

Adair Park Today Neighborhood Meeting February 2021

Lawrence Miller (President) called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Nakita Robinson (Treasurer) instructed participants to pay dues by 7:10 p.m. in order to vote during the meeting

Secretary's Report (Monique Shields)

- Tim Ruffin moved to approve the February minutes as presented; Alyssa Thys seconded the motion.
- Minutes approved.

Public Safety (Matt Lynn)

- Party house on Elbert still being investigated
- APD conducting directed patrols to remedy parked cars on Tift, blocking driveways
- Be vigilant about locking cars and not leaving cars running
- Matt Lynn leaving AP. Need a new safety chair. Contact safety@adairpark.com and/or president@adairpark.com if interested.

Goodwill Industries of North GA (CEO Keith Parker)

- Explained the mission and operations of Goodwill. Helped 27,000 people, often with barriers to employment, find jobs in 2020. #1 Goodwill in the country for helping African Americans find jobs.
- New project in Metropolitan Pkwy area: a new, state-of-the-art store, with look and feel of a major retailer; and a new career center, with a goal to serve 8,000 people per year. Under construction currently and already employing local residents.
- goodwillng.org/metro for updates
- Q&A
 - What will happen to West End store? Will remain open.
 - When will you open? Anticipating late-September/early-October.
 - Do you hire people over the age of 65? Yes, tries to be the best place in the country for people who face barriers to employment, including age discrimination.
 - Where is it located? 2160 Metropolitan Parkway. A few blocks from Atlanta Technical College, across from Victory Church.

Senior Program (John Sherwood)

- Lawrence reported for John Sherwood. Provided overview of program's efforts and impact and encouraged neighbors to volunteer. Contact seniors@adairpark.com.
- Thanked NPU-V for providing 40, \$25 gift cards to AP seniors.
- Q&A
 - What is the seniors program? Supports seniors who need assistance with transportation, meals, digital literacy, etc.

Events (Alyssa Thys)

- Gave overview of Porches and Pies Festival and annual fundraiser. Explained change to bake sale in 2020 due to the pandemic; likely to plan the same for 2021. Funds support neighborhood programs.
- Invited neighbors to join the planning meeting to provide input. 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. of each month via Zoom. Contact Alyssa Thys at events@adairpark.com.

Housing Fund (Mason Reid)

- Exceeded \$10k fundraising goal - \$12,125 raised
- \$1000 in grants made to residents in January.
- Keep spreading the word about the fund. Fund provides rent, mortgage, utility, and property tax assistance. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/adair-park-housing-relief-fund> and <https://adairpark.com/adair-park-housing-fund/>

Bylaws (Tim Ruffin)

- Bylaws are still a work in progress. Hopes to share with executive board and membership in the coming month.
- Reminded attendees that membership is \$12 for residents \$50 for businesses.
- Adairpark.com to review current bylaws. Contact parliamentarian@adairpark.com

Communications (Michelle Marcus)

- Working to relaunch newsletter and improve social media and website
- Contact communications@adairpark.com to volunteer
- Best way to promote via social media; for neighborhood business, share for newsletter and website
- Q&A
 - Re: technology, who to talk to re: Zoom tech support? Contact Lawrence Miller, president@adairpark.com.

Atlanta City Councilwoman Joyce Sheperd

- Apologized for absence at January meeting - was supporting Election Day.
- Meeting tomorrow for NPU leaders and neighborhood association leaders to assess the need for security cameras for APD. Some money allocated to all council district. Work session tomorrow. Lawrence to attend.
- Capitol View Apartments. Will send Lawrence the report. 120 units; 48 units and leasing office. 10 allocated for permanent supportive housing. 70% of current residents are able to remain. Relocating current residents to newer units to continue renovations. Described amenities. Will forward Columbia Residential contact information to Lawrence Miller for tour. Complex has historic designation.
- @Promise Center holding a soft opening on February 16th
- Q&A
 - Are you running for reelection? Yes

- What does it mean to look at crime holistically? News media centers on Buckhead. J. Sheperd chairs Atlanta's public safety committee, so can see crime is all around Atlanta. Looking at crime data and developing a collaborative plan with other districts.
- How long will it take from decision about where cameras will go to having them installed? The police foundation will take part in tomorrow's meeting. Many areas have been identified. It will take time (3-4 months) because southside does not have similar private funding to Buckhead to purchase and install cameras.
- Will you support Antonio Brown's public safety and wellbeing initiative? Yes, she signed onto it. She is part of a committee with him to explore comprehensive approaches.

Treasurer's Report (Nakita Robinson)

- 82 members; 20 added today before the meeting. Will make the roster public for people to ensure it is correct.
- Reviewed January P&L Report
 - Total income, \$1,962.43
 - Total expenses, \$1,223.67
 - Net income, \$738.76
- Current operating fund balance is \$29,905.36
- FY 21 Budget Presentation
 - Lawrence explained budget changes - increased audit, communications, housing and land use (preservation), and Thanksgiving for seniors expenses
 - Nakita noted that budget doesn't mean APT will spend as much as budgeted, or that fundraising will be limited to what is budgeted
- Elise Blasingame made a motion to approve budget; seconded by Tim Ruffin
- Motion carries with no dissent.

Parks (Elise Blasingame)

- Thanked everyone who served on King Day. Mulched Bonnie Brae and Brookline Triangle parks. Excess mulch at Bonnie Brae that is free for the taking
- Sunday @3PM - Parks Meeting (via zoom). Contact parks@adairpark.com
- For Residents of Adair Park - 2021 Parks Survey: <https://forms.gle/FDArT6BEjbZYyodx7> (closes tomorrow)

State Representative Stacey Evans (Briget presented)

- On Wednesday, February 3, 2021 Representative Evans will host a Virtual Town Hall Meeting with State Senator Sonya Halpern at 7:30pm. Please register in advance using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc--uqj4sGtXWCBW8FCe4V0FNxx2aLDo9>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with dial-in instructions for the event.

- Please use the following link to sign up for legislative update emails and the monthly newsletter by visiting Representative Stacey Evans' official website: <https://staceyevans.com>
- To view legislative sessions and committee hearings, please use this link: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/house>
- Seeking Subject Matter Experts in various fields please use this google form link to nominate yourself or someone else who is an expert in a specific discipline. Please use this link to access the form: <https://forms.gle/CaGuhGUuuRpuaPPV6>
- For more information, please contact Sasha Williams, Director of Constituent Services sasha@staceyevans.com

Preservation (Brent Potter)

- Contact Brent regarding historic preservation guidelines or visit APT website.
- Academy Lofts Variance Discussion
 - Brent Potter explained variance for Academy Lofts - wants to place a pavilion in the parking lot. Has been recommended for approval by the UDC. AP Historic Committee does not support the pavilion due to future potential uses of the pavilion besides the coffee shop.
 - Stan Sugarman explained there is nowhere to place the pavilion that doesn't impact a front yard or side yard. No way for the coffee shop to be profitable otherwise. Committed to being a great neighbor and Plans can be viewed at <https://adairpark.com/2021/01/30/review-plans-for-academy-lofts-accessory-structure/>
 - Krystle Rodriguez, Darling Josephine Coffee Shop owner (also owns Hodgepodge Coffee). Explained company's racial equity goal related to business ownership. Concept behind coffee shop - for the safety, comfort and enjoyment of marginalized groups. Shared interior design plan for space - art deco style. Exterior space is necessary due to COVID precautions. Will have a pick up window and outdoor seating. Envisions buffering noise with greenery and walls - more of a courtyard, than patio/pavilion. Expressed the desire to be a good neighbor.
 - Jeannie Mills - Historic Preservation Co-Chair mentioned forthcoming beer and wine permit will create a lot of outside traffic. Disagrees that the pavilion will be a temporary structure because of poured concrete, roofing, etc. versus tents.
 - Jerry Davis - lives next door to the back of the school. Greatly appreciated Stan for sharing plans with him, and for coming up with a better solution. Still concerned about the permanence of the structure and the noise.
 - Nicole Davis - lives next door to the back of the school. Concerned about noise. Alcohol sales will create more traffic and crime.
 - Nadine Noble - Lives across the street. Has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years. Does not want lots of people just outside of her home. Fears alcohol sales will bring crime and traffic.
 - Krystle Rodriguez - Appreciates residents' concerns. Beer and wine permit is intended for events, not to promote Darling Josephine as a bar. Feels that noise

and loitering will be more if outdoor seating is open, versus a semi-enclosed pavilion.

- Lawrence Miller clarifies that this is not a discussion about Darling Josephine's business plan; it is about the structure.
- Q&A
 - What is up for vote? For the variance to allow the pavilion to go next to the street (would usually have to be inside the lot, not outside)
 - How will parking be addressed? There is a parking lot for use when tenants aren't there. Envisions mostly walking traffic. Will create parking plans for events if necessary.
 - What was the intention for the patio before COVID? The warm-season patio became a pavilion because need for covering to allow for all-season utilization due to COVID
 - Why not relocate away from Catherine Street (west side) to the east side of the property? Everything on the east side is all residential; west side all commercial. Patio is outside of the pick up window. And current location meets all zoning requirements. Also, would reduce already limited parking. Gives coffee shop street presence.
 - Is what you're proposing now, does it mean that if UDC says no, then will Darling Josephine not open? Will open with just patio. Hopefully, business will survive.
 - Why not just a hardscape? Doesn't meet code. People have to be able to see into it and out of it for public safety.
 - If we vote against this, is DJ still allowed to have outdoor dining/events, just without a permanent roof? Yes, that's correct. Could still put up an "ugly" tent.
 - Does UDC have the current plans? Will double check.
- Motion to write a letter in support of the variance made by Brent Potter, seconded by Alyssa Thys.
 - Votes were counted after meeting. Several voters were ineligible.
 - 43 Yeas; 12 Nays
- Lawrence will share the February 10th UDC meeting details (via the website and Facebook) when the Academy Loft pavilion variance will be presented so that residents can give input.

Lawrence reiterated that we need a new public safety chair and will need a vice president.

Neda Abghari thanked everyone for coming to the art exhibit at Academy Lofts.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alyssa Thys, seconded by Teague Buchanan. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.