



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 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

Technology – 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 meeting to order and opened the floor to discussion topics.

Initial discussions included:

- The minutes from the November meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

President's Update:

- Don shared some notes regarding MLPA in 2024:
 - The 2023 year was awesome, as our Centennial year. All of the events were spectacular and we extended our footprint and relationships in the neighborhood.
 - We should work toward expressing committee-related concerns in the format of those specialized groups, where concerns that relate to their subject matter can be best addressed.
 - Our MLPA website needs attention and we need to update content. Discussion about plans for website and improvement.

Committee Updates and Discussion

Zoning Topics:

- 1264 Beech Valley Road: The owner joined to explain his proposed project, involving a detached two car garage. Plan to add second floor on the same footprint. Zoning Committee unanimously approved. Board approved by unanimous vote.



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- **Licensing Discussion:**
 - Savi: Only alcohol application is for Savi. Ashley and committee recommend approval of the license application, based on the accommodations made by Savi in response to concerns of neighbors. Discussion about hours of operation until 11pm. Board approved by majority vote, with one dissenting vote.

- **Elected Official Discussion:**
 - Kennedy McClung from Rep. Stacey Evans' office attended and shared updates on redistricting. Upcoming hearing on December 20 to review maps in federal court.

- **Foundation Discussion:**
 - Josh: It would be ideal to have a completely independent foundation. We need to establish who the Foundation board members will be, and what will the goals be of the foundation. We will need to complete the registration and receive a disbursement from MLPA. We need to consider an outside bookkeeping service for the initial year.
 - Josh explained it would be appropriate for the officers to get together and form their own mission aligned independently from MLPA.
 - What items would be sent to the Foundation: parks, greenspaces, beautification, and maybe sidewalks? Issue for further discussion.
 - We would like to (1) identify the potential board members, and (2) come back to MLPA to present ideas for formation.

- **Events Discussion:**
 - Ryan presented on plans for Events in 2024. Several events, including the annual gala, will be coming back. New events include a Tour of Homes.
 - More immediate needs include planning for sponsorships, such that potential sponsors can understand the events calendar and sponsorship opportunities.

- **Parks Update:**
 - Several upcoming events at Herbert Taylor Daniel Johnson Park.
 - Smith Park has an unofficial friends group. Park Pride has a planting plan, may include a volunteer day.
 - Micah will apply his \$2500 Park Stewardship Academy grant to accessibility in Lenox Wildwood.



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- Goals for 2024 in progress, in coordination with friends groups and other stakeholders.
- Camile mentioned that pocket parks come up a lot of discussion during Master Plan discussion. Micah will plan to attend MPI meetings on behalf of the Parks team to promote coordination between MPI and Parks.
- **Financial Update:**
 - Marc shared year-end financial details, including positive developments around events spending relative to budget.
 - Regarding cash concerns: the total amount of cash isn't an issue, rather, do we have excess cash that isn't being used.
 - Membership revenue growing by 1%; reversing a declining trend.
 - Goal to have a draft of budget by end of December to discuss by January.
- **Security Update:**
 - Phyllis shared news regarding the recent holiday meals for officers in Zone 6, donated by all Zone 6 neighborhoods including MLPA.
 - We have an ongoing problem with urban campers under bridge on Lenox. People are walking through residents' yards to get to bridge. MLPA Security Patrol is engaged. A recent fire involved assistance from fire department.
 - Three LPR cameras are on order; awaiting approval from GA Power to get mounted. Locations are East Rock Springs, North Rock Springs, and Windemere.
 - We sent emails to members who have condo memberships that will be going away as a result of the new HOA security patrol package; refunds are offered for condo members who will receive security patrols through their HOA.
- **Public Affairs Update:**
 - Michael provided an update on reported potential limitations of Atlanta Fire Department due to equipment and staffing issues. It seems like City Council is assisting with funding help. We want to ensure we have connections with AFD in the same way that we support APD.
 - Regarding Amsterdam Walk: recent conversations involve traffic impact. We are able to relay concerns to Portman, on behalf of our community. Don will transition lead role to Michael, as representative of MLPA to the Portman project.



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- **Concluding notes:**

- Don thanked the meeting attendees and concluded the meeting.

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