

**WEST PACES/NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**  
**Meeting Held via Zoom**

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**President's Welcome:** President Steve Dickson opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Tonight's meeting was held virtually through Zoom secondary to the COVID19 pandemic. Board attendees were as follows including Henry Feinstein.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Steve Dickson	X
Rip Black	X
Alva McGovern	X
John Stebbins	X
Lee Caswell	
Jill Cooper	X
Alcina Dalton	X
Mike Elting	X
Maxine Feinstein	X
Tom Frolik	X
Matthew Grabowski	X
Jim Hannon	X
Charles Hoke	X
Alfred Kallingal	X
David Marvin	
Anne Muller Wise	X
Eddie Padgett	X
Sherry Perchik	X
Emily Richardson	X
Rick Robbins	X
Teresa Shell	X
Stephen Weizenecker	X

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary, Alva McGovern had previously emailed the proposed minutes for the November Board meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. The Board voted to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report had previously been emailed to the Board Members. It was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded. The Board approved the treasurer's report.

**Nominating Committee:** Chair of the Nominating Committee, Anna Sonoda was unable to be present thus Alcina Dalton gave the report. The committee, consisting of Anna, Alcina, Teresa Shell, and Alva McGovern has met. The committee is reviewing the current membership and potential new members. One Board member has already dropped off and there are 3 other Board members who may roll off.

**Security Committee:** Officer Hoos reported to Eddie Padgett that the neighborhood has been quiet. There was a car hijacking at Peachtree and Collier in which 2 good Samaritans were shot by the perpetrator(s). Anne Muller suggested 2 online platforms for current happenings; one being the Citizen app and the other atlscoop on Nextdoor.

**Membership Committee:** Alfred Kallingal, Chairman of the Membership Committee reports 100 paid members for 2021 so far. He thanked all of those who helped distribute Membership letters to mailboxes on their streets. It was decided to now precede with placing Membership Drive signs around the neighborhood. Rip has four signs, Steve has two, and John has one. Steve offered to have a few more made and Rip and Steve will distribute them.

**Communications Committee:** A discussion ensued regarding some difficulty renewing membership via the neighborhood website. Teresa Shell, Chair of the Communications Committee, offered to place the renewal option on the front page of the website for greater ease of renewal. She will contact Wild Apricot to make the needed changes. Currently when the "join us" button is clicked, it gives the viewer the option to renew. John said those who renew online versus those who mail checks are about equal. Rip is interested to learn who on his street has not renewed. Rick wants to personally follow-up with anyone on his street that has not renewed. Teresa is working to add 2 emails per household, as currently only 1 email is allowed.

Teresa said there is negative feedback coming in regarding the proposed development at Howell Mill and Northside Parkway. She said 61% of recipients opened the last neighborhood email she sent.

When Teresa asked Mary Norwood about the Tuxedo Park Traffic Study, Mary responded by iterating the need for commuter busses and affordable housing in Buckhead. It was noted that commuter buses must travel to downtown via the interstate and then back down to Buckhead on Peachtree Road since the buses are too wide to travel on West Paces Ferry. There remains a concern that the best traffic interests' for Tuxedo Park conflict with that of the neighborhood.

Finally, Teresa reminded everyone if someone wants to report 'suspicious activity', they should be directed to call 911.

**Zoning & Transportation Committee:** Rip Black made the Howell Mill/Northside Parkway Development Project report. The GDOT seems to have acted in behalf of

the developer, Richard Swopes who is represented by Carl Westmoreland. (It was noted that Mr. Swopes had reached out to our President, Steve Dickson although they did not discuss the project.) To initiate the project, GDOT had obtained Stream Buffer Variance and other Approvals from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Georgia Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Acting on GDOT's behalf, the developer's engineering consultant had violated some of the requirements of those variances, which now has resulted in a Notice of Violation from the EPD and the immediate cessation of "all land-disturbing activities" on the site until certain conditions- including the installation of required erosion-control measures have been met. This has bought us some time

The procedures followed by GDOT – seemingly acting of behalf of the developer – have been highly irregular and inconsistent with the usual protocols for such a development To date, neither the hydrology nor the traffic studies, separately requested from GDOT and the developer has been produced. It was reported, however, that there is currently a vehicle-counting meter near the site, which only lays half way across Northside Parkway. The utilities along Northside Parkway at the site hove now been marked, signaling additional site disturbance to come. It was further noted the site is a mess with bulldozed ground and no silt fences with fallen trees and trash on the site. Rip encouraged Board members to put on their boots and make a personal inspection of the site after parking at one of the banks and crossing at the crosswalk.

Steve asked if anyone present supported the project to which no one gave an affirmative response. Steve will write a letter to Carl Westmoreland detailing our concerns and lack of support for the project. It was agreed that no further letters need to be sent to our City Councilman, JP Matzigkeit as he is already on the record against the project.

**Beautification Committee:** Tom Frolik, Chair of the Beautification Committee has nothing new to report.

**New Business:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8PM. The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7PM. Happy Holiday!

Alva McGovern, Secretary