



27 October 2020
730pm – 830pm

AGENDA BPNA Membership ZOOM Meeting

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

- 7:30pm – Welcome**
7:35pm Call to Order | Maria
*Approve last meeting minutes | Maria
Review tonight's agenda | Maria
- 7:35pm – Unfinished Business**
7:40pm Plaques & Memberships | Maria & Shelby
Shoal Creek Park | Survey/Projects | Shelby
Valor Towers | Shelby
DKPD | Maria
- 7:40pm – New Business**
7:55pm Fall Bounty Drive | Emily
Neighborhood Alliance | Shelby
Traffic Calming on Fairlee |
- 7:55pm – Special Guest/Special Topic**
8:25pm Thomas Thompson, Housing Operations Coordinator, Decatur Cooperative Ministry
Mr. Thompson will educate on homelessness, available resources and what to do when you encounter homelessness in DeKalb. There will be a Q & A session.
- 8:25pm – Adjournment**
8:30pm Action Items | Maria

Welcome

Call to Order | Maria

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

Motion to approve last meetings minutes | Approved

Review tonight's agenda | Maria

- It's the same formula for our community meeting agendas. Includes: updates on the topics touched on last meeting, as well as new items - such as traffic calming on Fairlee, food drive, and special guest speakers Thomas Thompson
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Security Officer and we will hopefully have him on as Special Guest soon
- Our guest speaker for this meeting will help us understand how to work with our homeless friends here in the community and the best ways to help them

Unfinished Business

Plaques & Memberships | Maria & Shelby

- We just rolled this out last month at the last meeting - and received a great response!! 25 Plaques sold so far!! Lots of excitement and hopefully more to come
- Please show us your pictures of your plaques hung up on ND and FB, we love to see it!
- Our neighbors, Diem and Elliot, purchased plywood, paint, screws, and other materials. They then paid to have them cut so BPNA needs to reimburse them for that ASAP
 - They also do the labor as their donation to the BPNA, this allowed us to get up and running even faster. THANK YOU for your awesome donation!
- We now have 10 official members - Welcome!



- Please check us out online to become a member (Dues: \$20 annual / \$5 quarterly) and get a plaque today (\$60 for one - \$100 for two in order to gift one to a neighbor)
- Great to see the community involvement to help us pay back the current costs to run the BPNA operations and investments
- Join today and get your plaque [HERE](#)

Shoal Creek Park I Survey/Projects | Shelby

- Friends of Shoal Creek Park is our neighborhood group that is working with Park Pride (Another local friends of the park group) in order to obtain funding for our future Shoal Creek Park Project
- Overall goal is to bring investments and fun into Shoal Creek Park
- A handful of neighbors have already joined and have been working hard to make contacts to facilitate receiving grants and other funds to add some love to our park
- They have developed and sent out a poll to survey the neighbor's top priorities in order to develop our project and begin fundraising. A Project Budget is required, and certain match goals must be reached to secure grants from Park Pride
- They are meeting to discuss projects, who can attend required Park Pride meetings, assessing other potential greenspaces in the area, and other tasks necessary to build up our park
- This group is open to all neighbors including those from surrounding neighborhoods

Valor Towers| Shelby

- Valor Builders are working with the Board of Commissioners to get all necessary permits approved
- They are developing 44 units of 4 story townhomes, on Memorial between Thomas and Conway
- They did a great job of working with us and meeting our community needs
- They should be breaking ground soon, once the DeKalb grading and clearing permit is approved
- They will let us know when they will be breaking ground and other future updates

DKPD | Maria

- Previous guests joined us to discuss the Citgo
- *Citgo Update* They are still working a case and investigations. Officer Kimball is out on vacation but will be sending over further updates when he returns
- We have received and passed along questions about determining who insures the properties - we were advised they were unsure of how to go about tracking that down
- DKPD is continuing to spot check the area and continue their investigations
- "It takes a village - stay safe - and thank you!" - Lt. Kelly Howard
- A couple Fridays ago neighbors had coffee with a few officers, across from the apartments, in order to get a handle on our issues and make sure our problems are being addressed to the best of their capabilities
- However, with Covid they are trying to keep people out of jail so limited options on course-of-action at this time
- Please report any break-ins/thefts promptly and send ring / camera footage, if available
- Jumper Cable Jerry is out of prison and on parole. DKPD is in touch with his parole officer but he has to commit and offense in order for them to be able to take any actions:
 - JCJ scheme - asks for a ride to auto zone and claims he was misquoted and needs more money - has become violent in the past
 - Search on /NextDoor for photos and neighbor posts
- Our actions are working, and the story continues

New Business

Fall Bounty Drive | Emily

Belvedere Park wants to share with those in need this season so starting November 6th BPNA is hosting a friendly *contactless* neighborhood competition to collect healthy non-perishable food items for [The Salvation Army](#) here in DeKalb. Please join us in helping those in need during the coming holiday season by sharing fall's bounty today.

How can you help?

[Sign-up](#) to be a Street Ambassador! -- Link can be found on NextDoor and on the BP Facebook group page
This means your home will be a collection drop-off location. Neighbors will be able to drop-off donations at your door and you will collect and track the progress of your street

Drop-off the collected donations on your coordinated day to [The Salvation Army Peachcrest Corps](#)

- Donate Needed Items:
- Urgently Needed Items:



- Breakfast items (breakfast bars, pancake mix, etc.)
- Boxes/bags of rice
- Full sized boxes of dry breakfast cereal (low sugar)
- Canisters/boxes of oatmeal
- Boxes/bags of pasta
- Bags of dried beans
- Crackers
- Peanut butter (plastic jars only)
- Powdered baby formula
- Baby food (all types)
- Donations of healthy non-perishable food items will be due to Street Ambassadors on November 20th at the latest!!
- Questions? Email: BelvedereParkSecretary@gmail.com

Neighborhood Alliance | Shelby

- We are creating a greater Neighborhood Alliance
- Currently, there is lots of confusion around BP neighborhood vs the BP census tract
- There will be an email sent out to surrounding communities
- If interested, please reach out to Shelby Kurland on ND / FB

Traffic Calming on Fairlee | Tracey & Mike

- Traffic calming petitions coming around
- We will need signatures from Melanie and Carter as well
- They found that the pink building on Memorial is testing cars and speeding down carter
- We are gaining signatures in order to go through the proper channels to obtain speed bumps

Special Guest/Special Topic

Thomas Thompson, Housing Operations Coordinator, Decatur Cooperative Ministry

Mr. Thompson will educate on homelessness, available resources and what to do when you encounter homelessness in DeKalb.

- Thank you Thomas for jumping in and bringing us some valuable information in order to add more help to the homeless
- Thomas is the Housing Operations Coordinator at Decatur Cooperative Ministry
- They have been serving DeKalb the past 50 years
- Located in dt Decatur for over 30 years
- When you encounter our homeless friends on the street there are ways you can help
- Neighbors can coordinate efforts from Dekalb county in order to connect homeless with services that can provide them needed assistance
- A lot of times we want to give an immediate solution when we encounter people but we have to keep in mind that those staying on the streets may have made that choice and are happy with it, so always start with establishing a relationship by bringing them a meal or a blanket to establish that rapport in order to open up a conversation and possibly ask if they would like for you to find them more help
- DCM works with homeless families to help prevent and alleviate homelessness
- They have a 30-minute shelter where people can stay for 90 days and help them get needed services like childcare, ID, food stamps, or whatever resource they need to get stabilized.
 - They hopefully are able to get permanent housing in the Referee Housing through case management services to help them find a place and get approved / pay for moving costs
- Transitional program is also in place for families with children. They can stay for up to 6 months, DCM has several homes in Dekalb County that assist in the transitional program,
 - Also assist in helping them find employment and housing to build up their income resources or credit issues that may be keeping them from finding safe and suitable housing in Dekalb
- Permanent support of housing is offered where the head of household may have a disabling condition that will limit the type of income they can make or have a severe impact on their housing. They receive referrals from all around Atlanta.
 - This is a permanent program that once they are in one of their apartments there is a fee to maintain the monthly rental



- Prevention program (very similar to CARES act) they have been doing that for the past 30 years that is the preventable portion by providing rental / utility services since they are at high risk of eviction
- Food pantry operations and food co-ops to help keep people fed
- For outreach of known homeless friends - Call Kenny and tell him where the person is in DeKalb Co and he will go out and see if they are receptive to these services 470 249 9223
- In Atlanta the outreach person is Fred - 678 994 4029
- If you know of someone who has been out on the street and in the same locations, please call Kenny and give him details for him to establish a relationship
- When approaching someone with mental problems and you feel comfortable talking to them you can ask them if they want help and offer to call around to get them resources. Some of these people are resistant due to failed attempts in the past and frustrations within the system. Give Kenny a call and he can walk you through next steps
- GA Crisis and Access line - resources for people in crisis - 1800 715 4225
 - 24/7 help for development/drugs/alcohol problems
- Hope Atlanta also has multiple programs and when you go to their page, they have multiple resources
- United Way 211 - any phone dial 211 and get connected to a United Way operator who can offer resources on the spot
- Covid has had a big impact economically where they may have issues paying their utilities and has caused prevention efforts to be strained
- Starting a relationship, get to know their name, bring them items they may need, ask if they are okay receiving some help? Then call Kenny
 - Very difficult for him to keep up with people so any known spots please let Kenny know so we can get them help
- DeKalb County has mental health coordinator so you can ask to talk to them when you have a mental health issue instead of a criminal police issue
- Outreach team will assess the needs and may realize they need food instead of medical care or vice versa but will bring the specific service needed and bringing those services to where they are since some friends don't want to go into these centers
- Goal is to build trust and build the relationship to connect them to more services in a manner that will allow them to succeed
- Money or Food? You have to do what your heart leads you to do, it's hard to not make judgements while also making a judgment on what people need. If it's a regular basis, start with a dollar then next time if there is anything else you need? Hot coffee / chocolate / toiletries all help build trust but always give Kenny a call
- Bags filled with hand sanitizer, baby wipes, reusable water bottle, toothbrush, hats, gloves, soap, wash cloth, insulated mugs, and other portable items are all great
- New Life ministries on Candler that has a great program that works with homeless clients, face-to-face may have some resources
- DEAM - Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministries is also another great resource
- Feel free reaching out to Thomas if you can't reach Kenny or have any other needs - Accept donations for clothes, toys, household items, and other needed goods - reach out to start a drive!
- Winter shelters open up once the temp drops below 40 degrees for people to come in overnight and stay out of the cold - more info to come
- Every little bit helps - continue to give a few dollars and something to eat until we can get them connected to other services
- DKPD are really homeless friendly and go above and beyond to help the service providers connect to the homeless communities - organize a combined effort with DKPD to do a hot chocolate and blanket pass out - contact the local precinct for further direction
- Email Thomas with any questions or help effort - biggest need is towels/washcloths
thomas@decaturcooperativeministry.org

Action Items | Maria

- Phone list/Resource Card for hotline numbers to distribute to neighbors
- Sign-up to be a street ambassador for the food drive!
- Park Meeting (Virtually) on Thursday at 7:30pm - link on ND and FB