



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022

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

President – Ben Nemo	Social Media – Kristen Pollock
Vice President – Donald Campbell	Webmaster – Grant Davies*
Secretary – Brandon Dhande	Events – Ryan Murphy
Treasurer – Marc Tammes	Zoning – Rebekah Falkler
Membership – Sarah Chatel	Legal – Josh Kirschner*
Business Partnerships – Mark Smith*	Communications – Marla Johnson
Security – Phyllis Wingo	Traffic – Camille Richardson
Parks – Holly Sasnett, Micah Coleman	Member-at-Large – Ashley Milam

Call to Order and Welcome.

Ben Nemo called the Zoom meeting to order and opened the floor to discussion topics. Time at the beginning of the meeting is reserved for feedback from elected officials or neighborhood members, although none were present or requesting to present topics during this meeting (except for Mr. Ilkner, below).

Initial discussions included:

- Ben introduced the incoming Secretary, Brandon Dhande, to the Board members.
- The Board was pleased with the quality of and enthusiasm around recent sponsored events, including the “Meet the MLPA Board” event, “Concert in the Park,” and “Welcome to the Neighborhood Social” event.
- The upcoming sponsored “Morningside Battle of the Paddle: Pickleball Tournament” event will complete the end-of-summer scheduled events.
- The Board members noted that some attendees at recent events expressed interest in MLPA Committee roles.
- General discussion about MLPA President nomination process for 2023.
- Rebekah Falkler will continue her role as Zoning Chair for the Board in 2023; willing to co-chair.
- Board Members expressed interest in coordinating timing of any routine amendments to the MLPA Bylaws, if necessary, by November for annual updates.
- Some discussion about advancing branding efforts for MLPA, to better promote the mission and vision statements of the organization and related profile messages, perhaps in a smaller group.
- Jacob Ilkner appeared on behalf of Verdure Kitchen and Cocktails regarding its



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alcohol license application. The restaurant, soon to be located at 560 Dutch Valley Road, is in the permitting process. Mr. Ilkner described the hours of the new restaurant and shared its menu concept.

- The presentation by Mr. Ilkner on behalf of Verdure Kitchen and Cocktails was well-received by the Board, with no objections or concerns. The Board expressed appreciation for local establishments that seek support from the community for their license applications.

- Zoning Topics

- Rebekah provided this update:
 - The Board did not receive any zoning cases to review for this month's meeting.

- Financials & Membership Topics

- Marc updated the Board:
 - The Association's finances remain strong with a positive cash reserve.

- Security Topics

- Phyllis discussed these items:
 - There have been recent concerns about vagrancy in the Wildwood Park area. Phyllis coordinated with MSP Officer Rick Vasquez on potential concerns.
 - Regarding the shooting on Middlesex, the witnesses who may have known the suspect do not appear to be cooperating with police.
 - Community members should engage with Rick Vasquez with any concerns about panhandling in the neighborhood.

- Events Topics

- Ryan updated the Board on the following events:
 - There are some concerns that signs for the upcoming MLPA-sponsored Pickleball tournament have been removed/destroyed, perhaps based on unfounded perceptions of how the event will impact the layout of tennis courts. Reminder that the tournament is an approved and permitted event with the City of Atlanta. The courts used will not be altered or damaged in any way – the Pickleball matches will be facing perpendicular to the existing tennis netting.
 - Discussion about MLPA supporting the ribbon-cutting for Morningside Elementary.



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- Discussion about coordinating with Virginia Highland Civic Association to support upcoming Winterfest activities in December.

- **Traffic Topics**

- Camille discussed the following items:
 - Traffic survey results are back; to be shared with Board members and residents who contributed. Number one concern remains vehicle speeding.
 - Discussion about new method to coordinate with elected officials about traffic priorities for the community, to focus support from City of Atlanta.
 - New approved projects:
 - Four-way stop at Lenox Rd and Wildwood Rd (implemented in the wrong location but will be changed soon)
 - Crosswalk across N Highland Ave at Morningside Village, near Family Dog (have already received crosswalk study; target end of November)
 - Speed tables on Wildwood Rd between Lenox Rd and Wellbourne Dr (may take longer, possibly next summer)
 - Four-way stop at Berkshire Rd and E Sussex Rd (end of November target)
 - Three-way stop at E Morningside and Cumberland Pl (end of November target)
 - Traffic Calming Committee will meet the last week of September; will review Survey results and make plans for next priority list.

[Meeting chair transitioned from Ben to Don for the remaining meeting topics.]

- **Communications Topics**

- Kristen presented on the following:
 - Efforts underway to move off Wordpress as a website platform; working to clarify a few questions with DotCreativity. Expect to have more updates for November meeting.
 - Website changes will optimize for mobile; creative refresh; ease of updates from Chair members.

- **Parks Topics**

- Holly presented on the following:
 - Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park recently had successful work



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days.

- Noble Park and Morningside Nature Preserve have upcoming work days.
- The Atlanta United organization recently assisted with improvements to Morningside Nature Preserve.

Concluding notes:

Don shared initial plans for the centennial, including a request to help highlight the various historical homes and their stories in the neighborhood.

ADJOURN