

**Organized Neighbors of Summerhill (ONS)  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2018**

**Call to Order**

John Colabelli, president, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves. The business sponsor was highlighted: Kwame Tyler, State Farm Insurance.

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

- Lt. Finch, evening watch commander for zone 3, presented the Atlanta Police Department (APD) report. He reported a 40% reduction in crime year over year from February 2017 to 2018. Two thefts from vehicle in addition to one burglary at 94 Ormond were reported. No details were available. He reiterated do not leave items, especially firearms, in your vehicle.
- Sareena Beasley, Assistant District Attorney, announced she was replacing Claire Farley who has transitioned to the DeKalb County DA's office. She had several announcements:
  - They have a court watch coordinator vacancy which does not require a legal background.
  - Carver High School event focusing on women's involvement in the criminal justice system.
  - August 7, 2018 5-8 p.m. at Lakewood. She solicited ONS members to participate in planning team.
  - The DA's office has a gang coordinator, Ian Elmore Moore and can be reached at DA's office; he is dedicated to reducing gang activity.
  - 730 Deal Avenue (Capitol View) murder from July 2016 is currently on trial. The case number is 16SC147068 if members wish to follow.
  - The county is also moving forward with its property forfeiture process as a bench trial.
- Sheryl Bennett, chief of staff for Carla Smith, announced the following:
  - Recycling Event April 21, 2018 from 9-2:00 p.m. at CHARM facility, 1110 Hill St SE, Atlanta, GA 30315.
  - Sheryl's phone is 404-330-6039.

**Old Business**

- The prior meeting minutes from the February 2018 were approved by a majority of the membership.

**New Business**

- Colabelli explained the recent history of variance requests coming before the organization. He stated there is a conflict between current zoning requirements requiring 20 feet width for a house with 5 feet setback on either side. This would be impossible on a 20 feet wide lot. Colabelli explained this creates housing affordability issues as builders are not able to build new smaller houses (shotgun style). Colabelli stated John Mickle, zoning chair, endorsed this change. He entertained a motion to approve the recommendation: "Reduce minimum width for houses under R-4BC Zoning to 15ft." A motion was made a seconded; the motion was approved 14-0-2. Colabelli will send the recommendation to the city.
- Colabelli stated variances are expected for 82,76, and 78 Ormond (information only).

**Program: Speaker/Event/Presentation**

- Bryan Adams, vice-president, provided an update on the grants being pursued for the Phoenix II park improvements relaying park benches were added to the plan and project is on track for an April open house date (TBA). He solicited volunteers for preparation work. Adams announced he and Michael Lievers will be attending the upcoming parks and greenspace conference.

- John Helton, secretary, explained the SMP grant and announced the neighborhood case statement funded through that source is pending and the yard signs and door hangers to advertise meetings and ONS resources have been received. He solicited additional volunteers to post door hangers and to help manage the signs, posting them and retrieving them to promote first Monday meetings. Helton explained the origin of the Stadium Neighborhood Communities Trust Fund (SNCTF) committee, which he chairs, and relayed it has had its initial meeting and is awaiting a response from the city on administrative issues. Helton explained the group was appointed by the mayor and city council to provide oversight for the \$5 million in funding allocated from the sale of Turner Field and adjacent properties for neighborhood betterment projects. He also stated the by-laws review is underway and recommendations for change are pending. A question regarding how the Southside Catalyst Fund and the SNCTF was raised. Colabelli explained the Southside Catalyst Fund which is comprised of the five surrounding neighborhoods in the hopes of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the purpose of the organization. They anticipate it being a non-profit similar to the Westside Futures Fund that is a recipient of investments by philanthropic and other funding/donors, to potentially include the SNCTF, that execute projects to benefit the neighborhoods and their residents.
- Wanda Rasheed, treasurer, explained the FY 2018 budget was posted on the website.
- Michael Lievers, public safety chairman, was not present. Colabelli explained the neighborhood sign project is continuing. The five designs selected by the communities are being evaluated to inform a professional designer's version that would be put into production. He also solicited block captains, explaining the role as a link and liaison within the community. Andy Odle, Connally South of Richardson, volunteered (block 2). Colabelli also relayed Michael will be attending a neighborhood watch training on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He also discussed the at-risk youth center funded by the Atlanta police department. They wish to create such a facility/program in Zone 3. More information is pending.
- Colabelli reviewed all goals on the back of the agenda (see agenda).
- Christina Nixon, education committee chair, recapped the recent issue of the proposed redistricting involving Parkside, Benteen and BaMO. The proposal is tabled for now with more community meetings being planned to engage the community.
- Colabelli indicated Michael Lievers and he had been selected for a leadership training program, Resident Leaders for Equity.
- He relayed the ONS board had been allowed to tour the Georgia Avenue redevelopment and invited any questions or concerns from members. He relayed the current list of commitments include a BBQ restaurant, bakery, coffee shop and brewery. Other possibilities include a pizza restaurant and a rum bar.
- Colabelli announced the board would be meeting with GSU on 3/7/18 and solicited feedback from members.

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

Colabelli called attention to the calendar of events on the back of the agenda.

### **Adjournment**

Colabelli adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.