



July 23, 2018 UHNA General Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by President Heather Sheets at 7:10pm
2. District 9 City Council Member Dustin Hillis gave an update on the city budget:
 - a. The budget was approved in June.
 - b. Approval was a smooth process.
 - c. A 3.1% pay increase was approved for Police and Fire.
 - d. The bonus for Corrections Officers was doubled to \$1000.
 - e. An Atlanta Police Foundation funded study showed that APD officers are underpaid by 20%. They can go 10 years without a raise.
 - f. The budget included \$40 million for Police.
 - g. A similar salary study is needed for the fire department.
 - h. The budget includes an additional \$2.6 million for parks.
 - i. Additional money was included for arts and cyber security.
 - j. \$1.2 million to establish a citywide clean-up crew.
 - k. Additional money was earmarked for HIV programs.
 - l. Funding for ethics and audits was increased.
 - m. Other needs that need to be addressed are many of the fire stations which are beyond their life span and the training academy is in bad shape.
 - n. A question was asked about encouraging police and fire to live in the city. He said that the Atlanta Police Foundation has build homes for that purpose.
3. District 4 Fulton County Commissioner Natalie Hall spoke about the commission and her office:
 - a. She was assistant to the previous commissioner who passed away during her term.
 - b. She is the executive sponsor for Fulton County's All People are Healthy program.
 - c. The commission meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. She encouraged people to attend the meetings.
 - d. In October they will begin talking about the budget which runs from January to December.
 - e. Some budget needs include:
 - i. Senior services needs and additional \$1.5 million for transportation.
 - ii. Cooperative extension services need an additional \$150,000.
 - iii. \$100,000 is needed to extend hours of the Helene Mills Senior Center.
 - f. The commission has funded \$5.5 million for community service grants.
 - g. The commission voted to decriminalize marijuana possession in unincorporated Fulton County.
 - h. Commissioner Hall hosted a job fair for the new UPS regional hub.
 - i. The commission sponsors senior Beltline tours and the #StopHIVATL mobile units.
 - j. There is a basketball tournament featuring former NBA players to benefit the Anderson Park Recreation Center redo.
 - k. A youth conference is planned for October.
 - l. She introduced members of her team:
 - i. Calvin Brock – Community Relations Manager
 - ii. Anita Harris – District Director



- iii. Devina Jordan – Chief Administrative Officer
- m. Her office number is – 404-612-8226.
- 4. Jessica Corbitt, Fulton County Director of External Affairs, spoke about property assessments.
 - a. There were more than 30,000 appeals filed.
 - b. Currently, the assessor's office is going through the appeals that involve technical errors such as incorrect square footage.
 - c. The Board of Equalization will review the rest.
 - d. There will be some votes in November regarding the homestead exemption:
 - i. An increase in the APS exemption from \$30,000 to \$50,000.
 - ii. A floating homestead exemption which would limit the increase of a reassessment.
 - iii. Increase senior exemption for Fulton County from \$30,000 to \$50,000.
 - e. The Board of Commissioners has committed to rollback the millage rate to cover this year's budget.
 - f. Other notes during Q&A:
 - i. The assessors basically messed up the recovery from the recession
 - ii. The Property Card definitions need to be published.
 - iii. Above grade vs. below grade parts of property need to be considered.
- 5. Taryn Heidel from Trees Atlanta spoke about Greenspace Guardians and Neighborwoods programs:
 - a. Greenspace Guardians is a volunteer program that focuses on restoring greenspace and removing invasive species
 - b. They meet the 2nd Friday of each month and the 2nd Saturday of each quarter at the Underwood Hills Park.
 - c. The upcoming projects are Friday, August 10 from 8-11 and 12-3, Saturday August 11 and Saturday, November 10. The Saturdays will focus on invasive species.
 - d. The Neighborwoods program focuses on planting trees in the Right-of-Way and shade trees for yards.
 - e. To learn about the free yard trees go to treesatlanta.org.
- 6. Ben Hudgins gave updates on several planning issues:
 - a. Swifty Car Wash was considering the property behind the QT, but, without support of the UH planning committee, did not pursue.
 - b. JW Collection Homes at 1185 Collier Rd. is looking for a change in their plan to increase height by 3 ft. It is not in UH or NPU-D, but is close enough to require that we are informed. The vote in NPU-C will be in August or September.
 - c. Post Meridiam Spirits is looking to get a manufacturer's liquor license at 1303 Logan Circle. We did not get enough notice to vote at the UH meeting. It will be voted on at the NPU-D meeting. No one is exactly sure what they are planning to do.
 - d. Atlanta Westside Presbyterian Church at 1255 Collier Rd. is looking for a parking requirement variance. They plan to use part of the property for offices and part for the church which will require less parking. We received notice too late for UH to vote, but it will be voted on at NPU-D.



- e. QT needs legislation to apply for a beer and wine license since they are within 1500 feet of another store.
 - i. Dustin Hillis supports the legislation as long as UH supports it.
 - ii. QT expects no significant increase in customer counts.
 - iii. QT can not apply for a license until the legislation is passed.
 - iv. Berkeley Park and NPU-D also have to approve.
 - v. Some suggestions of things that QT can do for UH in exchange for support are:
 1. Prohibit left turns in and out of the property.
 2. Get rid of excess unattractive signage.
 3. Help UH pay for a full traffic study.
 - vi. Cynthia Williams noted that Fire Station 23 has reported increased response times.
 - vii. The legislation could not be voted on by UH until the September meeting or a specially called meeting.
7. Heather reminded everyone that Security Patrol renewals are due in August.
8. Cynthia Williams noted that there will be Family and Friends CPR training at Fire Station 23 on 7/22 at 2pm and 7/25 at 7:30pm
9. Adam Karcz noted that the UHNA membership website is up to join online.
10. Sponsors were thanked:
 - a. Gold sponsors – 1824 Defoor, Atlanta Police Foundation, AT&T, Ballard Designs, Charlie Ballard Real Estate, Blaine Palmer Realtor, Moncrief Heating & Air, Handyman of Marketing (In Kind), The Preschool at Northside Dr. Baptist Church, Joe Burns – Keller Williams Real Estate Agent
 - a. Silver - Florist Atlanta (In Kind).
 - b. Bronze - Comfort Shied Heating and Air.
 - c. Red Brick Brewery was thanked for hosting.
11. Next meeting will be September 10. Location TBD.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.