



# AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association  
A Neighborhood NRZ



## AHNA General Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2016

**Board Members Present:** Yvonne Matthews, Michelle McFarland, Sekienna Ellis, Paul O'Mara, Mark McKinney, Chris Montross, John Prescod, Frank Hagaman, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, George Annan-Kingsley, Jackie McKinney, Ken Johnson, David Ambrose, Nancy Rion

**Board Members Absent:** Nancy Caddigan, Jennifer Cassidy, Dean Amadon

**AHNA Members & Staff Present:** Moureen Bish, Barbara Morton, Lloyd Carter, Louisa Barton-Duguay, Maura Hallisey, Bonnie Matthews, Katherine Downing-Ahmed, Shelley Best, Val-Gene Gripes, Esther Gonzales-Torres, Joe Bumpers, Ofc. Chris Chanaca, Chief Neville Brooks, Lt. Michael Cacioli, Janice Castle, David Corrigan, Bernie Michel

**Visitors:** Diane Cantello, Morgan Ferrarotti, Carolyn Havrda, John Freeman, Valerio Giadone, Mandisa Walker, John Wyatt, Logan Singerman, Arlene Patterson, Darian Alamo, Jinelle Hooker, Hyacinth Yennie, Marcus Jarvis, Angela Jarvis, Rev. James Shanley, Jennifer Stephens, Vinny Vella, Claire Bergin, Harry Belluci

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. Yvonne recognized David Corrigan for his time and effort devoted to AHNA as well as the guidance he provides Yvonne. The Mission of AHNA was read. The January minutes were approved.

**Police Report:** Chris Chanaca reported 6 motor vehicle thefts, 6 burglaries including ones at Weaver High School and the Boys and Girls Club, and 3 robberies. Car breaks are starting to come down. There was one drug related shooting at 218 Laurel St. Chris had the **Do Not Enter** signs at South Marshall and Case replaced with brand new signs. Chris mentioned that 256 S. Marshall Street has been purchased by two police officers who have put cameras in the building and are working to improve the quality of life there. Chris noted many reports of "apple picking" – stealing phones from pedestrians who are walking and texting. He applauded residents who cooperated with moving their cars off the street in the recent snowstorm.

Councilman Larry Deutsch spoke briefly urging residents to attend upcoming meetings at City Hall regarding the budget issues and the new baseball stadium.

### Finance Committee:

January 1 balance: \$4,197

January expenses: \$1,365

January 31 balance: \$2,981

The Committee is seeking additional public and private sources of revenue.

**Hartford Decides\$:** Logan Singerman described the Participatory Budgeting Program in which members of the community develop ideas for projects to improve their neighborhood. The proposals are put to a citywide vote in March with the top vote-getters receiving funding with money

set aside by the City for capital improvement projects. Logan urged residents to get involved.

**Asylum Hill Zoning Modifications:** V. Giadone described modifications that a group of Asylum Hill residents are recommending to Planning and Zoning to reduce housing density and increase home ownership in Asylum Hill. The group sent their proposals to the chair of Planning and Zoning. If they get preliminary approval, notices will be sent to impacted residents. A public hearing will be held Feb 23 followed by a vote of the P&Z Board.

**Hartford Public High School Athletic Field:** Hyacinth Yennie and the high school football coach seek to provide lights for the football field as well as new turf at a cost of over \$1million. They requested a letter of support from AHNA for these improvements. Following a motion to approve, AHNA members voted unanimously to provide the letter of support.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee nominated Maureen Bish to join the AHNA Board. The nomination was unanimously approved.

**Community Conversation and Announcements:**

- HartBeat Ensemble has created a play about Asylum Hill with a focus on S. Marshall Street, based on resident interviews. Residents were encouraged to attend one of the three performances, Feb 5,6, and 7.
- GhanaBeats Radio has started.
- Youth Empowerment Conference will be held at Trinity on Feb 20.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is available near Asylum Hill at several locations.
- Trinity Episcopal Church is exploring possibilities of creating a new organization in Hartford to support refugees. An organizational meeting will be held Feb 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.