**Chastain Park Civic Association**

**Meeting Minutes: 2/22/16**

**Board in Attendance:**

Tejas Patel

Jason White

Jubal Gatwood

Sarah Lynch

Frank Toye

Ashley Battleson

John Terry

Mark Reese

Lee Smith

Matt Brown

Stacy Vaughn

Mikki Hawkins

Kirk Oppenlander

Steve McClelland

1. Welcome & Introductions: Jason White (CPCA Co-President)
   * Jason welcomed everyone and the Board and audience introduced themselves.
2. Treasurer’s Report & Membership Update: Jubal Gatwood (CPCA Treasurer)
   * Jubal stated that we have about 454 members. The cost for the Security Patrol is $2,200 every 2 weeks, and we currently have approximately $40,000 in our bank account, which will go toward Security Patrol and future Community Events.
   * Jubal reviewed the budget from the Winter Social. We had 300 attendees. The cost was about $7,000. The CPCA collected about $3,000 from new CPCA memberships and the auction. The net “loss/cost” was about $4,000.
3. Approval of Minutes: Tejas Patel (CPCA Co-President)
   * Mikki Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes from December and January.
   * The motion was 2nd.
   * All were in favor to approve the minutes. December and January minutes were approved.
4. Special Guest: Jim Elgar (Council President Caesar C. Mitchell’s Office)

* Jim informed the group that the Council President’s office is working with Atlanta communities and the Atlanta Police Department to reduce speeds and increase radar throughout the city. They are also working with communities to develop programs to reduce crime (home burglaries and car theft). Jim added that he would like to work with the CPCA on this initiative to fight crime. His office recognizes that crime is increasing in our neighborhood.
  + Jim mentioned that councilwomen Yolanda Adrean is planning to review the crime maps in Zone 8. It has been 5 years since these maps have been reviewed and, and potentially we need more police officers (the goal was 2,000 officers 5 years ago) to address the increase in crime.
  + Jim urged the audience to report a crime through 911 because this is the only way crime is recorded. Chastain Park’s police patrol is based on 911 reported crimes. Unreported crime affects the number of officers we get.
  + Jim provided his contact information. Phone: (404) 330-6052, Email: jqelgar@atlantaga.gov.
  + Mikki Hawkins asked if Jim had the “slow down” signs available to take home. Jim stated that he had signs to distribute to the group. Jim’s only request was that the signs stay in the homeowner’s right of way. The signs are free of charge.
  + There was a question from the audience about the speed around the park and how to reduce it. Tejas replied that the CPCA had tried to change the speed from 35mph to 30mph on Lake Forrest and Powers Ferry. The proposal was approved by the city, but declined by GDOT. GDOT’s response was that drivers are currently driving 45mph on these roads, so the current speed limit of 35mph was warranted.
  + Yolanda added that the new 25mph signage on Power Ferry would only apply during construction of the PATH project and that it will go back to 35mph. Yolanda also stated that the reduced speed limit of 25mph was passed on W. Wieuca.
  + Yolanda stated that she will reintroduce the proposal to reduce speeds on Powers Ferry and Lake Forrest once the PATH construction is completed. Her hope is that GDOT will reconsider given that Powers Ferry Road has been narrowed to accommodate the PATH.
  + Mikki Hawkins reiterated that the community is concerned about the speed limit, especially near Sutton Middle School. Yolanda replied that she has not given up on the speed reduction, but that the city was interested in getting W. Wieuca’s speed reduction passed; therefore, the city pulled Lake Forrest and Powers Ferry off the table.
  + John Terry questioned Yolanda about pulling Lake Forrest and Powers Ferry from the proposal. Yolanda said she made a decision to let W. Wieuca get passed and fight for Powers Ferry and Lake Forrest on another legislation proposal. She also suggested that we might be interested in stop signs along these 2 roads.
  + John Terry asked to review the response from GDOT on why the original legislation proposal from the CPCA was declined. John also mentioned that Sandy Springs was considering reducing the speed on Powers Ferry from Mt. Paran to the city line.
  + Officer T. Coxe commented that Major Hobbs has assigned police to patrol Powers Ferry and the 25mph reduced speed limit during PATH construction. Unfortunately, APD cannot ticket speeding cars until a 30-day grace period has passed. APD has to give drivers 30 days to comply to a change in speed limit.
  + Ashley Battleson asked Yolanda if it was easier to get a stop sign vs. reducing the speeds around the park. Yolanda replied that the city would have to do a traffic study, but the decision would be local vs. involving GDOT.
  + There was discussion amongst the group about where we would place stop signs along Powers Ferry.
  + Jason White summarized that the Board would survey the community and make a suggestion to Yolanda on how to move forward regarding the reduced speed legislation.

1. Special Guest: Yolanda Adrean (Atlanta City Council)
   * Yolanda introduced herself as councilwomen for District 8. Yolanda stated that District 8 has adopted a Master Plan for security cameras throughout the District. She is leveraging the heat maps, which have been populated with reported crime data. She echoed Jim Elgar’s comments about reporting crime. She is confident that District 8 is underrepresented on the crime data because crime is not always reported.
   * Yolanda stated that the 1st priority in the Master Plan is to place license plate readers at every major exchange throughout District 8. (i.e. Northside & I-75, Howell Mill & I-75, Moores Mill, West Paces & Mt. Paran). The readers run every license plate and flag those with an outstanding warrant and/or stolen vehicle. The information is sent to the City’s video integration system and police are dispatched. The 2nd priority is schools, shopping centers, and other places where people may gather. There are 50 units being installed in the 1st round (12-15 cameras and the rest LPRs). The 3rd priority, which is not funded yet, is parks and playgrounds.
   * Yolanda stated that she plans to introduce legislation to include Chastain Park in the next round.
   * John Terry asked Yolanda about the 5 existing cameras around Chastain Park, which are not functioning. Yolanda replied that these cameras are out of date and that she will supply new ones, which will link with the City’s Video Integration System. John thanked Yolanda.
   * Jason White asked what the timing would be. Yolanda responded that it would take about 8 weeks.
   * Yolanda added that Peachtree Battle, Tuxedo Park, Buckhead CID and other neighborhoods have privately funded cameras. The city has invested $600,000 and private funding exceeds $2 million. All cameras (including privately funded) are connected with the City’s Video Integration System.
   * Jason White requested a map of where the cameras/license plate readers would be installed. Yolanda replied that she does have a map she can share, but not with her tonight. She mentioned that LPRs would be located at W. Wieuca and Roswell, Powers Ferry and Roswell, Sutton Middle School, and the 2 Jackson Elementary locations. She also said she hesitates to share the locations publically since they will be used for crime prevention.
   * Yolanda stated that cameras and LPRs are not a substitute for police presence. She stated that she is working to address police officer compensation and determine if the City needs to increase their number of officers.
   * There was discussion from the audience about the cost of cameras/LPRs and the number of units. Yolanda stated that LPRs and cameras both cost the same - $15,000. The goal is 10,000 units and today we have about 6,000.
   * There was a lengthy discussion about crime, how the city records it, and what type of crime APD should be focusing on. Yolanda added that the City is working on a judge scorecard that could help ensure that criminals do jail time for crimes committed.
   * Yolanda mentioned that she would be back to discuss the Powers Ferry Bridge replacement sometime in March.
2. Special Guest: Pete Pelligrini (Chastain Park Conservancy PATH project)
   * Pete introduced himself and provided an update on the progress of the PATH construction. The work on the water line and hydrants should be finished in the next 2 weeks. The utility work should be completed the 2nd week in March. Crews have started work on the block wall along the golf course and once the utility work is finalized, crews will continue pouring concrete. Pete stated that they are planning to finish the project ahead of the May 1st schedule.
   * Pete added that the intersections along Powers Ferry would be getting improvements including handicap railings and solar panel blinking lights along the crosswalks. The goal is to better alert motorist that people are crossing.
   * There was a question from the audience about including the street just past the American Legion in the intersection improvements. Pete replied that Public Works would need to approve the inclusion. It is not currently in the plan.
   * Kirk Oppenlander asked if there would be any visual aid to alert motorists that the road was narrowed (coming from Roswell down Powers Ferry – near the American Legion). Pete replied that the design team would be looking at it to determine how to address this issue.
3. Special Guest: Rosa McHugh (President of Chastain Park Conservancy)
   * Rosa provided an update on the Chastain Park playground. They have received the certificate of occupancy, except for the tree house. She anticipates they should have the netting around the tree house installed in the next 2 weeks. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th at 2:00pm.
   * Rosa informed the group that the Conservancy would be holding their annual TriPATHlon on Sunday, May 1, 2016.
   * Rosa also informed the group that Rock Chastain would be back this year. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2016.
   * There was a question from the audience about the new bathroom at the Park. Rosa replied that the bathroom would be open from 8am-6pm throughout the year and 8am-8pm during the summer.
4. Special Guest: Christopher (Medical Research Coordinator - Emory University & Hospital)
   * Chris overviewed a new program called HOPES, which is a clinical trial for patients with traumatic brain injuries. He is here for public disclosure about the program. He provided surveys for the group to complete about the program and trial.

1. Advocacy: NPU A & B and Sandy Springs Update
   * There was nothing to report.
2. Membership Update: Jason White (CPCA Co-President)
   * There was a question from the audience about how to grow membership. Jason requested that we identify street captains to help drive membership.
3. Next Meeting – March 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm, location TBD
4. Meeting Adjourned