

Admiral Heights Improvement Association
General Membership Meeting hosted at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium
March 30, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Incumbent board attendees: Shivaugn Ahern, Jayme Brooks, John Leupold, Liz Uehlinger, Cat Marucci, Cindy Radulovich, and Amy Skinner.

Incumbent board absences: Michelle Greenhalgh

Nominee attendees: Matt Allen, Jim Masterson, and Chris Sheesley

Nominee absences: Elizabeth Janney

In addition to board members, approximately 45 members of the community were in attendance.

Call to order: 7:08pm

Welcome and introduction of incumbent board members as well as nominations (listed above). Incumbent President Shivaugn Ahern also introduced:

- Officer McGriff from the Annapolis Police Department who was in attendance on behalf of Officer Smikle, our community safety officer, to answer questions about community safety.
- Ward 2 Alderwoman Karma O'Neill
- Hillary Raftovich, Constituent Services Officer & Ombudsman Office of the Mayor

President Ahern took the opportunity to thank Phil Plack with Annapolis Oyster Company for sponsoring our spring membership meeting. Plack is a neighbor in Admiral Heights who started the Annapolis Oyster Company 6 years ago. Plack talked about his company's 3 fold mantra: Quality, Sustainability, and Heritage. It's AOC's priority to produce high quality products that have flavor, as well as oysters that are grown sustainably. You can buy products via Facebook, Instagram, and AOC's website. AOC sells to small businesses, corporations, and does private shucking events and private sales. AOC's sea farm is located at the mouth of Weem's Creek and the Severn River. AOC's oyster farm is approximately 6 acres and is currently holding 1.5 million oysters. Plack believes that capacity could be closer to 12 million and is looking forward to continued growth of his business and the oyster farm.

<https://annapolisoystercompany.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/annapolisovsterco>

Ahern also spoke about the Maryland League of Conservation Voters whom she is employed by and who sponsored our spring membership meeting by providing beverages. Maryland LCV is committed to ensuring Maryland generates 100% clean energy by 2035. Achieving this goal will reduce the impacts of climate change and build economic opportunity in the clean energy sector. Ahern talked about the positivity of the MLCV education fund which educates, trains, and unites people to advocate for policies that protect clean water, healthy air, and a resilient climate for everyone in Maryland.

<https://www.mdldcv.org/issues/2023-legislative-priorities>

President Ahern introduced Ward 2 Alderwoman, Karma O'Neill, and turned over the floor for the following updates:

- Farragut Farmers Market will return on Sunday, June 18 and run every Sunday until August 20 from 9-1 pm at Navy Stadium. Last year, the farmer's market ran for 8 weeks and over 500 people attended. There will be several opportunities for volunteers including shifts that run 8-11 and 11-2. For more information please see: <http://www.farragutfarmersmarket.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Farragutfarmersmarket>
- Alderwoman O'Neill gave an update on the Ward 2 Community Garden/Yard to Table. This initiative consists of 3X3 bed gardens that were started last fall and are currently on Clay Street. This initiative is seeking sponsors for \$500 a box.
- **TRAFFIC CALMING:** Alderwoman O'Neill is currently working on getting a pedestrian activated flashing light for the corner of Windell and Cedar Park Road to incorporate further safety measures for children walking to and from Germantown Elementary School. Cedar Park Road intersecting Glen Ave is also slated to receive a larger stop sign. Alderwoman O'Neill has asked that a speed monitor be placed on Cedar Park Road to further discourage speeding. Alderwoman O'Neill is also working on the current School Zone signage by the Phoenix Academy (old Germantown) to be placed by the new Germantown Elementary School.
- **PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:** The Hillman Garage construction project is still on schedule and is slated to be done June 2023. O'Neill offers a reminder that there is 2 hour free parking at garages for city residents. The 60 West Street office will give you 20 parking passes per month. There's also the magenta shuttle that runs every 10 minutes from 6am -11 pm from Park Place. Another great way to get downtown is the Annapolis GO minivan service. This service is \$2 per person, \$1 for each additional party.
- Project WEE (West East Expansion): This will connect the Historic District to Waterloo Park. The committee is looking for an Admiral Heights Resident to be on the board.
- Alderwoman O'Neill asks that anyone who sees a BIRD scooter or bike that has been around for too long, to call the company listed for pick up and removal.

The floor was then turned over to Hillary Raftovich to provide an update on the **Cedar Park Sidewalk** project. The following updates were given:

The Cedar Park sidewalk project was initiated to make connections, fill in gaps in the sidewalk, and connect parts of our Admiral Heights neighborhood. The city has held both virtual and in-person meetings to discuss project planning and impact to neighbors. There has been some conflict and pushback about narrowing Cedar Park Road and/or moving the sidewalk into front lawns. The neighbors impacted along CPR discussed that this might be an issue due to the grade of the hill and maintenance necessary. In addition, to push into neighbor's yards, the city of Annapolis would need neighbors to sign off and allow that plan to continue or use eminent domain which the city would like to avoid. The idea to push into yards is currently dead due to the impact on neighbors. Project designers have been asked to resubmit a new design that will have the sidewalk where the current temporary sidewalk is and move the curb outwards. This plan will only include yard space that is considered a "city of right of way." Travel lanes will stay as they are currently. When designers have finished this plan, there will be another public meeting.

- Storm water and drainage will be improved with this project
- It is likely that CPR will also be repaved; the road will also be given tape markings to divide lanes (authorized) vs paint.
- Timeline: Unclear. The original plan was supposed to break ground in June 2023. However, it depends on the new design plans. The new plan will either break ground this summer or next (2024). Sidewalk projects can not be conducted during the school year by law.
- Parking will remain permitted on the sidewalk side of the street only.
- Curbs must now be turtle friendly; a recent law passed by the city.

Neighbor questions:

- One neighbor discussed the many different crosswalks at Windell and CPR. This would need to be addressed separately.
- A neighbor asked about restricting parking around the bend that intersects at CPR and Bristol Rd. This has been indicated as a dangerous blind spot and neighbors have expressed feeling unsafe. The city would need to evaluate if that area is proven to be unsafe and could potentially red zone the area to restrict parking. However, neighbors that live in the area have been outward about maintaining parking in front of their homes.
- A neighbor asked about removing the temporary sidewalk and what benefit that would bring to the neighborhood. Raftovich explains that this would not change much and parking would remain the same (one side; current).

The city is looking for as much feedback as possible with the 2 question survey linked below. All testimony should be in writing so that the city can take feedback to the engineering team. Oral feedback will not be received. The closing date for this survey is April 7, 30 days from the last meeting on the CPR sidewalk project.

LINK: <https://www.annapolis.gov/1836/Cedar-Park-Sidewalk>

SURVEY:

<https://www.annapolis.gov/FormCenter/Public-Works-23/Cedar-Park-Sidewalk-Survey-146>

The floor was turned back over to Ms. Ahern. Ms. Ahern took the time to discuss important volunteer opportunities and upcoming events:

- April 1: Easter Egg Hunt - Seeking volunteer for AHIA Table
- April 22: Greenscape - Seeking volunteers; bring shovels and yard tools to help clean up Heineman Park/Dewey Dock.
- April 27: Spring AH Happy Hour - Seeking Sponsorship; contact Social Committee chair, Liz: LUehlinger@admiralheights.org. Sponsorship is approximately a \$100 commitment to buy appetizers and snacks.
- April 29: AH Community Yard Sale
- July 4: Admiral Heights Bike Parade - seeking volunteers for set-up and clean-up
- October TBD: Fall Fest, Halsey Park
- Autumn TBD: AH Navy Tailgate - seeking volunteers for tailgate committee
- December 10: Santa Run & Gift Collection

Other volunteer opportunities were discussed within individual committees such as communication, social, grounds, and Weems Creek matters. Ms. Ahern noted that as a group of 12 that represents 635+ homes and each board member having a full time job and families, we are currently maxed out with responsibilities and need additional help with volunteers in our neighborhood. Ms. Ahern noted that the board is made up of all volunteers with no paid positions. The board will need additional hands and volunteers to continue to make events successful and to upkeep our neighborhood as mentioned at our previous meeting in October.

A quorum being present, the meeting turned to the primary order of business, which is the election of the 2023-2024 board, Treasurer's report, and approval of previous membership meetings minutes.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried with none opposed, the minutes of the October 2022 General Membership Meeting were approved.

Mr. Leupold, AHIA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Leupold noted that at the end of the last year, we had about 200 members which is approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the neighborhood. Mr. Leupold based this year's budget on the assumption that we will again have 200 members. As mentioned at the October membership meeting, having one year of operational budget maintained in AHIA's account is fiscally smart. Social events being sponsored or having donations for activities has kept costs down. We need approximately 150 more members to pay dues to meet our 2023 revenue goals.

VOTE 2023-2024: At this time, the meeting reached finalization. All members in good standing were given a pink card to vote for 8 directors and were instructed to drop ballots in an anonymous box on their way out of the meeting. While the AHIA board presented 12 members on the ballot, bylaws allow nominees to be added to the ballot from the floor of the general membership meeting (to be filled in on the blank options available.) According to AHIA's bylaws, previous years' officers are automatically re-elected for the following year. The new board will re-vote for officer positions at their first board meeting.

The floor was momentarily opened for final questions:

- A neighbor asked about the old AHIA newsletter. The board holds firm that the newsletter was not advantageous or budget friendly for AHIA. It was costly, not environmentally friendly, and board members spent hundreds of hours in manpower to distribute the newsletter manually. We have instead replaced the newsletter with postcard mailers that are distributed via USPS. Postcards are succinct with updated information and upcoming events.

There being no further business before the board and the general membership, the **meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.**