**Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association**

**Monthly General Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

**(23 Members; 2 Guests)**

**Welcome – Erika Heller, President**

* Erika shared that in January 2021, the Board’s stated goals were to raise $10,000, to increase neighborhood engagement, to have a fun, active Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association and to revise our PHNA Bylaws. The Board is excited to have raised $10,460 this year through 13 fun and engaging neighborhood events, feel thankful to have a wonderful, re-energized neighborhood and are confident passing the baton to the new 2022 Board of Directors with a revised set of Bylaws.

**Public Safety – APD Zone 6 Update:**

* Lt. Clint Meyers, APD Evening Watch Commander for Zone 6, provided an update on Poncey-Highland crime trends. In the last 28 days there were 10 reported felonies, 9 of which were property crimes including general larceny and theft from vehicles. The majority of these crimes are taking place on Ponce de Leon and North Avenue. In the last couple of months, violent crimes have been trending down. For example, aggravated assaults are down 39% and robberies are down 31%. While there is still work to do, APD is encouraged that crime is trending down, in the right direction. There were no questions from the floor. If you have any questions or concerns for Lt. Myers, he can be reached via email at: [cvmyers@atlantaga.gov](mailto:cvmyers@atlantaga.gov).

**Council District 2 Update – Amir Farohki:**

* Councilman Farokhi provided an update related to the zoning legislation that he introduced and proposed with the goal to increase “gentle density.” The proposed legislation addressed permitting attached ADUs, removing minimum parking requirements for residential properties (allowing the builder and/or developer to determine how many parking spaces are needed), and rezoning properties within a half-mile of a MARTA station to allow for 1-4 units (historic districts were excluded from this rezoning). After much feedback and numerous revisions, City Council voted it down, making it dead going into 2022. However, Amir expects City Council will revisit the proposals on a piecemeal basis, essentially considering the three components individually rather than in one combined piece of legislation.
* Amir provided an update on the long awaited HAWK signal at North Avenue and Somerset that was approved and dollars set aside for it over three years ago. Amir and his office reached out to the DOT multiple times on the matter and recently received a response from the DOT stating that they put the project out for bid twice through their procurement process and both times no contractors bid on it. DOT staff is now working on alternatives to secure a construction contract to install the HAWK signal.
* Amir remains optimistic about policy making in the new year with new energy and perspective with a new Mayor, a new City Council president and 7 new council members.
* Amir explained the legislative amendment to the Short-term Rental (STR) Ordinance that passed earlier in the year. The amendment to the STR zoning legislation allows for Attached Dwelling Units (ADUs) to be used as STRs in residential dwellings in the city. The original legislation did not allow carriage houses or apartments or other ADUs to be used as STRs. There is a limit to how many STRs a property owner can have; however, the amendment does now allow homeowners in the city to use ADUs as STRs as long as the primary property owner lives on-site.
* If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amir or Jay Tribby via email at [ARFarokhi@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:ARFarokhi@AtlantaGA.gov) and [JCTribby@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:JCTribby@AtlantaGA.gov) or call Amir’s office at 404-290-3347.

**Fundraising – Ward Binns, Vice President:**

* Nothing to report this month.

**Treasurer Report – Nick Pastore:**

* Nick provided a monthly financial update, including explanation of additional expenses and donations activity from Camp Poncey-Hi and the Halloween event. The current cash balance is $8,007.

**Land Use/NPU – Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair:**

* Lianne reported on Poncey-Highland Historic District (PHHD) updates. Two Certificates of Occupancy (COA) have been applied for within the PHHD. Both were brought before the UDC on November 22nd. The applications in Poncey-Highland’s Historic District include a single family home at 1036 Williams Mill Road which was approved with revised conditions. The second application is for the Dugan’s property site at 767 Ponce de Leon. For this site, Chick-Fila is proposing to demolish the building and build a drive-thru restaurant. They applied for a Type 3 COA including several variances. The UDC provided feedback, stating the current design is not in compliance with the Poncey-Highland Historic District regulations. The UDC voted to defer their application to January 12th to allow them to make further updates to the design.
* The city is embarking on its first full zoning rewrite since 1982. The current zoning is not reflective of our current building environment. This will be a multi-year effort and is expected to take four years with a start in Fall of 2022 and a vote in Summer 2024. They will be conducting public engagement sessions with the first virtual session on November 3rd. To learn more about the upcoming full zoning rewrite and the upcoming "Idea Lab" and other public engagement opportunities: <https://atlzoning.com/> and <https://atlzoning.com/meet-and-contribute/>
* Information on proposed legislation, PHHD applications, and LRB applications can be found on the PHNA website under the Land Use section: <https://www.ponceyhighland.org/land-use>
* Questions for the PHNA Land Use Committee? Reach us at [phlanduse@gmail.com](mailto:phlanduse@gmail.com).
* Questions about doing work in Poncey-Highland's Historic District? Reach the PHNA Historic District Subcommittee at [PHhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:PHhistoric@gmail.com).
* Link to Poncey-Highland Historic District regulations: <https://library.municode.com/ga/atlanta/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOORANDECO_PT16ZO_CH20VPOGHHIDI>
* Before filing an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, we strongly encourage you to reach out to both the PHNA Historic District Subcommittee and the Office of Design's Historic Preservation Studio. Office of Design - Historic Preservation Studio Email: [historicpreservation@atlantaga.gov](mailto:historicpreservation@atlantaga.gov) Main Line: (404) 546-0134

**Election of 2022 PHNA Board of Directors**

* The Proposed Slate of Board of Directors for 2022 was presented. Erika called for a vote of the Board of Directors. Cathi Barlow made a motion to elect the 2022 slate of Directors as stated. Ward Binns seconded the motion. The vote was 29 in Support; 1 Abstention. (23 votes via Zoom poll; 7 Absentee votes)
* Shawn Gleason, President
* Renae Veira, Vice President
* YaYa Hall, Secretary
* Nick Pastore, Treasurer
* Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair
* Lenore Carrol, NPU Rep
* Nicole Jansen, Fundraising Chair
* Paul Byk, Communications Chair
* Congratulations to the new Board of Directors, and special thanks to the nominating committee – including Cathi Barlow, Jim McMahel, Rob Brawner, John O’Brien, and Beth MacDonald – for their time and effort assembling such a great group of nominees to lead in 2022.

\*Please reach out to Andrea Zern (Secretary) regarding any additions, omissions or corrections. [Andrea.zern@yahoo.com](mailto:Andrea.zern@yahoo.com) A recording of this meeting is available on the PHNA website.