

Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021
36 attendees; 3 visitors

Welcome – Erika Heller, President

Erika presented the need for a small modification to the bylaws related to location of the general membership meetings. The bylaws require a place (location) where the general membership meetings are held. Robert’s Rules of Order define a “place” as a place where people meet in person. Due to COVID limitations, it is essential to have the ability to hold meetings via an electronic platform such as Zoom. Therefore, at the March meeting a vote will be held to formally approve an amendment to the bylaws. The proposed change is as follows:

PROPOSED CHANGE TO SECTION 5.1 OF THE BYLAWS OF PONCEY-HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

General meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7PM, at such place as shall from time to time be determined by the Board.

REVISED LANGUAGE:

General meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7PM, at such place or via such electronic conferencing platform, as shall from time to time be determined by the Board.

APD Zone 6 Update:

- Lt. Desmond Floyd represented the COA Police Department Zone 6, updating on current crime in the community. The biggest current issues in Zone 6 and surrounding neighborhoods are vehicle break-ins and auto theft. APD has added extra patrols, including undercover surveillance, in order to reduce and control these incidents. Law enforcement is urging the community to not leave spare keys in their vehicles and do not keep vehicles running unattended. They continue to strongly advocate for and encourage the clean car campaign. Lt. Floyd requested that residents call 911 if you witness or experience any suspicious behavior. 911 will prioritize dispatch so please do not hesitate to call.

Public Safety Update – E.L. Taylor:

- E.L. reported that that this week one of our homeless individuals was placed into the Salvation Army’s care where he will get the help and support he needs and deserves. This is great news for this individual, and Denise White from PAD shared more on how this was possible.
- Denise White, Director of Diversion Services with the Pre-Arrest Diversion (PAD) Program explained the program and how they are helping at-risk individuals in the community. PAD was started in 2017 with the initiative to work closely with law enforcement to help people

who have committed an offense stemming from quality of life issues such as poverty, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health issues, etc. Law enforcement can refer them to PAD where they are provided safe housing, food, and case management as well as healthcare and mental health services if needed. Denise explained that by working with law enforcement coupled with help from the community PAD can assist individuals and find a safe environment for them to get the help and support they need. Denise urged community members to call 311 if they see someone in need of assistance. The 311 helpline will contact PAD immediately and a PAD support team will be dispatched. Urgent calls are responded to within 30 minutes; outreach or non-urgent cases are responded to within 72 hours. If you see someone you believe may be at risk due to homelessness, mental health issues, etc., please call 311 and select the PAD division so that they can dispatch a support team. Denise confirmed what EL shared and the successful placement of a homeless man from our community. That individual is now getting the support he needs which is fantastic news and thanks in part to Poncey-Highland neighbors who called 311.

*PAD has officially changed its name to Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative.

District 2 City Council Update – Jay Tribby on behalf of Councilman Amir Farokhi:

- Due to staffing challenges related to COVID, the solid waste schedule has changed. Solid waste service will continue on a weekly basis, but the recycling and tree trimming pick-ups will be picked up on alternating weeks.
- Jay clarified that the Counties in the state of Georgia handle health and human service issues. Therefore, if you are seeking information on vaccinations, availability and schedules, please refer to the Fulton County website for the most accurate information and updates.

Treasurer Report – Nick Pastore:

- Nick reported that we opened our new bank account with Ameris bank and transferred the balance from our old Truist (SunTrust) account, which is being closed. The banking change will save money on service charges.
- Nick shared the year-to-date financials. With a starting balance of \$676 and administrative expenses in January totaling \$235 our current balance is \$441. January expenses included a bank service charge, registration with the Secretary of State, filing of Tax Form 990 and the Zoom account charge.
- Nick presented the proposed budget, proposed fundraising goals, and community donations and green-space initiatives for 2021. The Board's primary goal in 2021 is to restore the cash balance and build cash reserves for 2 years worth of operating costs. The Board also hopes to foster a more active PHNA, encourage community involvement and support fun and engaging events for the Poncey-Highland community.
- The Board's goal is to fundraise \$10,000 which would be allocated as follows:
 - \$1,000 – Administrative Expenses

- \$1,000 – Fundraising and Special Events
 - \$2,350 – Donations
 - \$750 – Greenspace
 - \$4,900 – Cash Reserves
- EL Taylor made a motion to approve the 2021 budget as presented by Nick Pastore, Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Lianne Deren and the 2021 Budget was approved with 25 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

Fundraising – Ward Binns, Vice President:

- Ward shared results from the fundraising meeting held with Poncey-Highland neighbors the first week in February. The purpose of that meeting was to identify ideas, activities and efforts that will help PHNA reach the \$10,000 fundraising goal for 2021. Be on the look out for more details as the Board launches a few COVID-safe fundraising events in March and April, including a traditional donation drive, a virtual Poncey-Highland Trivia Night and online Poncey-Highland merchandise sales through Bonfire.com. The Board also hopes to be able to plan additional in-person events later in the year, such as family-friendly backyard parties, movie nights in the park, local artist events, porch parties, cocktail parties, etc.
- The Board set up a new PayPal account to accept donations; this new PayPal account is also registered as a “PayPal Giving Fund.” This allows you to charitably give your proceeds to PHNA from your PayPal account if you so choose. In addition, PHNA is now registered with Amazon Smile. By using the PHNA Amazon Smile link when placing your Amazon orders, Amazon will give back a small portion (1%) of those sales to PHNA.

Land Use – Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair:

- Lianne didn’t have any new Land Use business to report this month. She did remind the community of the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance which would regulate AirBnB type properties. To read more on the proposed ordinance, visit: <https://www.ponceyhighland.org/land-use/20-o-1656-ordinance-short-term-rentals>. To provide feedback for the proposed Short Term Rental ordinance, please click: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeB0XOxRz7aecwhvOWwxuFLldf3yyoyLl_EOFXjeoMHFmfM1w/viewform As our NPU Representative, Lenore will share Poncey-Highland’s questions, concerns, and overall feedback at the next NPU Meeting later this month.
- The Highland Inn and Highland Row is officially under new ownership. The new owners hope to join PHNA at next month’s general membership meeting when they will introduce themselves, share their plans and vision for the property and answer any questions the community might have.

NPU Update – Lenore Carrol, NPU Representative:

- Lenore reported that the Hotel Clermont liquor license application was approved at last month's NPU meeting.
- Lenore also discussed how she will be utilizing the monthly PHNA newsletter email, the PHNA website and the PHNA Facebook page as forums to pro-actively and comprehensively keep the Poncey-Highland community updated on the many city-wide initiatives and conversations, such as the proposed COA Tree Ordinance and the Subarea 5 Master Plan update. Please be on the lookout for the monthly newsletter and do not hesitate to check the Poncey-Highland website for additional news and information.

Freedom Park Conservancy – Beth McDonald, PHNA Representative:

- Beth urged everyone to take the survey for the Freedom Park Conservancy if they have not done so already. <https://swa.mysocialpinpoint.com/atlanta-freedom-park/project-prioritization-survey/> It is available until February 24th.
- Beth shared information on the The Elder Project. You can read more about that here: <https://www.civilandhumanrights.org/program/sowing-the-imagination/>
- With the support of Trees Atlanta, the tree planting in honor of Representative John Lewis will take place February 19-21 in the John Lewis Plaza at the corner of North Avenue and Freedom Parkway. <https://freedompark.org/news/>
- The Freedom Park Conservancy continues its efforts on the Master Plan. They hope to present the Master Plan to the Community in April. <https://freedompark.org/news/>

Miscellaneous:

- Jenna Mobley shared that Ponce City Farmers Market is returning and will be held every Wednesday. Opening day is Wednesday, March 24th!