

**AHNA General Meeting
Minutes – December 7, 2015**

Board Members Present: Yvonne Matthews, Michelle McFarland, Dean Amadon, Paul O'Mara, Ken Johnson, Nancy Caddigan, Mark McKinney, Jackie McKinney, Jennifer Cassidy, Chris Montross, Sekienna Ellis, John Prescod, Nancy Rion

Board Members Absent: Luwannia Johnson-Martin, Frank Hagaman, David Ambrose, George Annan-Kingsley, Dulcie Giadone

AHNA Members & Staff Present: *((Bernie – please correct))* David Corrigan, Bernie Michel

Visitors: *((Bernie – please add))*

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Matthews at 6:15. Yvonne thanked Chris Montross and the Aetna for providing the Aetna jazz band and lovely appetizers and desserts that members enjoyed before and after the short business meeting. Yvonne also recognized Diane Cantello from The Hartford for all her work with AHNA and for the residents of Asylum Hill. The Mission of AHNA was read. The November minutes were approved.

Police Report: Chris Chinaca reported recent drug related shootings at 278 Farmington. In November there were 3 burglaries; 22 car break ins – mostly on Forrest, Gillette and Niles Streets; 4 robberies, and 6 car thefts. He reminded residents that the police provide free car clubs. Aggressive panhandling continues on Sigourney at the ramps near Aetna. Pan handling is illegal in Hartford and anyone who sees it should call the police. Chris reminded everyone that residents should not allow packages to sit on their porches – that they should have neighbors bring them inside.

The following concerns were expressed to the police:

- (1) desire to have new traffic lane lines painted on Woodland St
- (2) suspicious person hanging around CPTV
- (3) lots of suspicious activity on Niles, near the garden
- (4) lots of suspicious activity on Farmington Ave.

Finance Committee: Sekienna reported

\$1,271.35 – balance November 1

\$1,357.24 - November expenses

\$ November income ((Sekienna please provide number))

\$ 189.11 - November 30 balance

Sekienna anticipates income from grants in December.

Education Committee: Dean announced that Asylum Hill Congregational Church is creating a Volunteer Center at the new West Middle School. The Hartford, Leadership

Greater Hartford, and Achieve Hartford are creating a model process at West Middle School to reimagine the neighborhood school – a process they hope will become a model for other neighborhood schools. They asked everyone to complete a survey regarding the future name of the school.

Presentation: UCONN students presented a report on the Air Quality in Asylum Hill. They measured the quality of air at Hartford Public High School – assuming pollution might be significant because it is near the highway and buses often idle there. While there was evidence of more pollution, the air quality was relatively good. They will continue their work.

General Announcements:

- Video of the CT Forum on Race will be shown soon at Hartford Public High School. The Forum was sold out and many residents were unable to attend. Michelle said there will be a discussion including students following the video.
- First Night promises to be great this year
- Double-decker buses may soon come to Hartford

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 for a holiday party provided by the Aetna.