



26 January 2021
6:30pm – 7:30pm

AGENDA BPNA Membership ZOOM Meeting

Meeting called by NA/Monthly Meeting
Attendees: Total Attendees = 16

- 6:30pm – 6:35pm** **Welcome**
Call to Order | Shelby
*Approve last meeting minutes | Shelby
Review tonight's agenda | Shelby
- 6:35pm – 6:40pm** **Unfinished Business**
Plaques & Memberships| Maria & Shelby
Shoal Creek Park I Updates | Shelby
DKPD | Maria
- 6:40pm – 7:00pm** **New Business**
Information about BPNA elections in February | Maria
Traffic calming on Fairlee Dr. | Maria
Belvedere Regional Neighborhood Alliance updates | Shelby
Beautification Committee | Maria
Crime & Safety Committee | Maria
- 6:00pm – 7:25pm** **Special Guest/Special Topic**
Officer M. Pierre, DeKalb Police Department South Precinct, Our Private Security Patrol Officer
- 7:25pm – 7:30pm** **Adjournment**
Action Items | Maria

Welcome

Call to Order | Shelby

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

Motion to approve last meetings minutes | Approved

Review tonight's agenda | Shelby

- Plaques & Memberships| Maria & Shelby
- Shoal Creek Park I Updates | Shelby
- DKPD | Maria
- Information about BPNA elections in February | Maria
- Traffic calming on Fairlee Dr. | Tracey
- Belvedere Regional Neighborhood Alliance updates | Shelby
- Beautification Committee | Maria
- Crime & Safety Committee | Maria
- Officer M. Pierre

Unfinished Business

Plaques & Memberships| Maria & 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)
- Membership Fees: \$20 year / \$5 a quarter
- All funds go into 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



- We did send out an end of year letter to members and subscribers with 2020 accomplishments and projects in progress

Dekalb Police Department | Maria

- Maria has been following-up with Special Investigations Unit on "Citgone" and asked about specific strategies to address the business and not just the people known to loiter
- They advised, that isn't what they do. They handle burglaries and other investigations versus business operations
- When Maria suggested specific multi-agency strategies to address the Citgone, they provided several resources and contacts for us to connect with
- We are now seeking interested neighbors to work on this issue and encourage collaborations amongst the agencies that can help. Please contact Maria if interested: 678.973.4393 24mangoes@gmail.com
- If we have any information about burglaries and thefts, please continue to pass it along to the Special Investigations Unit because it is incredibly helpful and something they rely on
- Continue to call in and report any and all crimes

Shoal Creek Park I Updates | Shelby

- We are still in the process of gathering a community around Shoal Creek Park 1
- There will be a meeting next week, Feb 4th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- You can join the group: Friends of Shoal Creek Park 1 on NextDoor, all the links and further details are listed
- Major goal of having a stronger presence at Park Pride to achieve funding for the projects and master plan
- Hoping to have the opportunity to be a part of the Visioning Project by Park Pride that, if selected, we will create and complete a master plan for our park. We are very excited to pursue this opportunity in 2021!

New Business

Information about BPNA elections in February | Maria

- Elections are held annually in order to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors
- Minimum of 3 members (President / Secretary / Treasurer) and a maximum of 10 (VP + non-Officer members)
- Officers (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) are chosen by Board members
- This will be the first formal election of the BPNA Board
- Originally the BPNA began as very small group in order to get the patrol going and MR took on a lot of that responsibility
- MR is stepping down as our fearless President but hopes to remain on the Board - Thank you so much Maria!!
- We can have up to 10 people on the Board so please apply!
- You do have to be a member in order to vote (sign up on the website)
- Attend quarterly board meetings and monthly general meetings
- Terms are 2 years long, with a maximum of two terms
- If you would like to chair a Committee (Crime & Safety, Beautification, Fundraising, or Social Events) you must be on the Board
- Some committees have more authority than others, the hierarchy is detailed in our Bylaws
- The BPNA Bylaws are located on our website and can be accessed at any time for further details
- We are excited for our first official and formal Board, whom will be voted in next month
- Once Board members are elected, they will meet and assign the Officer positions. To clarify, the elections are just to elect a neighbor as a Board member (up to 10 members), formal positions are assigned at a later date by those elected to the Board
- February meeting date Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:30pm - 7:30pm
- We have a Leadership Interest form that must be filled out in order to be eligible in February (Interested parties have until next meeting, 2/23, to fill it out) they will then introduce themselves during the February meeting, after the meeting an email will be sent out to all members (only members can vote) with a poll, the poll will be open for 3 days (72 hours) to elect who will be on the Board

Traffic calming on Fairlee Dr. | Maria

- Tracey and Mike have been going through the initial stages to get speed bumps on Fairlee Dr.
- Signatures were received on the required streets (Carter, Fairlee & Melanie)
- The signature requirement was met, so we passed the first phase, and are now we are onto the next step
- They will be putting out devices and will do studies to see if we are able to proceed onto the next phase

Belvedere Regional Neighborhood Alliance updates | Shelby

- Recently formed a Belvedere Area Alliance (White Oak Hills, Midway Woods, Belvedere) we worked with them on the Thomas/Conway Townhomes and wanted to further the relationship
- We had a great first meeting that included introductions and discussions of challenges and goals
- Meeting tomorrow on gentrification and how our communities are dealing with these challenges



- Synergy and general neighborhood updates will also be on future agendas

Beautification Committee | Maria

- Mural on the wall on Rupert St. (owners are on board with the idea - with approval of the final design - renting is going well, one open unit and still trying to get people in the others - estimating \$900 for a 1/1)
- This is one of the main projects for the Beautification Committee
- They are currently getting quotes from local artists
- We would work as a community with the muralist to paint but the muralist will do the harder design elements as well as put in some of the work in order to keep it a community initiative
- Continuing Bi - weekly clean ups, next one is this Saturday at 9:30am meeting at our beloved "Trasher" Island
- We provide grabbers, gloves, and bags
- Mask and Social Distancing Required. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Crime & Safety Committee | Maria

- Security Yard Signs are the Crime & Safety Committee Initiative
- Currently trying to get funding to purchase (little) security yard signs for neighbors
 - Vicky is part of Towers Action Group through Dekalb County Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), managed by the Department of Human and Community Development and is assisting
 - They fund groups based around the High School Districts (i.e. Towers High School District)
- They have submitted the required (3) quotes so hopefully we will begin next steps in the coming year

Guest Speaker | Officer M. Pierre

Officer M. Pierre, DeKalb Police Department South Precinct, Our Private Security Patrol Officer

- Officer Pierre checks in with us to see if anything needs to be approached and he monitors NextDoor for intel. He is an officer with the South Precinct and Neighborhood Enforcement Team. He has been an awesome private security patrol officer, very dedicated and committed.
- He usually has on "California Blues" and vehicle lights on display as he patrols the neighborhood to be highly visible. This lets people know that there is an officer in the area
- Daily focus on our problem spots "Citgone" and the parks in order to issue citations and clear the area
 - City ordinance states that you can't be in the park after dark, allows him to issue citations
- Maintains high visibility and works with following-up and making citizen contact in order to make introductions and get to know us better
- Contact Maria or Wayne or upload information into the NextDoor app, all are great ways to approach
- Contact directly via County email: MKPierre@dekalbcountyga.gov
- You can always call 911 for an emergency and use NextDoor, his county email or contact Wayne or Maria and let them know any tips/info
- New Community Policing Unit strategy:
 - Have more proactive approach and know the neighbors and frequent visitors to the area
 - Keep up frequent communication with neighbors to handle the citations for loitering and/or park activity
- Activity behind "Citgone" is being monitored and continuously checked up on
- Major gunfire the other night reported within the South Precinct but no specific details available at this time
- Always give all details and report any and all crimes, sometimes it's the small things that end up being incredibly helpful
- People are starting fires in the "Citgone" parking lot, currently no problems arising from that, but it is being monitored and citations are being issued but when it comes to general loitering it comes down to working with the business owners. The issue is being addressed but things aren't always easily handled in the courts
- Attempting to make contact and relationships with unhoused neighbors in order to get them the help they want
- No new neighborhood developments to currently report
- **Complaints aren't going unheard and nothing is too minor to report so keep on posting and calling**
- Private Patrol is very similar to daily work but will ask for additional units if working privately in order to have additional support

Action Items | Maria

- Incentive Membership & Security Patrol - requires more discussion
- Fill out Leadership Interest Form by Feb 23, 2021
- Next Meeting: Feb 23, 2021



Q&A

- It would also be great to clarify who is eligible for a Membership. We live in WOH, which is covered in the security patrol, but outside the area mentioned on the website?
 - You must live within the BP boundaries to be eligible for membership of the BPNA but you are eligible to subscribe to the Security Patrol
- Create an incentive to get people to participate in neighborhood security patrol and BPNA: if a person subscribes to the patrol, it automatically makes them a member of the BPNA - hopefully an encouragement to drum up more members
 - Concerns with the accounts that have to be kept complete separate in order to make sure money from Security Patrol is never co-mingled with the BPNA as these are separate funds with non-neighbor members - open to looking into a way to offer bundle incentives via credits or other means
 - Further Ideas: What if there was a small discount for bundling security patrol and association memberships? Could we join the BNPA and then get the security for \$180?
- Future Speaker Recommendations:
 - Code Compliance
 - Animal Control
- Valor Townhomes
 - Valor has purchased 4/5 lots and are still waiting to close on the last property (which was supposed to be completed last month)
 - They are also working on getting a clearing and leveling permit from DeKalb County