

AGENDA BPNA Membership ZOOM

23 February 2021
6:30pm – 7:30pm

Meeting

Meeting called by NA/Monthly Meeting
Attendees: Total Attendees =
17

- 6:30pm – Welcome**
6:35pm Call to Order | Maria
*Approve last meeting minutes | Maria
Review tonight's agenda | Maria
- 6:35pm – Unfinished Business**
6:40pm Clean-up Projects | Maria & Sarah
Plaques & Memberships| Shelby
- 6:40pm – New Business**
6:55pm Annual Report | Maria
- 6:55pm – Special Topic**
7:25pm BPNA Board of Directors Nominee Introductions| Shelby
Board Election Instructions| Shelby
- 7:25pm – Adjournment**
7:30pm Action Items | Maria

Welcome

Call to Order | Maria

- Welcome to our monthly (virtual) BPNA meeting and Elections! Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening!

Motion to approve last meetings minutes | Approved

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

Review tonight's agenda | Maria

- Clean-up Projects| Maria & Sarah
- Plaques & Memberships| Maria & Shelby
- Annual Report | Maria
- BPNA Board of Directors Nominee Introductions| Shelby
- Board Election Instructions| Shelby

Unfinished Business

Clean-up Projects | Maria & Sarah

- Bi-weekly clean-ups at our beloved "Trasher" Island and if a big enough group we split off to hit a few other entrances, happening this Saturday, Feb 27, at 9:30 a.m., all gear is supplied, additional details on NextDoor
- Adopt-A-Block: neighborhood movement where neighbors sign-up to pick up litter and maintain their block
- Great initiative for those who can't make it Saturdays or for those who want to pick a block/street to pick up trash in your free time and at your leisure



- No formal requirements just a fun way to get involved
- Let Sarah know via email: Sarahtynes@gmail.com or on the NextDoor group where we post our trash
- Please separate your recyclables if you can
- Tire plan to follow but mainly focusing on small litter items
 - Landmark tire or a few other options in order to recycle tires
 - CHaRM in Grant Park takes tires (free for the first two and \$2 a tire afterwards) and recycles them
 - Repurpose efforts?
- Currently have about 10 volunteers - Sending them a Big Thank You!!
- Some neighbors have even signed up for street sign cleaning
- Need a new street sign? Call DeKalb County (404-297-3947) and they can quickly put a work order in for replacements
- We have a group on NextDoor for volunteer sign-up and updates

Plaques & Memberships| Shelby

- 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)
- Please reach out to Maria if you need help finding a handy person to hang your plaque
- 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.)
- Hopeful to add more beautification projects, security signs, and other projects soon

New Business

Annual Report | Maria

Brief History

2016-2018

- Six residents formed the BPNA to create and manage the BP/WOH Private Security Patrol. Three members are designated as the Board.
- By 2018, two of the three-member Board have moved and due to lack of formality no membership existed.
- Four volunteers (2 from BP/2 from WOH) manage the Patrol.
- Patrol service has been sustained solely by resident subscriptions.

2019

- Spurred by the growing engagement on NextDoor.com and a gap in coordinated activities, four residents began organizing to expand the BPNA. What would we like to see happen?
- The vision was for the BPNA to become a formal structure through which the community could organize and address neighborhood issues.
- The vision also included branding and social engagement.
- Self-appointed Board included President, Vice President, and Secretary.
- Logo adopted (logo was created in 2016 but never used).
- Began developing the new BelvederePark.org website and Patrol website redesign



**Image Description: BPNA Logo created 2016 Light green circle with a brown owl on a branch, "Belvedere Park" written in red outside the circle on a white background, and finally all surrounded by a larger dark green circle*

State of BPNA 2020

Organizational Upgrades:

- Website
 - Launched new BelvederePark.org website
 - Launched the new, improved Patrol website BPWOHPatrol.com
- Email
 - Officer emails established
- Newsletter
 - BPNA Newsletter regularly sent to subscribers

January/February:

- First BPNA Meetings

September:

- Meetings resumed (virtually)
- BPNA Membership & Owl Plaques Available

October:

- Fall Bounty Food Drive

December:

- First Belvedere Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting

Outcomes:

- 14 - Total Paid Members
- 120+ Newsletter Subscribers
- 31 BP Owl Plaques Sold
- 16 Bi-Weekly Cleanups
- Loads of food donated to the Decatur Cooperative Ministry
- Successful negotiations w/Gran Terraza Townhome Developers

Finances:

- Monthly Expenses
 - Wix (Website) \$17
 - Zoom \$14.99
 - Total: \$31.99
- Annual Expenses
 - State Registration \$60
 - Atlanta Community ToolBank \$15
- Balance: \$547.95

Near Future Objectives

1. Elect a Board of Directors
2. Appoint Officers
3. Formalize Committees

Special Topic

BPNA Board of Directors Nominee Introductions| Shelby

- Reviewing nominee introduction
- 10 members are able to be on the board as long as they are voted in by members
- PowerPoint showing candidates

Board Election| Shelby

- Maria Rossoto, MPH, CHES (She/Her/Hers) one of the founders of the BPNA and acting President since 2016. I bring a wide range of skills and experience including prior board service, running a community-oriented non-profit, and managing a large community garden. My business Friends in the Garden is a blend of public health, music and art.
I am interested in improving the aesthetics of our neighborhood and am willing to serve in any manner aligned with the overall goals of the BPNA. I have been organizing and leading bi-weekly clean-ups since March 2020, which help keep litter at our main entrances to a minimum. Some of my favorite things about living in BP include the mid-century style, hilly streets, owls and lots of cool, friendly neighbors.
- Jason Howser (He/Him/His) was just a member of BPNA last year. He has lived in Belvedere Park for nearly 15 years, and over the last year, he's really gotten to know and love his neighbors/this community. He decided he loved it so much that he wanted to be more involved in 2021. He wants to help improve this wonderful community



of diverse neighbors. Jason enjoys working in his yard and gardening, most outdoor activities like camping and fishing; he also enjoys cooking bbq on the weekends! Husband and the father of a beautiful baby boy, and cherishes spending quality time with his family.

- Caitlyn Wade (She/Her/Hers) and I'm interested in serving on the BPNA board. I recently moved to Belvedere Park in April 2020 when my husband and I purchased our first home. While I have only lived in the neighborhood a relatively short time, I feel very connected to the community and would appreciate the opportunity to serve. I am employed as a staff attorney with the Federal Defender Program where I represent individuals facing criminal charges that are unable to afford an attorney. I believe that my training as an attorney would be an asset to the board. Additionally, my experience representing indigent individuals gives me continued insight into the challenges faced by many members of our community. My favorite part about living in Belvedere Park has been meeting all of my kind, welcoming neighbors.
- Mike Tarnower (He/Him/His) is interested in addressing our unhoused neighbors and at risk to the community in order to improve safety. Plus, community events.
- Shelby Kurland (She/Her/Hers) is a dedicated community member who is passionate about the needs of Belvedere Park residence. She is currently involved in the Shoal Creek Park I, Regional Alliance, and Neighborhood Branding projects. When not working hard on community initiatives, she loves walking the neighborhood and getting to know Belvedere Park's citizens!
- Jessica Woodside (She/Her/Hers) has lived in the Decatur area for the last 10 years, and moved to Belvedere Park in 2018. Since then, she has tried to be involved in neighborhood association meetings and efforts, including attempting to address the issues at the former Citgo and Kwik Stop. She would like to get more involved by joining the board and helping the BPNA continue to expand its presence in the neighborhood. She works in marketing, so has a variety of skills in that area, including digital marketing and advertising and event planning/execution. Her favorite thing about living in Belvedere Park is being close to lots of things to do while living in a quiet, friendly neighborhood with lots of trees and green space.
- Emily Cox (She/Her/Hers) has a passion for working with local communities to support and empower residents through beneficial neighborhood projects and inclusion initiatives. Additionally, she prioritizes sustainable beautification efforts, neighborhood walking paths, sensory-inclusive playground equipment, regenerative community gardens, TNR efforts, and providing accessible resources for all our neighbors (seniors, veterans, unhoused, etc.) Her absolute favorite aspect of BP, other than the location and diversity, is her amazing neighbors. Emily is incredibly inspired by the potential within BP and the BPNA.

Action Items | Maria

- Vote!! Poll closes Friday Feb 26th at 10 p.m.!
- Look out for results being announced Monday morning March, 1

Q&A

- What more are we doing about safety? We are still working closely with our private officers and trying to add more subscribers to add hours to his patrols. We have come a long way and there may still be a few issues but we are heading in the right direction. Restarting the circle watch allows for neighbors nearby to look out for one another
- Last month a developer zoom meeting for the Tiny House lot and a neighbor called and said the property is up for sale and the sale price is just below \$20k but the fair market value by the tax commissioner is around \$1.6k. Being advertised on zillow as a potential tiny home plot so may be a future item for the community to address. The realtor told Maria that the owner would drop the price if the neighborhood wanted to make the purchase.

Notes:

Emails for tiny house/San Gabriel Lot:

- Jason - jasonhowser83@gmail.com
- mike tarnower -- gdaebfc.mt@gmail.com

