

**Organized Neighbors of Summerhill (ONS)**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2017**

**Call to Order**

John Colabelli, president, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Quality of Life/Public Safety/Code Compliance**

Lt. Finch, evening watch commander for zone 3, presented the Atlanta Police Department (APD) report. He conveyed crime is down 22% from the previous year for "Part 1" major crimes (i.e. larceny, burglary, aggravated assault). He concluded he had a generally favorable impression of the crime stats for Summerhill. He discussed several specific concerns including the Halloween incidents involving juveniles reportedly vandalizing property; he relayed no specific youth were identified. Lt. Finch encouraged residents to work with the local schools next year prior to Halloween. Colabelli advised he had been in contact with MLK Middle School as well as Leslie Graham who suggested a summit to include Atlanta Public Schools (APS) Police.

One resident conveyed he was told by a neighbor the responding officer to an incident in which youth were allegedly breaking windows was "nonchalant" and didn't seem concerned. Finch responded if resident had direct knowledge he could address. Lt. Finch also conveyed an incident in which the victim responded to someone breaking into his care by defending himself when the perpetrator attacked him with a screwdriver. Lt. Finch said the alleged perpetrator was arrested and the purported victim was not charged.

Residents inquired about the continued activity in front of Summerhill Variety Store at Martin and Crumley Streets. Lt. Finch explained the civil process for a property owner issuing a criminal trespass for loiterers and subsequently enforcing it as well as the limitations of law enforcement questioning people just "hanging out". He explained the difficulty of doing directed patrols during watch change when the loitering seemed to be most prevalent.

Inspector Tillman, new crime prevention inspector, fully explained his role regarding crime prevention and invited residents to contact him with any issues or requests. He will provide contact info to Colabelli who will disseminate to community.

**Old Business**

The prior meeting minutes were approved by the membership.

**New Business**

- A variance request (V17-287) for 704 Connally Street was presented for review and approval. Colabelli explained the request and the applicant/owner presented the request. John Mickle, zoning chair, expressed his support for the request. The motion was called and the membership approved the request with 18 approving, no opposition and 1 opposing.
- Representatives from Carter (Adam Parker) and UniverSoul Circus (Ben Johnson) made a presentation regarding the upcoming use of the former Turner Field parking lots for the circus's engagement February 7-March 11, 2018 (Attachment Provided). Johnson addressed the issue of prior year complaints for noise; he conveyed they would be reducing the volume, particularly bass tones, to mitigate the noise disturbance. The circus will be staged in the "Gold" lot between Capitol Avenue and Fraser Street SE this year which is closer to the neighborhood than in prior years; the lot in which the circus has traditionally been produced in recent years will not be available as construction on the new Georgia State University (GSU) dorm building will prevent use of that lot. One resident wished it noted he felt any restriction of the sound/music level was tragic, unnecessary and will lead to a degradation of culture. Colabelli reiterated the noise was problematic for some residents and this sentiment was echoed by another resident who described difficulty in working from home due to the noise.

Ben Johnson stated the circus wished to be a good neighbor and would adhere to recognized standards for public noise management. Parker stated use of “the bowl” is also not a possibility due to parking needs for the circus and GSU. Johnson also discussed logistics for traffic control and security. He and Parker conveyed their desire to host a fundraiser for the community through the Southside Catalyst Fund. Further discussion will occur between the ONS board and Carter/UniverSoul on the details of the fundraiser to include a potential split of revenue between the Summerhill community and the Catalyst fund as the neighborhood will be directly impacted. As Carter owns the land and has made the decision to allow UniverSoul to utilize it, the presentation was for informational purposes rather than approval.

### **Program: Speaker/Event/Presentation**

- Bryan Adams, vice president conveyed the Park Pride grant for Phoenix II is to be awarded this week and announced the clean-up day for Phoenix III is December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- John Helton, secretary, reported the door hanger and yard sign communication project to encourage ONS participation is underway and both will be implemented in January. This is funded through the SMP grant.
- Wanda Rasheed, treasurer, reported the premier of “Something About Summerhill” Story Tellers Project, for which ONS was the fiscal agent, will occur in January.
- Michael Lievers, public safety chair, reported we have four submissions thus far for the neighborhood sign design project; the deadline has been extended to December 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit [onsummerhill.org](http://onsummerhill.org) for more information.
- Rodney Lyn, GSU School of Public Health, presented a request for a letter of support for an upcoming 5-year grant opportunity which may potentially allow creating a consortia of local communities to address public health issues, including the possibility of funding for specific service delivery projects in the communities. The membership expressed support for the application and Colabelli relayed he submitted the letter of support today.
- Representatives from the Halfway Crooks Brewery which is to be the first commercial development on the Georgia Avenue Corridor provided an overview of their plans for the brewery. They will be an on-site service brewery. They entertained questions and expressed their desire to be involved with the community. They will be open Tuesday thru Sunday with specific hours to be determined but hope to be open late on weekends. They hope to have a space for “pop-up” chefs to provide specialty food and will have bar staple food available. They will only be able to serve their own beer. Plans for entertainment are uncertain but they wish to solicit input from the neighborhood. Parking will be provided in adjacent and existing lots surrounding the stadium. They hope to open in Spring/Summer 2018.
- Adam Parker, relayed the Carter Subcontractor Information Session was held two weeks ago. This session explained how local residents could become sub-contractors. Parker expressed Carter’s desire to not only build a successful development but also to involve residents in the process. Additional sessions will be held as new phases are built. 30-40 people attended the session. Parker stated Carter currently is at a little over 50% for signed leases or letters of intent; this includes an ice cream shop, coffee house, BBQ restaurant and pizza restaurant at present.

### **Announcements/Events and Updates**

Colabelli encouraged those in attendance to think about 2018 goals and what the membership wished the board to prioritize in January.

### **Adjournment**

Colabelli adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.