

Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
(19 attendees; 4 visitors)

Welcome – Erika Heller, President

- Erika reported that the Bylaw Revision Committee has been working diligently and has met every week over the past month. The Board began reviewing the Committee's recommendations this month and hopes to have a draft of the revised bylaws to present to the neighborhood later this summer.
- The Board has not yet considered moving toward a return to in-person general membership meetings, but it is on the Board's radar as we move into the second half of the year. The hope is that we could return to in-person meetings some time during the fourth quarter if not sooner. Whether or not general membership meetings can/will be held in-person as well as a virtual electronic platform such as Zoom is something still to be determined.
- The Board is still looking to kick-off a yard sign initiative similar to that of Morningside and Virginia-Highland. If you have a clever slogan idea for Poncey-Hi, please feel free to share it with us via email! ponceyhighlandna@gmail.com The Board is also discussing the possibility of installing the Poncey-Highland street sign toppers; however, this will require additional fundraising.

APD Zone 6 Update:

- E. L. Taylor (PHNA Public Safety Chair) introduced Officer Stanio who is the new Quality of Life Officer for Zone 6. Officer Stanio has been working in Zone 6 for over 10 years and has replaced the previous Quality of Life Officer who recently retired. Officer Stanio's primary focus in Zone 6 in recent months has been the homeless population, which he works with on a daily basis. He reiterated that residents should always call 911 in the case of an emergency or criminal matter. If it is not a criminal or life-threatening situation, please call 311. Officer Stanio also reported that urban campers that were living in the park at Freedom Parkway and North Avenue as recent as today have been moved from that location.
- Sergeant Murphy represented the Atlanta Police Department Zone 6. He asked residents to continue to follow the clean car campaign that APD has been communicating, including always locking all doors and removing all valuables from vehicles. Sergeant Murphy also recommended that residents with street parking consider installing dash cams in vehicles. The forward and rear facing cameras can provide a great network of video from the neighborhood to share with APD. This is a great resource for capturing helpful intel such as physical descriptions, tag numbers, etc. to help identify and apprehend criminals. It also serves as a deterrent for criminals because they know they are being watched and recorded.
- E.L. reminded everyone that we have a Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Watch Facebook page that is used to share current security concerns, issues and information with the neighborhood.

Council District 2 Update – Jay Tribby:

- Jay Tribby is Chief of Staff to District 2 Councilmember Amir Farokhi. Jay reported that the City of Atlanta has been working to increase its ability to enforce the nuisance property ordinance. The nuisance property ordinance is focused on businesses such as bars, clubs, lounges and parking lots where violent incidents occur. Amir's amendment to the ordinance will allow APD and the City to work faster and more efficiently to take these property owners to court in order to shut down the businesses where violent incidents occur.
- The issue of zoning and permit building violations being reported but not followed up on was discussed. Jay suggested that if you report a violation to 311 that you should also contact Amir's office to let him know that a violation was reported. He can then follow up with the department lead at the City.
- Jay shared news that Amir and Julie Farokhi welcomed a new baby girl to their family last month. Congratulations to the Farokhis!
- For anyone with concerns in Council District 2, feel free to reach out to your councilmember, Amir Farokhi or Jay Tribby. ARFarokhi@AtlantaGA.gov and JCTribby@AtlantaGA.gov. Amir's city mobile is: 404-290-3347.

Treasurer Report – Nick Pastore:

- Nick reported a current bank balance of \$4,832 after starting the year at \$676. This is an increase of \$4,156. \$1,450 was raised through Trivia Night and \$3,050 from individual donations.

Land Use – Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair:

- Ordinance Z2141– Urban Farm stands The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the City of Atlanta's zoning definition for urban gardens to allow for onsite sales; and where a special administrative permit is required for an urban garden, the ordinance will amend the terms of the permit to extend to 3 years rather than 1 year. The intent of the ordinance is to expand the use of urban gardens in residential areas, increase availability of locally grown food, stimulate neighborhood economic activity and have additional positive community impact. The ordinance will be on the NPU's May agenda for review and comment only and on the June agenda for vote. The PHNA Land Use Committee supports this ordinance.
- Applications Z21042 and Z21110 are for rezoning and a variance for property at 791 Ralph McGill Blvd in Old Fourth Ward. The applicant will be presenting to the O4W Alliance on June 10th. The application is to rezone the property from MRC1 Beltline to MRC3 Beltline and for a variance to increase the maximum building coverage from 85% to 100% for construction of a 24 unit multi-family building.
- The CDP (Comprehensive Development Plan) is Atlanta's guide for growth and development. Per the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Atlanta Regional Commission, the City of Atlanta is required to adopt and implement a CDP and update it every 5 years. Major updates take place every 5 years while minor updates take place annually and on an as needed basis. The CDP 5 year update was scheduled for October 2021 but the deadline has been pushed out to 2022. However, with the Historic District being implemented last year, the Land Use Committee opted to

go through the process now and document their feedback and recommended updates. If you would like to review the CDP and recommended change, it can be found on the PHNA website.

Fund & Fun-raising Events – Ward Binns, Vice President:

- Ward is currently working on a series of new events called Camp Poncey-Hi. Some of the “camp” events will be fundraising focused and others will be pure fun-raising events. The hope is to have several smaller events such as porch parties, learning events, kids-only events, etc. Camp Poncey-Hi will take place during the month of August and will hopefully include an end of summer camp party at the end August for everyone to enjoy.
- A reminder that we are always looking for sponsors for these events. Please contact Ward if you are interested in being a sponsor.