half depth front yard from 3 feet maximum height to 6 feet maximum height.		
	<i>Letters in support from neighbors: No</i>	<i>Applicant present: Yes</i>

V-20-85	1280 Middlesex Avenue	Board Approved: 15/0/0 Committee Approved: 5/1/0 with condition of approval by neighbors
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to: 1) Reduce the required half-depth front yard setback from 17.5 feet to 8.5 feet 2) Increase the size of the garage from 35% of the ground floor to 72% of the ground floor 3) Exceed the width of a driveway from 20 feet to 35.5 feet for the addition to an existing single family residence		
	<i>Letters in support from neighbors: Yes</i>	<i>Applicant present: Yes</i>

V-20-86	1007 Courtenay Drive	Board Approved: 15/0/0 Committee Approved: 6/0/0
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce the required west side yard setback from 7 feet to 1 foot in order to construct a carport		
	<i>Letters in support from neighbors: Yes</i>	<i>Applicant present: Yes</i>

V-20-108	1164 McLynn Avenue	Board Approved: 15/0/0 Committee Approved: 6/0/0
Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the west side yard setback from 7 feet to 5.5 feet, the rear yard setback from 15 feet to 3.5 feet and to increase the size of an accessory structure from 30% of the main dwelling to 43% for the construction of a detached accessory structure		
	<i>Letters in support from neighbors: Yes</i>	<i>Applicant present: No</i>

V-20-109	1112 Zimmer Drive	Board Approved: 15/0/0 Committee Approved: 8/0/0
Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the west side yard setback from 7 feet to 1.25 feet for the additions to the existing single family dwelling		
	<i>Letters in support from neighbors: (4 of 6)</i>	<i>Applicant present: No</i>

Board Nominating Committee.

The board nominating committee is composed of Micah Coleman, Don Campbell and Jan Hogan and is seeking to replace four board seats.

Security.

The Manchester HOA has been experiencing noise from clubs on Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge and they are meeting to address these issues. Charles Bayless has met with Atlanta Neighborhoods Security Coalition (ANSC) about urban encampments in Morningside Nature Preserve, along public infrastructure and in unoccupied buildings along Cheshire Bridge. ANSC has taken a census of encampments.

Membership.

Sarah Chatel updated the board on membership. She wants to make signs to advertise membership with contact information. The board made a motion to approve \$500 for the cost of the signs that was unanimously approved.

The MLPA has been invited to join the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods. It costs \$100 for annual membership. The board made a motion to approve \$100 for membership that was unanimously approved.

Parks.

Trees Atlanta - The joint invasives removal program for MNP and JTNP has been on hold all summer and will continue until the City lifts the Covid-19 restrictions. However, we are in discussions about how to relaunch and have confirmation that they are still committed to the two Nature Preserves.

Trees Atlanta - October 10th and November 14th plantings on BVR and PAS and then on Homestead, Inverness and Wildwood are still going forward. Communication plan seems to be working well.

Tree app - Sign up for notification of tree permits issued. 16,000 trees removed per year with only 7% replacement by DBH. In discussion with the app developer to create the functionality so that members of the public can report tree removals that are occurring without a corresponding permit. Automate violation reporting. Object is to create a network of 30-50 volunteer Tree Guardians to improve the tree removal count accuracy and reduce the number of unpermitted or unfined tree removals. MNP have suffered at least 15% canopy loss since 2008.

Tree Ordinance - MLPA Parks is working with a citizen group and the City Planning Department to have another go at the revised tree ordinance. Objective is to respect property rights, accountability for property damage, and City objective of canopy. A citizen group will have a draft of a new tree ordinance in October.

Adjourn Meeting.