

HBNA Board of Directors Meeting

15 February 2024

Location: Capital City Country Club

Board members present: Mark Bryson, Christy Campbell, Shelby Cobb, Anne Culberson, Kevin Dwyer, John Higley, Gene Hooff, Julia Lanese, Tom Mallory, Justine Regnier, Mark Roberts, Carole Simpson, Julie Train, Steve Wakely.

Board members absent: Cathy Boston, Bob Connelly, Rebecca Harvill, Jamie Lawson, Maribett Varner.

Opening: President Mark Bryson called the meeting to order at 8:05am. **President's Report:** Mark B. briefly discussed the review of the HBNA by-laws undertaken by Julie Train, John Higley, and Mark since our January meeting. Two items to note: Mark Roberts will review the list of streets to make sure all are accounted for. Second, there will be a rewrite of the sentence that allows a committee to exceed their budget up to \$250. That figure will be removed and replaced with advisement that committee chairs need to bring their foreseen budget overruns to the HBNA Board for discussion and a vote by members at the March Board meeting. **The Spring General Meeting, set for Tuesday, April 9th,** needs speakers and agenda items. Several names were discussed including Mayor John Parks, Rebecca King, Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons, Zone 2 Commander Benjamin Vayens, and HBNA committee members. Please respond to Mark B. with your suggestions. **Secretary's report:** The January Minutes were presented with Shelby making the motion to approve and John H. seconding; the Minutes were unanimously approved. **Treasurer's report:** Steve presented the budget and Mark B. advised that the Board needs to be thinking about filing taxes due. Gene requested confirmation that \$500, already allocated in the budget, be available for expenses for the Club Forest Mardi Gras parade; request was confirmed.

Committee Reports:

Camera Committee: Tom presented his deep-dive, multi-year report on the effectiveness, performance, and findings of the two-way cameras located at the fourteen entrances to Historic Brookhaven. *Please refer to the one-page handout for specific numbers from 2021, 2022, and 2023.* Tom shared that the cameras' performance has been far better than expected...that they are really working well in reliability and information gathered. He noted that the police can add or insert an attribute, such as the color of a vehicle, with great success. Additional good news is that the Atlanta Police Department is finally up to speed with the Brookhaven Police Department in getting 15-second alerts. Cameras are working close to 100%, with just a couple of exceptions due to nearby construction areas where power had to be temporarily turned off. Alerts are customized in many areas including stolen plates, sex offenders, stolen vehicles, wanted persons, etc. Also in place is a system to restore power to cameras more quickly, and there is a three-day power supply to the camera battery, should power be lost. Historic Brookhaven has twenty-eight cameras—the largest number of any neighborhood. Alerts go to COA and COB. Information can

be retrieved nationally. The Flock website states that 700,000 crimes, committed nationally, were solved using Flock technology, which is equal to 10% of all reported crimes. Mark R. wondered if a criminal would be able to circumvent the Mabry Road / Windsor Parkway camera by entering the neighborhood at Wimberly. Tom will investigate and report back to the Board. We are asked to report any other possible weak links to Tom. **Half of our HBNA member dues go toward the twenty-eight cameras, therefore Tom's report will be published on the front page of the Spring Newsletter to inform and encourage neighbors to become HBNA members.**

Zoning DeKalb: John reported that the zoning at the property formerly known as Morrison Farm will remain the same. City of Brookhaven, property owner, has undertaken a cleaning of the property and has expressed no plans for the property beyond cleaning.

Zoning Fulton: Anne reported that for NPU-B, discussion has centered on the Cathedral of St. Philip's decision to sell Cathedral Towers to a management company via a 99-year lease. NPU-B was at first supportive, but has recently withdrawn that support. Anne gave a brief rundown of various ATL zoning committees. City of Atlanta is rewriting some of its zoning laws. Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods (BCN) includes @ twenty different neighborhoods. Kevin, our BCN rep, reported that Captain Benjamin Vayens has been promoted to Commander of Zone 2. Stolen vehicles, vehicle break-ins, and shoplifting numbers have risen. Over 350 firearms were stolen from vehicles in 2023 and there were 7,000 arrests in Zone 2 in 2023.

Transportation: *Please refer to the one-page February report sent out prior to the Board meeting.* Shelby documented progress with the North Buckhead Storm Drain Project, possible COB Public Works solutions to the vehicle back-up issue at the Truist Bank / DD intersection at Brookhaven Drive and Peachtree Road, the creation of the Mabry Road Safety Team, and the status of the Signature Streets initiative.

Beautification: Carole and Christy met with Department of Watershed Management personnel recently regarding available T-Splost money to begin a much-needed clean up at Davidson and East Club. The Dept. of Watershed Management will first perform drainage work needed in Mayson Ravine. After that work is completed, Watershed will address other needs in the area around the Ravine: privet will be removed from the stream bed on the other side of Davidson, invasive plants cut back from the road across from the north end of Mayson Ravine, curbing installed on East Club and Davidson, and, perhaps, a sidewalk on the Davidson side will be installed. These measures will preclude further deterioration of the road shoulder and provide a safe zone for pedestrians. Christy reported that the jobs are currently out to bid and gave a timeline for the related projects. Also approved is the repair of the large culvert at the south end of Vermont Park. Shelby spoke briefly about the Vermont triangle reconstruction aesthetics and related road signage.

Communications / Membership: HBNA membership currently stands at 753 households (budgeted for 760). Mark R. previewed the 2024 Directory cover and mailbox sticker featuring the Blue Star marker. The Directory is going to print right away. Final composition of the

Spring Newsletter will occur Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 and 18, and the neighbors who handle delivery to mailboxes have been put on notice to be ready the first week of March.

Events: In Rebecca's absence, Mark B. announced that all is in order for the Spring General Meeting with CCC on Tuesday, April 9th. Content and speakers forthcoming. See above.

New Neighbors: Julie noted that a special invitation to the Spring General Meeting will be sent to residents. Carole suggested that the HBNA correspondence cards could be used for that purpose. Carole added that a second-color nametag could be effective to help us all seek out and welcome new neighbors. Mark R. will provide a spreadsheet of names and addresses of new residents. A membership sign-up desk will be set-up for the meeting.

Film: Gene shared that there is no film activity on tap for the neighborhood, adding that there seems to be a revolving door with location scouts and areas they consider. Gene had to nix one on/off opportunity that would have proven very inconvenient for the neighborhood, and the Covid shutdown of movie studios contributed to the lack of requests.

New Business: None.

Closing: President Mark Bryson adjourned the February meeting at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted by Shelby Cobb for Maribett Varner, 2/18/24.