



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023

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

President – Donald Campbell
Vice President – Rob Schuler*
Secretary – Brandon Dhande
Treasurer – Marc Tammes
Membership – Sarah Chatel
Security – Phyllis Wingo
Parks – Micah Coleman

Webmaster – Grant Davies
Events – Ryan Murphy
Zoning – Rebekah Falkler
Legal – Josh Kirschner*
Communications – Marla Johnson
Licensing – Ashley Milam*
Public Affairs - Michael Parkerson*

Call to Order and Welcome

Don Campbell called the Zoom meeting to order and opened the floor to discussion topics.

Initial discussions included:

- Minutes from the May meeting were approved by the Board.
- Updates from Don regarding various recent issues discussed by the Board.
- Council Member Alex Wan:
 - Regarding Bathaus, the application will be closely reviewed.
 - Several transportation-related requests impacting the neighborhood were submitted by Council Member Wan.
 - Department of Transportation budget: Council Member Wan is opposing cuts to transportation budgets.
 - Parks Millage Rates: Alex is supportive of the increase to parks millage rates, to enhance parks improvement and maintenance, and to decrease reliance on Friends groups. Increase would be part of 2023 collection.
 - Public Safety Training Center: Alex supported because (1) other police training centers have been condemned and are unavailable to use, (2) source of funds seems appropriate, and (3) council will continue to work on environmental concerns.
- Update on Streetcar from Matthew Peterson (with Smart Streets Atlanta) and Mike Greene (with Portman but talking in his personal capacity):
 - Message from Matthew and Mike: please pay attention to how Streetcar extension will impact your neighborhood. Mike discussed various concerns regarding the



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planned project. Slides from MARTA presentation shared to illustrate points and concerns about current plans for Streetcar.

- Don: we would like to ensure that MLPA Board members are expressing interest early for 2024 Board, to ensure that we have time for planning. Nominating Committee will get together in the next few months to put together a slate to be proactive.
- The Board will have an August 3 planning meeting at Morningside Presbyterian Church. More details to come.
- Monument cleaning: problem has been water sources. We have pressure washers and volunteers available. More details to come.

Committee Updates and Discussion

Alcohol License Topics

- No Alcohol License topics this month.

- Parks Topics

- Micah provided an update:
 - Recent meeting with Atlanta Botanical Garden about partnership opportunities, more to come.
 - Park Pride is sponsoring academy regarding parks-related training; Micah will participate.
 - Pickleball: there are some efforts to replace a tennis court in the neighborhood with a pickleball court. Sense of the Board: does not support replacing existing court for dedication for pickleball.

- Technology Topics

- No new technology updates from Grant

- Financial Topics

- Marc updated the Board:
 - Recent financial reports were circulated to the Board. Our original budget for \$5k for website support has been increased by \$7500. We had a contingency in the budget for a loss on the Centennial event, but those funds have been transferred for street toppers, previously approved by the Board. Our membership revenue growth has fallen to 2% y/y, which is below 4% growth in our budget. If that trajectory remains the same, we need different approaches. Discussion about looking at membership stats differently; Don:



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we need to know how many members dropped versus added.

- Master Plan/Infrastructure

- Phyllis described efforts to date on street topper project; slow but this is a city-approved vendor who is ready to go.
- Camille presented:
 - The Master Plan Committee will meet soon, with various subcommittees on recreation, traffic, etc. Ideas will be presented to upcoming board meeting to ensure alignment. Updates on legislation: two new stop signs (E Sussex and Rock Springs near MES/Haygood / East Sussex and Berkshire). Other discussion about stop sign at Meadowdale and Johnson Road.
 - Pedestrian crosswalks coming on Lenox Road near Morningside Nature Preserve parking lot + crosswalk between Family Dog and Nowak's. Regarding Amsterdam Walk: plans to pull ideas into Master Plan, with volunteers who can serve as liaisons to developers and develop areas for positive influence.
 - Sidewalk repair: we wanted to try with \$400 rebate; no takers so far. We are looking at options, one is assistance with contractors, to help with coordinating smaller repair projects suitable to this. Other considerations include evaluating whether \$400 is the proper incentive.
 - Don: should we have an expiration date on the program? Further discussion is needed. Will mention in upcoming newsletter to see if we can create more interest.

- Security Topics

- Phyllis discussed these items:
 - License plate reader cameras: we have two volunteers who can help with efforts for LPR cameras. Security Committee met on same issue; four ranked locations: (1) Windermere and Cheshire Bridge, (2) North Rock Springs and Piedmont, (3) East Rock Springs between Briarcliff and Cumberland, and (4) Yorkshire at Monroe. Currently waiting on next steps from team working on camera program in Police Department.
 - Police Patrols for Commercial Corridors: Initiated from Police Foundation in Buckhead. Still working on how MLPA might get involved. It would be a worthwhile effort if we can get aligned with existing program. Allison Leduc,



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Zone 2 Evening Watch Lieutenant, appeared in support of the efforts.

- **Communications Topics**

- No updates this month, but shout out from Marla and the Board to Halley Blythe, who has been a huge help with social media and content.

- **Events Topics**

- Ryan provided the update:
 - We have an upcoming meeting for events and sponsors for 5k. Other progress on Gala, including upcoming timeline for ticket sales.

- **Concluding notes:**

In the next newsletter, we will solicit interest from MLPA members for the 2024 Board (send to Brandon at secretary@mlpa.org). Don thanked the Board and concluded the meeting.

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