

AGENDA BPNA Membership ZOOM

30 March 2021
6:30pm – 7:30pm

Meeting

Meeting called by NA/Monthly Meeting
Attendees: Total Attendees =
28

6:30pm **Welcome**

Call to Order | Shelby
Approve last meeting minutes | Shelby
Review tonight's agenda | Shelby

6:30pm – **Unfinished Business**

6:40pm BPNA Board of Director Results and Introductions

6:40pm – **February Financials**

6:45pm

6:45pm – **New Business**

7:10 pm

Structure:

- 5 minutes for committee update
- 2 minutes for questions from members

Public Safety Committee | Emily

Membership & Events Committee | Jason

Beautification Committee | Maria

Community Service Committee | Caitlyn

7:10pm – **Special Topic**

7:20pm Julia Whitney - KirkCats Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) | Shelby

Structure:

- 8 minutes for speaker
- 2 minutes for questions from members

7:20pm- **Addressing Recent Crimes in the Neighborhood**

7:30pm

7:30pm **Adjournment** | Shelby



Welcome

Call to Order | Shelby

- Welcome to our monthly (virtual) BPNA general meeting! Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening! Shelby is grateful and excited to have the privilege to be here and serve as the new BPNA President!

Motion to approve last meetings minutes | *Approved*

*This step is necessary if you believe anything was left off or is inconsistent and needs to be amended

Review tonight's agenda | Shelby

- Board introductions, 7 members
- Financial Updates
- Public Safety Committee
- Membership & Events
- Beautification Update
- Julia Whitney TNR
- Addressing recent crimes in the neighborhood

Unfinished Business

- **Introducing the 2021 Board of Directors | Shelby**
 - Executive Board
 - President: Shelby Kurland
 - Vice President: Jessica Woodside
 - Treasurer: Mike Tarnower
 - Secretary: Emily Cox (Public Safety Chair)
 - General Board
 - Jason Howser - Membership & Events Chair
 - Maria Rossoto - Beautification Chair
 - Caitlyn Wade - Community Service Chair
- **Finances | Mike**
 - February:
 - Beginning Balance: \$205.93
 - Deposits/Credits: \$.00
 - Checks: \$.00
 - Withdrawals/Debits: \$77.00
 - GA Corporate Registration: \$60.00
 - Wix: \$17.00
 - Ending Balance: **\$128.93**
 - Our balance has increased substantial due to an increase in new members in Marh and will be reported in the April general meeting
 - Thank you to all the new members, we are excited to add all of you and all of the new initiatives we will be able to add due to your support!
 - Always looking for Grant writers to help apply for grants and other funding opportunities
 - Future raffle and other fundraising events on the horizon

New Business

Public Safety Committee | Emily

- We are now in the design stage for 4 speed tables on Fairlee Drive! We met with DeKalb County Senior Traffic Engineer Annette Eason, who was quite informative, and she fielded our questions and listened to our concerns.
- Speed tables will be the method of traffic calming for Fairlee Drive, given the elevation change (the hill between Conway and Melanie) and the width of the street, which is too narrow for other measures.
- We have now entered the design phase, which means Roads and Drainage will come out and physically assess where the tables should go. Once this is complete, that design will be passed along to us for our input.
 - We did make a point to mention the urgent need for resurfacing Fairlee Drive, which would be a part of installing the speed tables when we get to that point in the process.
- Here's a [flow chart](#) of the entire process
- [Brochure](#) explaining more on the entire process, which we're told can take up to a year
- Cost to neighbors: \$25 per parcel (in affected area)



- While we await the official design we are encouraging neighbors to reach out to roads and drainage for any potholes, drainage issues, re-paving needs, curb issues, or steel plates that need to be addressed.
 - [Online Contact Form](#)
 - Asphalt/Paving Direct Line: [\(404\) 297-3912](tel:4042973912)
 - Department of Transportation: [\(770\) 216-3810](tel:7702163810)
 - General Roads & Drainage Phone Number: [\(404\) 297-3840](tel:4042973840)
- Still awaiting news on Carter Rd. They need to initiate a meeting in order to begin the speed study for Carter Rd
 - Exceeded the metrics
- We are looking forward to beginning efforts to increase BP neighbor subscribers to the Safety Patrol
 - We will be picking a date and time for [flier](#) distribution once the funds become available
- Circle Watch Program: We will be assisting in neighbor introductions if you would like to get to know your nearby neighbors in order to exchange numbers and window-watch for one another in a "[Circle Watch](#)"
- Join the Public Safety Committee! To do so you must be a Belvedere Park Neighborhood Association member. If you are interested, reach out to to Emily at BelvedereParkSecretary@gmail.com
- Join our [NextDoor Committee Group](#)
- Looking for Public Safety alerts? Join our [group on ND](#)

Membership & Events | Jason

- Getting membership beefed up and actively recruiting for new members
- We are seeking BP Business Owners to share their business with us in order to encourage neighborly support and to add the information into our future BPNA Welcome Kits.
 - Private business just reach out to Jason to get the ball rolling BpnaBoardMember2@gmail.com
 - Accepting: business cards, coupons, menus, fliers, contact info, etc.
- Our [Belvederian Owl Plaques](#) are still up for sale on the website
 - You can find them on the website under "Memberships and Plaques"
 - Plaque Cost: \$60 for one \$100 for two (an extra for you to donate to a neighbor)
- Membership: We look forward to growing the Belvedere Park Neighborhood Association in 2021! Our goal is to increase memberships to 35 in total, up from our current membership total of 25.
 - Not a member? [Join now](#). Membership Fees: \$20 year / \$5 a quarter.
 - All funds go back into the neighborhood via projects on the agenda as well as the operational costs (paypal button, zoom membership, website, etc.)
- Social Events: Although COVID presents obstacles, our goal is to have an outdoor event later this year, provided we have made some positive ground regarding the pandemic. Stay tuned!
- Join the Membership & Events Committee! To do so you must be a Belvedere Park Neighborhood Association member. If you are interested, reach out to to Jason at BpnaBoardMember2@gmail.com

Beautification Committee | Maria

- Bi-weekly Community Clean-ups: We clean up the main entrances every other Saturday so we can all "notice the cute houses" and not the trash littering the road. **Meet us at Rupert & Memorial [April 10th @ 9:30 a.m.](#)**
 - We clean for an hour and have bags, gloves, and grabbers to use if you need them. See you next Saturday!
- **Adopt-A Block:** Unable to attend the Saturday clean-up? Our neighbor Sarah Tynes started Adopt-A-Block. You can adopt a street or a block and pick-up litter on your own schedule. [Join the Adopt-A-Block NextDoor group now.](#)
- Larry J clean-up: this weekend. 9:30 a.m. at Walmart on Columbia and memorial
 - Having a series of clean-ups throughout the district in april
 - Highly encouraging all neighbors to attend even if it's for 30 minutes so he can get to know us and remind him of his constituents needs
- Welcome Mural: Received 3rd and final quote for the Rupert entrance mural. The approval process with the county can take a week or so to pass. We will keep everyone posted as things progress.
 - Still in progress but jumping through final county hoops to reach final approval
 - This is a Towers Action Group (TAG) initiative. TAG is one of the clusters in the DeKalb Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI). Vickie Anglin is a TAG volunteer.
 - Hoping to have actions in full force by May/June
- Inspirational Rock Garden: (until the murals get approved) we are hoping to add painting rocks with inspirational messages and cute pictures to boost neighborhood mood and increase overall well-being
 - Ad Hoc group to do a garden at Linda/Carter/Fairlee and add some neighborhood spirit
 - Further location scouting to come and will posted on ND and in the newsletter



- Big thanks to everyone who did the tire pick-ups and did the heavy lifting to make sure the neighborhood sounds beautiful
- Join the Beautification Committee!
 - Calling all gardeners, artists, plant enthusiasts, litter picker-uppers and athletic bushwhackers - the Beautification Committee will be hosting a variety of projects throughout the neighborhood and one of them has Your name on it. You can participate in short-term and/or long-term projects, your choice. We've got projects for you if you want to get a brush clearing or tire pulling workout. And we've got less vigorous projects for you if you like to paint or plant stuff. If you are interested, reach out to Maria at BpnaBoardMember1@gmail.com.

Community Service Committee | Caitlyn

- Community Free Fridge: **We are on our last plea to find a home for Freedged.** BPNA would like to establish a local community free food fridge, lovingly called Freedged! The Freedged would be a sharing system designed to combat food insecurity and reduce waste.. We are seeking a host home that would allow us to build a small structure to hold the Freedged and other food goods. The estimated annual cost is approximately \$150. Know an organization interested in hosting? Contact Caitlyn at BpnaBoardMember3@gmail.com
 - Any additional food from summer gardens or non-perishable items . would be accepted
 - Potential option that would possible be able to host is on the other side of Columbia
 - Well-fair checks would be needed in order to keep it clean and usable
- Hoping to establish Quarterly Community Service Events:
 - Winter (Dec/Jan): Clothing/Hot Coco Drive??
 - Spring(March 22): Earth Day Clean-Up (Baseball Fields?)
 - Summer (Jun-Aug?): ??
 - Fall (Oct): Fall Bounty Food Drive
- Covid service to assist neighbor who need help securing an appointment and a ride
- Please reach out if you have any contacts or would like to be apart of this project
- Join the Community Service Committee! To do so you must be a Belvedere Park Neighborhood Association member. If you are interested, reach out to Caitlyn at BpnaBoardMember3@gmail.com.
- NextDoor Committee Group: https://nextdoor.com/g/dvk1fe0dp/?is=nav_bar

Special Topic | KirkCats Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

- **KirkCats**
- KirkCats is a non-profit that started n Kirkwood in 2014 in order to get ahold of the feral cat population
- TNRC (rap Neuter Return Care) grassroots effort
- First to years they trapped and fixed over 200 cats and returned and rehomed about 80
- Lives over in East Lake Terrace and got involved in her neighborhood and fixed over 50 cats
- A female cat can have three litters per year
- Hey can go into heat as young as 4 months and deliver at 7 months
- Male cats can reproduce at 6 months
- Unfixed cats can make a lot of kittens
- Unfixed males get territorial and can start a lot of fights and other aggressive behavior like howling
- They received a tip ear
- *Return the cat where they were trapped
- Relocation is not good for the cats and often results in death of the cats
- Outdoor cats could be feral (hates people, will run from you when you see it) or a stray (left behind in a move but is domesticate)
- TNRC is the best way to stabilize the cat communities and reduce disease/infection
 - If cats are just moved out often new colonies of cats will move in
- City ordinance protecting city cats. If you call animal control they will TNR the cat
 - Often don't return to where they were trapped and its not good
- Where do you find cats? Snoop around and ask around
 - Is someone feeding them, this is very helpful and recommend
 - Knock on doors and if no one is feeding them you can start feeding them right on your porch
- Kittens can be easier but they do require longer term care
- TNRC can be done at lifeline
 - Two locations Chamblee and College park
 - They do a vaccines, ear tip, tattoo and spay/neuter for \$30 bucks
 - KirkCats FB has an application for financial assistance for those who do not have the means



- Hold them for one to two days (or more if the surgery has complications) then release at the trapped locations
- The more neighbor volunteers the easier the task can be
 - Some neighbors are only able to offer trapping but don't have the space to support after-care
 - KirkCats can also assist financial with major surgeries or other expensive materials

Crime Update:

⚠️*Trigger Warning*⚠️ r/pe & assault

- We take these crimes very seriously and the board is actively trying to address it
- There was a murder of a passerby and they have a suspect in custody
- 2 rapes that they believe the suspect has been apprehended
- Town Hall with the appropriate officials in approximately 45 days
- DKPD will be doing a 30 day study that will record everything going on and compare it to previous data to get a better hold of the situation
- Hoping to have the townhall after the 30 days in order to make sure we are getting the full picture so will possibly be held at 45 days
- Due to the severity we will have to rely on policing to get a handle on the violent crimes
- As an organization we do not believe that the only solution is a police presence but more so community development but due to the severity of the issue we are approaching any and all possible solutions
- Maj. Banks advised that there are issues with confidentiality due to the open investigation that could potentially jeopardize the situation
 - He did advise that they have a suspect in custody
 - Victim was a non-resident
- Officer Pierre echoed the open investigation confidentiality concerns but we have followed up to see if there is any additional (non-confidential) information that he can share
- Important to keep in mind that anything you see or hear call it in within the next 30 days
 - Please call either 911 or the Dekalb non-emergency line at (678) 406-7929, whichever seems appropriate to you.
- All major crime is having an up-tick nationwide and this is not just an Atlanta/Decatur/BP issue
- Encouraging everyone to stay united in our efforts to make this a safer neighborhood for all our wonderful residents
- Avoiding inflammatory statements by reaching out to crisis centers to better manage messaging and any other resources they can offer
- A big thank you to those vigilant neighbors who have kept us up to date

Action Items | Shelby

- Contact Commissioner Larry Johnson to express Safety & Crime concerns
 - In Person: April 3rd Walmart Clean-up
 - 404.371.2452 or 404.371.2988
 - District3@DeKalbCountyGa.gov

Q&A

- Where do we get our funds from?
 - Membership fees
 - Plaque Fundraiser
 - And more to come!
- Could we increase membership cost? Would that allow for us to do more with the community and initiatives
 - Possible survey to gauge interest in an increase but must make sure it is sustainable for existing members and fixed-income residence
 - Other projects coming to raise funds and increase funding opportunities
 - Begin asking for donations from neighbors to raise money for specific initiatives
- Santa Monica park having issues with people driving on the curb to do donuts on the grass. What do we know about the person who owns that and what can we do to support Mr. Coleman's effort to keep it a green space?
 - Working to prevent the vandalism and exploring making it a food forest
 - Check out the figs in late spring/summer
 - ADLI Food Tree to bring back the trees that used to exist but were not sustainable due to vandalism



- It is his gift to the community so feel free to pitch in with the maintenance
- How can we help and support each other?
 - Further discussion and brainstorming necessary to determine unifying efforts
- Could we send a text or email to notify those not on ND
 - Thank you for your feedback. We will make this the top priority for the Public Safety Committee

Notes:

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