



September 21, 2020 UHNA General Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by President Heather Sheets at 7:02pm
2. Attendees introduced themselves, over 50 people attended on Zoom
3. Michael Hinson from Playground Creations presented their plan to replace the Underwood Hills Park playground equipment in the main area of the playground.
https://www.underwoodhills.org/uploads/1/1/5/2/115221825/9.21.20_underwood_hills_neighborhood_association.pdf
 - a. Worked with Memorial Park and Knight Park
 - b. Roller slide between playgrounds
 - c. 10 ft. slide in 5-12 area is very popular
 - d. Rock climbing wall modelled after an actual climb. Constructed of concrete
 - e. Retaining walls will remain
 - f. Top can be covered for a price
 - g. Applying for a Park Pride grant
 - h. Benches near play area requested
 - i. The natural playground idea presented by Cynthia Gentry rejected because of level of maintenance
 - j. Similar to equipment at Channing Valley Park
 - k. Action item to explore naming opportunities, including plaques on benches
 - l. It is expensive because of the quality and insurance costs
 - m. Vote for supporting direction to continue with the Playground Creations design and presenting to Park Pride passed 20-0, remainder abstained.
4. City Council President Felicia Moore spoke briefly
 - a. Reach out to her anytime if needed
 - b. Follow her on social media
 - c. Make sure you fill out your census form
5. District 9 City Council Representative Dustin Hillis spoke about polling places
 - a. Polling place for 11/3 has changed to the Fowling Warehouse
 - b. Polling place for the 9/29 special election is the same as before – The Fairmont
6. Dustin Hillis began the discussion on the ADUs at Harper and Volberg
 - a. ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) were permitted as part of the steps to rewrite the zoning code
 - b. First step was in May 2018
 - c. Phase 2 was in January 2019 where medium fixes were applied
 - d. ADUs were added in Phase 2
 - e. Total rewrite will take 2-5 years
 - f. Guesthouses were allowed in R1-R5. Kitchens in R5 only.
 - g. Push for more options for affordable housing
 - h. Parking requirements were removed in citywide effort to reduce parking requirements.
 - i. Tree ordinance is being revised
 - j. Current ADUs at Volberg and Harper are already approved.



- k. Keyetta Holmes, Director of Zoning and Development, added that ADUs started in 2017 in R5, are 750 sq. ft. or less, expanded to R4, etc. in Phase 2
 - l. Parking requirements are met by existing driveway or on street parking
 - m. Ben Hudgins commented that the development is not the intent but is allowed
 - n. Kristen Olsen suggested we take this situation and prevent in the future
 - o. Jim Martin noted that NPU-D voted no on the zoning update
 - p. Dustin Hillis commented that he would help work for a solution
 - q. Felicia Moore commented that any solution has to be citywide since no restrictive covenants are allowed
 - r. May be able to restrict to sites where homeowner lives, although Keyetta Holmes noted that there is no way to distinguish between homeowner and investor
 - s. Suggested update to parking regulations to only allow parking on one-side of the street
 - t. Terry Hsu, owner of the property, noted that he is trying to find a way to provide off street parking.
 - u. He also noted that he paid recompense for the healthy trees removed and will look in to adding trees as a screen for neighbors.
 - v. He noted that he has a right of first refusal to buy the neighboring property owned by Bert Elliott, but would probably not build ADU if bought based on neighborhood reaction
7. Clark Dumas gave an update on the Defoor Ave. speed reduction efforts
- a. Intent is to slow cut through traffic, increase pedestrian and cyclist safety and connect the neighborhood
 - b. Have been many mailboxes replaced, pet fatalities and cyclists hit on Defoor
 - c. Speed reduction ideas include unmerited stop signs, “armadillos” on the border of the bike lanes or raised crosswalks
 - d. Stop signs suggested as quickest and best by transportation department
 - e. Stop signs proposed at Marvin St., Defoor Pl., Mantissa St. and Seaboard Ave.
 - f. Stop sign asked for at Springer, but unlikely given proximity to Howell Mill Rd.
 - g. Suggested traffic study for Springer and purchase of “Slow Down” signs by residents.
 - h. Motion voted in favor of 19-2 of resolution -
https://www.underwoodhills.org/uploads/1/1/5/2/115221825/proposed_resolution_of_support_for_traffic_control_legislation_for_defoor_ave_1.pdf
 - i. Dustin Hillis provided the timeline – 9/30 goes before the Transportation Committee, 10/5 in general City Council meeting, one week to become law and then probably mid-November installation.
 - j. Suggestion made to consider ways to encourage cut through traffic to use Chattahoochee Ave.
8. Adam Toal of ASD presented proposal for zoning exception to parking requirements at 1874 Defoor Ave.
https://www.underwoodhills.org/uploads/1/1/5/2/115221825/v-20-082_npu_d.pdf
- a. Building is 30,000 sq. ft. zoned I-1
 - b. Crisp Video will use as office and adult education center
 - c. There are 124 parking spaces on-site
 - d. Will add 18 trees
 - e. Education center consist of 3 rooms with 200 people max capacity
 - f. Michael Mogill described the business of Crisp Video
 - g. They help lawyers build their business



- h. Office work consists of video editing
 - i. 20-25 attendees for workshops
 - j. Crisp Video will be only tenant
 - k. Max of 70-80 employees
 - l. Shuttle from 1385 Collier Rd. in case of need for overflow parking
 - m. Neighborhood voted 19-3 in favor of supporting the parking exception. Remainder of attendees abstained.
9. Elizabeth Hollister gave an Upper Westside CID update
- a. Setting up visioning meeting with Underwood Hills for input on master plan
 - b. Workshop will be setup at The Works through September
 - c. Underwood Hills won an art grant worth \$1875 from the CID to be used for public art or signage. Must be used by the end of the year. Seeking volunteers to help execute this initiative.
 - d. Asked about Silver Comet Trail extension to Howell Yard. Long way in the future since CSX is currently using Howell Yard.
 - e. Path Foundation is exploring path through Tilford Yard connecting to the Huff Rd./Marietta Blvd. area
10. Heather Sheets thanked our sponsors: PetWell Veterinary Clinic, 1824 Defoor, Comfort Shield Heating & Air Conditioning, The Works Upper Westside, Stephen Rudolph Ansley Atlanta Real Estate, Modern Space Construction, Handyman of Marketing (In Kind), Florist Atlanta (In Kind)
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.