

# **Adair Park Today Neighborhood Meeting July 2021**

Lawrence Miller (President) called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

## **Public Safety (Adrian Neely)**

- Busy month for safety
- Check update in the newsletter
- Completed a data request re: traffic
- Corresponding with Zone Commander Peak and Captain Adams about 1163 Metropolitan Pkwy
- Sgt. Saint Jean, Zone 3: In May there was 1 auto theft, 6 larcenies (package theft); in June there were 2 larcenies (806 Murphy, 678 Lexington), 1 aggravated assault (845 Metro); 1 auto theft (656 Catherine)
- Q&A
  - Tift & Hugh Burned Down House with someone living in it- what's the status? What can be done? Neither Adrian nor Lawrence have heard about it. Police will not get involved unless the property owner requests it. Also, an issue at Fortress Church on Pearce - can't locate the owner to address the homeless people taking shelter there.

## **Exxon Service Station, 1163 Metropolitan Pkwy Discussion & Vote (Shahin Ismail, Owner)**

- Request to sell beer and wine; directed by NPU-V to secure support from Adair Park Today
- Has learned about the concerns of residents. Is concerned about the safety of her employees. Has installed cameras and is willing to work with the local police department.
- Has a temporary beer and wine license
- Adrian Neely presented the crime report
  - Since 2019, 67 criminal trespass calls, 34 calls for service for disputes and fights, 13 calls for suspicious vehicles/persons, and 71 directed patrol calls initiated by officers
  - The safety committee does not recommend approving the beer and wine license
- Ms. Ismail does not feel that she cannot operate without the ability to sell beer and wine. Is willing to go as far as hiring private security to deter crime.
- Discussion
  - Who monitors the cameras? What are your other businesses?  
Manager and his wife monitor the cameras. Owns two other gas stations in Locust Grove and Powder Springs. Has not had issues in the 4-6 months that she's owned the business. Would like to have her team work with local law enforcement more closely. Reiterated that she is willing to hire private security if needed.

- Two other alcohol-selling establishments within ~200 feet of 1163 Metropolitan.
- Do your other establishments also sell alcohol? Yes
- Is there active video recording in the station? Yes
- M. Harrell does not know that it's a good idea to penalize a new owner for not being able to sell alcohol. The directed patrols seem good. Hopes Ms. Ismail will work with the community.
- How often has this gas station changed ownership? Ms Ismail doesn't know how often the business has changed hands. Was unaware of the problems beforehand. May not have bought it had she known. Reaffirmed her commitment to providing a safe environment. L. Miller responded - third owner in the last seven years.
- J. Shepherd - APD is so short staffed; cannot guarantee a consistent presence. Recommends hiring security. Recent legislation prevents having more than one liquor store within 1500 feet of another. Would like to see gambling machines removed - creates a hangout spot for people to drink and gamble. Ms. Ismail's team would like to remove the gambling machine, but is contractually bound. She is the business owner, but not the property owner. Cannot afford to breach that contract.
- J. Shepherd - Could give her a trial run until the end of the calendar year. Ms. Ismail has to renew annually.
- E. Duncan-Watt - appreciates resident concerns, but agrees with M. Harrell. Feels unfair to deny the alcohol license for Ms. Ismail, when we're likely to support Darling Josephine. L. Miller: making an assumption about Darling Josephine, have only approved Slim & Husky in recent years.
- N. Robinson - lives directly across the street from the gas station. Last owner promised to address problems - removed slot machines (temporarily) and added lights, which helped for safety (but created light pollution). Also, noise can be an issue. Wants proof that Ms. Ismail will be a good neighbor to the residents. Ms. Ismail apologized for her rudeness with N. Robinson. Unaware of promises made by the previous owner. Will not make false promises.
- S. Ismail - Open 24/7 to avoid break-ins. Might be open to reduce hours of operation. Must be able to sell alcohol to be profitable.
- When is the 5-year slot machine contract up? S. Ismail guessing 2027; she's not party to the contract. Having an attorney review the contract to see if she has a say.
- M. Marcus - recommended holding a public safety committee meeting to discuss terms for renewal to be prepared for renewal request.
- Motion to support the beer & wine license with review during renewal in six months
  - Kenneth Katz moved; seconded by Tim Ruffin
  - 17 Yes;4 No, motion approved

### **Senior Program (John Sherwood)**

- Continued to support the food needs of seniors; wondering if it will be a long-term service because it wasn't prompted by the pandemic
- Continuing to think about material needs of seniors and how to support them
- If you hear of seniors being displaced, let's try to rally support for them
- Dealing with Catch-22 situation of senior homeowner with serious repairs needed, but unable to be insured because of disrepair, and cannot qualify for housing assistance program without insurance. Share resources if you know of any, contact [seniors@adairpark.com](mailto:seniors@adairpark.com)
- Discussion
  - Seek pro bono legal support for senior in need of serious home repairs. Perhaps the Housing Justice League; E. Duncan-Watt will research. Michelle Marcus will research resources.

### **Councilmember Joyce Sheperd**

- Thanked Lawrence for attending Cut-Rate Box meeting
- Technically in NPU-X; will try to get renderings and share with NPU-V and APT
- Q&A
  - J. Miller sent signatures for Lexington to J Sheperd & team
  - How will J. Shepherd advocate for the street calming devices for Lexington to be installed sooner or later? Was only going to advocate if less than 75% of owners had signed; would have introduced an ordinance to approve it still. Feels it will be approved given that more than 75% of owners signed. Will follow to make sure it is on the list and that it is a priority. Cannot guarantee that it will happen soon because there are many other requests ahead of Lexington, but is working to get Lexington on the list and to make it a priority
  - What about Allene, Catherine Mayland traffic count request? Has turned it into the transportation department
  - What can be done to minimize the speeders from Metropolitan that drive too fast down AP streets?
    - Introduced legislation for more funding for traffic calming measures and to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH (from 35 mph). Everyone wants speed bumps
    - Very short on police. Hard to handle speeding complaints
  - Is the city looking into more comprehensive traffic calming solutions? What else can be done by Atlanta Department of Transportation?
    - Speed humps do work
    - GDOT would have to look at major thoroughfares; Call Stacey Evans to request solutions for Metropolitan. L. Miller suggested organizing a meeting with Rep Evans
  - Who will clean up the mess at Metro and Lillian?
    - J. Shepherd to send contact info for Paul Denard with GDOT to L. Miller to forward to M. Harrell
    - J. Miller recommends working with Stacey Evans' office.

### **Parks Committee (Olivia Czufin)**

- The Murph Community Garden has 10 available beds, \$100/year, financial aid available. Holding a lottery. Enter the lottery here: <https://forms.gle/kNbU6inQg3SiNoJH8>. Can donate by designating on the AP website.
- Moving forward on AP1 Playground Grant Proposal; contact [parks@adairpark.com](mailto:parks@adairpark.com) if you want to participate in
- Bookline Triangle Project, \$7,500 awarded to revitalize the space; work beginning soon
- CreateATL organizing a kids' volunteer day - painting stepping stones for Bonnie Brae Park. Contact [parks@adairpark.com](mailto:parks@adairpark.com) to get involved
- Q&A
  - Is there a water source? Yes, have tanks that the city keeps full. Eventually, there will be irrigation.

Motion to approve the June meeting minutes made by Tim Ruffin ; seconded by Jeannie Mills  
12 Yeas; 0 Nays

### **Miscellaneous**

- Quarterly newsletter coming in August. Still need volunteers to help distribute newsletters, contact [communications@adairpark.com](mailto:communications@adairpark.com) to support.
- Porchesandpies.com order your pies
- Connections (church on Metro) is hosting a community, child-friendly event in August. More details to come
- 11a-7p Large event happening this weekend in AP2
- On September 25th @Promise Center hosting a 500+ person event; all day
- Bonfire Murphy & Brookline hosting a rave on the July 31st, 6p-2a

### **Discussion about having hybrid or in-person meetings**

- M. Harrell - Connections at Metropolitan is happy to host
- M. Marcus - recommends 70% community-wide vaccination rate
- J. Mills - how would vaccination be enforced? L. Miller - require participants to present vaccination cards at meetings
- S. Duncan-Watt - follow CDC guidelines
- K. Katz - hybrid may allow for seniors to be able to participate (don't have internet access to participate virtually)
- M. Shields will create a survey to gather APT member feedback
- S. Duncan-Watt - will need the A/V support to host hybrid meetings
- J. Mills - can we find a meeting place with hybrid meeting capabilities?

Motion to adjourn Michelle Marcus; seconded by Tim Ruffin.