Meeting began at 6:33pm

1. Welcome/Greeting

Felicia Moore, Atlanta City Council President greeted the group.

1. Introduction of Executive Board Members & Committee Chairs
2. Treasurer Report
3. Reading of June Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept minutes made with no opposition, so the motion carried.

Judy made an amendment to agenda.

1. Crime and Safety & Public Official Update

Crime and Safety

-Captain Canton discussed crime statistics, and indicated that crime is down by 50% but aggravated assault and homicide are up (especially on Donnelly Avenue). He explained that crime is broken down into beats.

-Captain Canton asked for questions, and Judy mentioned concerns about ATVs, gambling, loitering, etc… on Arlington Avenue, LaRossa Terrace and Peeples Street. The police are working with GA State Patrol to address the ATVs, and have made some arrests. Terra asked about the removal of the water boys, and what is the initiative and program looking like. APD is doing enforcement and sent out the unit that works with kids and they went out 2 weeks ago to reach out to the kids, and let them know Waffle House agreed to give them jobs. Additionally, APD is charging the parents if the kids are out selling water. Captain Canton emphasized, that there should be a significant difference now. There is one dedicated APD officer in charge of the water boys, and his name is Officer Cercy. Someone else added that there are kids at the back gate of Fort McPherson and Campbelton Road selling water.

-Someone else brought up an issue on Lorenzo Drive with Airbnbs and parking that is interfering with traffic flow. This person asked if double parking is permitted? Captain Canton indicated that if there isn’t 15 feet for a Fire truck to pass, this is an issue that APD will handle. –Someone else raised concerns about dumping on Tucker Avenue. Captain Canton said to call APD, but indicated this is a code enforcement issue. Nonetheless, if possible he asked to take down the tag number of the vehicle doing the dumping.

Atlanta City Council President, Ms. Moore

City Council meetings are on recess and will resume on August 3rd you can call into the meetings. The Atlanta City Council social media site has the call in information.

-Ms. Moore explained the budget was finalized, and revenue is low; however, 88 million in aide will be utilized in the city.

-Barbara Burson asked if the police survey still available.

-Question about Covid-19 intervention and what the city is doing. Ms. Moore explained that individual council members and the city pushing out information, but she was not aware of any specific efforts.

-Judy asked about parks and school closings, and expressed concerned about children not having Internet access, and children falling out of the system. She also asked if there a way for the city to assist us in reaching out to children that may need tutoring. Ms. Moore explained that Comcast is doing a lot to help the community and schools are using hot spots on buses. She indicated that Covid-19 makes it hard to open community recreational centers, and these probably will not be options.

Michael Jones director of James Orange Park

-The recreational centers are closed but they are still feeding kids/families, and the homeless Monday through Friday.

-The park is still being cleaned, and the lawn is being mowed, but none of the services offered in the recreational center are not offered such as computer and internet use.

-There was an instance where youth were gathering at the playground and there was an issue with fighting. Actually, the parents of the youth were fighting. However, he mentioned that when they took away basketball goals, the crowds went away.

-Help is needed with the afterschool program for third through sixth graders, and currently five and six kids are going by the recreational center to grab a meal.

1. Committee Chair Reports- limit 5 minutes for each chair
2. Historic Preservation-Kaseem Dickens

-He continues to look for volunteers, but indicated things have been slow with Covid-19. However, things are picking up with renovations on White Oak Avenue and Sparks Street.

-When activity on a property is observed, he begins trying to get in touch with investors as soon as possible.

-Please report any work being done.

-The committee has a good relationship with the city and Urban Design Committee.

1. Housing Code Enforcement- Dillon Johnson

-Dillon could not join us but Judy said to send him code violations, such as parked cars in front yards, or cars parked for extended periods.

-Dillon’s contact information is on OCCO website. –The city’s Housing and Code Enforcement has not been actively out in the community, but is still working.

1. Beautification-Carissa Zedaker

-Neighborhood cleanups are on the second Thursday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm and the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

-During our last clean up on July 18th, Roy brought volunteers out from Open Hand Atlanta.

-Our next clean ups are on August 13 and 15.

-Met with Marta and they will be get back to Carissa, but she thinks we can probably plant flowers at the Oakland City Marta station.

-Someone mentioned the city is not picking up yard clippings, and they were directed to call 311 or bring it up at the NPU-S meeting, as representative from sanitation will be there at the meeting.

1. Education-Terra Washington

-Little libraries virtual building volunteer event has 22 volunteers signed up and will take place on August 25th from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm with Lifecycle. We have 15 kits to build the libraries, and we have the following themes: Superhero; Garden; Harry Potter; Black Girl Magic; and a Fire station truck. We will start installing the libraries in August.

-Please donate books for middle school to young adults for the libraries.

1. Community Garden-Michael McCord

-Michael was not on the call.

1. WAWA- Dr. Erica Holloman

-Dr. Holloman was not on the call.

1. The Acorn-James Johnson

-James was not on the call.

1. Zoning-Kyle Lamont

-We are working with community engagement with Beltline and Murphy Crossing, and development is moving forward with commercial and office space.

-Cut Rate Box at 1101 and 1109, need to get a variance for the existing structure, and within the course of next 18 months they will build additional structures.

-Someone asked if this space tied to any initiative for work force development. This is a private sale, so this would be one of the only office space areas in the neighborhood.

1. Friends of James Orange Park-Jamida Orange

-Ms. Orange was not on the call.

1. NPU-S-Nick Hess

-Nick was not on the call.

1. New Business
2. Trees Atlanta, Judy Yi

-Trees Atlanta will be a new resident of Oakland City, and are hosting a meeting on August 6th with the community gather input.

-The demo on the facility will begin this summer. –Trees Atlanta is responsible for several initiatives such as orchards in Browns Mills and has planted trees on Avon Avenue. The organization’s is mission is to protect the urban forest. Additionally there is a focus on education through summer camps and summer training for teens.

1. New Members and/or Residents to Oakland City

-New members are Jason Murphy and Naomi, as well as Lauren and John.

IV. Old Business

a. Logo and T-shirt Design Update

b. Tucker Avenue Update

-Amanda Ryan executive director of Atlanta Land Trust.

–They are building affordable housing (1 to 3 bedroom units). The site of the project is being maintained by the City of Atlanta and they are aware of dumping issues.

-Someone asked about trash, and Ms. Ryan asked everyone email her if they see dumping. Judy wants to engage everyone on the street.

-Interim use of Tucker Avenue is an issue Ms. Ryan wants to address by meeting with us to discuss what options are available.

c. ABI-Murphy Crossing

-Murphy Crossing is located at the intersection of Murphy Avenue and Sylvan Road. The property is in Oakland City but goes to Adair Park and Capitol View. Murphy Crossing is a large property that used to be the Old State Farmers Market, but now, the site is in disrepair and the Beltline purchased it. This was supposed to be mixed use development; however, the decision was made to sell part of the site to private developer. There was an RFP in the past, but not a lot of community involvement. Now we want to submit a second RFP as soon as possible. The Murphy Crossing Coalition is working on this they will be issuing an RFP. Whitney Fuller community engagement manager from the Beltline is heading this up and lives in Venetian Hills. There are seven impacted neighborhoods, and she wants to know what is useful to the community. Once procurement starts they can’t talk to the community.

-Judy stated that we must have community engagement new and old residents, and that we are requesting broad outreach to address everyone’s concerns. We are requesting a community benefits agreement with developer to ensure services in the community.

d. Fulton Fresh

-Continues to distributing produce to the community.

1. Closing Comments by Judy at 7:59pm. Joyce Shepard’s office was on the call from Georgia Stand Up. Judy thanked everyone and asked for everyone to help us.