

Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
(24 attendees; 5 visitors)

Welcome – Erika Heller, President

- The Bylaw Revision Committee includes Erika Heller and three members of the neighborhood – Chris Jenko, John O’Brien and Susan Somach. All three individuals working with Erika happen to be attorneys and were also all involved in drafting the original version of the bylaws in 2005. The Committee is meeting on a regular basis to identify gaps and revisions that need to be made. The goal is to have a draft of the revisions to present to the neighborhood for review and feedback later this year and then hopefully take to a vote in late October.
- The Board is looking to kick-off a yard sign initiative similar to that of Morningside and Virginia-Highland. If you have a clever slogan idea please feel free to share it with us via email! ponceyhighlandna@gmail.com
- The SPARK GO Team is soliciting feedback for future use of the former Inman Middle School property. Check your email for this month’s PHNA Newsletter where you will find a link to provide feedback.

APD Zone 6 Update:

- Lt. Desmond Floyd represented the COA Police Department Zone 6, updating on current crime in the community. Currently, the three highest reported crime categories challenging Zone 6 are vehicle break-ins, auto theft, and package theft. APD has scheduled extra patrols to discourage this activity. He continues to encourage the community to follow the clean car campaign. Do not leave spare keys in vehicles and never keep vehicles running unattended.
- Lt. Floyd also reported that there is a continued, collaborative effort to reduce street racing activity in Atlanta. There is some confusion in the community with respect to street racing vs. very loud cars. He explained there is an influx of vehicles coming into the city particularly on weekend nights and many of these vehicles have “altered exhaust” systems which result in them driving very, very loudly. Although they might not be racing, the altered exhaust makes them sound as though they are racing. Officers are making traffic stops to address this issue as well as the street racing activity. Lt. Floyd shared that APD and city officials believe their efforts have helped discourage and lesson street racing. In addition to patrolling, traffic stops and road deterrents, they are using social media and other intelligence efforts to communicate with the leaders of the car clubs and get the message out to not bring their clubs into the city. Lt. Floyd stated they have seen a reduction in the number of car groups coming into the city from the suburbs, but it is work in progress.

Treasurer Report – Nick Pastore:

- Fundraising has been very successful the last couple of months through both the “Non-Event” Gala and the Trivia Night. PHNA started the year with \$676; the current balance is \$4,682. Donations and sponsorships account for \$4,350, and expenses to date are \$344. Expenses include annual

Zoom account, invitations for the non-event Gala, and registration for Secretary of State and insurance.

- This is great news! Thank you to everyone who has donated. If you haven't already received a letter acknowledging your donation, you will receive one soon.

Land Use – Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair:

- Lianne introduced Tom Scheffer, General Manager of Illuminarium Experiences who has applied for new alcohol licenses for their event center, café and patio. Illuminarium is an immersive experiential business located at 820 Ralph McGill Blvd. (at Common Ground) with a planned opening date of July 2021. Both the Land Use Committee and PHNA Board of Directors unanimously voted in support of the applications and recommended they be brought to the general membership for vote. Lianne made a motion to approve; Ward Binns seconded that motion; and the general membership voted to approve with 17 in favor and 2 abstentions.
- Tom discussed in great detail their plans to help reduce an influx of heavy traffic to the event center as well their parking solutions for both employees and patrons. Contact information for Tom Scheffer at Illuminarium Experiences is: 404-341-1000 (EXT 1033) tscheffer@legends.net.
- The Tree Protection Ordinance proposed by the City of Atlanta is scheduled to come before City Council on May 17th for approval and adoption. Trees Atlanta representatives spoke at the March meeting about their recommended amendments. They have created a 4-part webinar that is available on their website that explains their recommended amendments to the ordinance. (The PHNA monthly newsletters provides the link to the webinar.) Trees Atlanta's position is in support of the Tree Ordinance with the inclusion of their recommended amendments. They would have to pull their support if a majority of the amendments are not included. Trees Atlanta is asking for the neighborhood's support by sending emails to City Council asking that they include the recommended amendments presented by Trees Atlanta.