



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

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ASSOCIATION

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2024

Board members present: *(asterisk indicates not present)*

President – Donald Campbell\*  
Vice President – Rob Schuler  
Secretary – Brandon Dhande  
Treasurer – Marc Tammes  
Membership – Kristen Pollack  
Security – Phyllis Wingo  
Parks – Micah Coleman  
Marketing – Eric Lewis

Technology – Grant Davies\*  
Events – Ryan Murphy\*  
Zoning – Rebekah Falkler\*  
Legal – Josh Kirschner\*  
Communications – Marla Johnson  
Licensing – Ashley Milam  
Public Affairs - Michael Parkerson\*  
Business Liaison – Nick Vachon\*

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

VP Rob Schuler called the meeting to order and opened the floor to discussion topics.

Unanimous vote to approve the September minutes.

### **Initial discussions included:**

- **Sgt. McKesey of APD Zone 6** joined to discuss recent crime stats in our area, including theft from auto crimes and burglaries, including a burglary that happened over the past weekend. Overall, there has been a recent drop in crime in Zone 6. Officers working 4 day, 10 hour shifts has been effective, to overlap shifts instead of having gaps between shifts.
- **Councilmember Alex Wan** joined to discuss various items, including a court decision upholding the City's efforts to shut down Tokyo Valentino's business on Cheshire Bridge. The business owner may appeal. Monroe Complete Streets has been delayed again, but Councilmember Wan is working to move things along. New pavement coming up this week at 10<sup>th</sup> and Monroe, to smooth out the rough edges of the raised sidewalk. Alcohol permitting reform is moving along but is facing some resistance from the nightlife community. The legislation would clarify when a restaurant would need permitting for a second patio or bar area. Early voting for the upcoming election starts tomorrow. Regarding Amsterdam Walk, there has been no movement and Portman has not obtained access to Evelyn Street from Atlanta Watershed. Botanical Gardens are going through the NPU process to change part of Westminster to a nonpublic road to facilitate a new access point at Monroe and Westminster.



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- **Jennifer Ohme** of the Piedmont Heights Alliance joined to share that the Business Alliance has received a \$60k grant for the “Revive Cheshire Bridge” project to do a feasibility study regarding a community improvement district for the Cheshire Bridge/Armor/Piedmont/Monroe area to do things to improve public safety, landscaping and other community improvements. Fifty percent of the commercial business owners have to sign a petition to create the CID. The Taste of PiHi fundraising event is coming up on November 10 at Indie Studios.
- **APS Commissioner Ken Zeff** joined to share news, including school resource officers being added to APS elementary schools to address security concerns. Community meetings are coming up regarding the strategic plan.
- **Vice President’s Notes:** Annual meeting coming up at Morningside Presbyterian Church on November 11 at 6:30pm.
- **Halley Blythe** shared an update from the MLPA Board Nominating Committee. The recommended slate of candidates was presented and will be sent to the members before the annual meeting. Marketing, Parks, and Legal will dissolve as board roles for 2025. The new role of Infrastructure Chair will be created to cover various areas including Master Plan and other zoning changes. IT Support and Legal will become advisory roles.

## Zoning Update

- No variances this month.

## Licensing Update

- No alcohol license updates.

## Finance Update:

- Our bank balance is up this month, due to various drivers including a private donation of \$5k to improve security patrols.
- Board voted in favor of presenting bylaw changes to membership at upcoming Annual Meeting.

## Security Update:

- Two additional burglaries occurred this weekend on Pelham and Piedmont. We had Security Patrol officers from 3-7am during one of the burglaries, but the alarm system at the home did not alert. We are up and running to do the next License Plate Reader campaign, with an article for the newsletter coming up. We are looking to raise money for five additional LPR cameras, to cover all remaining access points to the neighborhood. We are working on Zone 2 and 6 officer and firefighter holiday



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appreciation efforts; plan is to buy gift cards instead of planning a meal because overlapping shifts make it difficult.

## **Communication Discussion:**

- Alex Wan and the City Council developed a relationship with the digital signs, to develop messaging for free. We are going to use the opportunity to advertise events (Monster Dash) and promote membership.

## **Events Update:**

- We are expecting about 450 registrations by the Monster Dash on October 26. Currently we need more volunteers for the event.
- The November 1 Concert in the Park will move to Sunken Gardens.
- We are currently at 90 tickets sold for the Morningside Mingle. We are targeting friend groups and neighbors to promote the event.

## **Parks Discussion:**

- We continue to make progress at Smith Park. We had a great event with Hands on Atlanta at Herbert Taylor.
- For the Morningside Community Foundation – we now have a bank account up and running and received our first donation this week. We are incorporated and have an EIN. We are working to set up our infrastructure, including an email system and goals for 2025. We want to talk to the community about feedback for goals and to allow prioritization of projects. Plan is to present an announcement at the Annual Meeting to membership.
- MCF may ask for a donation for more seed money to buy infrastructure for the Foundation, so that donations are not covering web services, etc. We had previously budgeted \$2500. Discussion about delineating the differences between MLPA and MCF.

## **Membership Update:**

- We are looking at a membership campaign by sending postcards to residents who are not members. Overall, membership is up and we would like to continue momentum.

## **Concluding notes:**

- Rob thanked the meeting attendees and concluded the meeting.

**ADJOURN**