



AHNA

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
A Neighborhood NRZ

HARTFORD
★ **HAS IT**

AHNA General Meeting Minutes – March 07, 2016

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Michelle McFarland, Sekienna Ellis, Paul O'Mara, Chris Montross, John Prescod, Frank Hagaman, George Annan-Kingsley, Jackie McKinney, Ken Johnson, Jennifer Cassidy, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Nancy Caddigan, Dean Amadon, David Ambrose, Mark McKinney, Luwannia Johnson-Martin, Maureen Bish

AHNA Members & Staff Present: Ofc. John Zweibelson, David Corrigan, Barbara Morton, Louisa Barton-Duguay, Donna Sodipo, Maura Hallisey, Sue Carey, Mia Douglas, Bonnie Matthews, Katherine Downing-Ahmed, Lloyd Carter, Shelley best, Mike McGarry, Ted Carroll I, Neville Brooks, and Bernie Michel

Visitors: Diane Cantello, Morgan Ferrarotti, Rev. Gail Williams, Jacqueline Harris, Don Wilson, Regina Lester-Harris, Eunice Hernandez, Celina Caez, Jinelle Hooker, Courtney Jackson, Carol Padberg, and Councilman TJ Clarke.

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. Yvonne recognized Bernie Michel, our AHNA staff member, who gives his heart and soul to the work of AHNA and the Asylum Hill Neighborhood. The Mission of AHNA was read. The February minutes were approved with the addition of Larry Deutsch as a visitor, and adding that Harry Belluci is the HPHS football coach.

Police Report: John Zweibelson reported 3 motor vehicle thefts, 6 burglaries and 3 robberies. Car breaks are increasing, particularly in the West End. There was a significant arrest on South Marshall for drugs and firearms. Cameras have been installed on S. Marshall. There was one murder on Woodland Street; a suspect has been arrested. The police are working with the Capital Region for Mental Health to help with dealing with suspicious persons who are mentally ill. John also works with the Court to get help for mentally ill persons. John brought car clubs to give to residents.

Finance Committee:

February 1 balance: \$2,981

February 29 balance: \$1,614

West Middle School Brand Initiative: Don Wilson spoke about his work as a consultant to West Middle School and about the importance of branding.

The daughter of Roland Harris Jr. spoke about the work of their father who was the first African American Principal in Hartford, serving West Middle School for 25 years. She asked that the community consider naming the renovated school for Roland Harris.

TGP Gas Pipeline and MDC in Bloomfield: Kate Ahmed spoke about a recent Resolution by City Council that unanimously opposed both the pipeline and the request by Niagara bottling plant. She urged NRZs to write letters of concern to the legislature in support of the Council's opposition.

Community Conversation and Announcements:

- Important dates regarding the Hartford budget:
 - March 24 – 5 PM, the Mayor will give his state of the city address
 - April 18 – the Mayor submits his budget to City Council
 - April 26 – public hearing on the city budget
- George Kingsley received a thank you from President Obama for the picture that George sent the President
- A kiosk has been placed in the library that describes social services available to residents
- Hartford Decides: voting takes place in March for the 25 projects submitted. The finalists will be announced on April 1.
- Hartford 2000: Jackie McKinney is one of AHNA's representatives. Yvonne Mathews was elected to be the 2nd representative of AHNA to Hartford 2000.
- WNPR received a grant for the Radius Project in Hartford.
- Knox Foundation received a grant for a neighborhood arts studio – an Eco Art Project for high school students.
- Hartford Blooms is June 11-19.
- Grace Lutheran Church will provide breakfast for the neighborhood on Easter.
- The Hartford will sponsor concerts in the park on May 18 and June 1 at noon
- Admission to the Wadsworth is free, daily from 4-5PM. Admission is free at all times to Hartford students.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.