**Minutes**

**GENA Board Meeting**

**February 27, 2025**

Board Members Present: Kurt Dupuis, Sam Dengler, Nick Cortese, Renitta Trotti, Kay Lee, Noni Bourne

Board Members Absent: Polly Nodine, Lauren Sangaline Asbury, Paul Cushing

Other Neighbors Present: Jan Selman, Mary Leslie, Elizabeth and Don Lang, Sue and Ken West, Amanda Comer.

**Call to Order:** (Kurt Dupuis)

**September 3, 2024  Minutes:** (Kurt DuPuis) Approved via email. Posted on GENA website.

**Financial Report:** (Nick Cortese): Balance as of 9/03/2024 meeting was $4, 120.21. Expenses since last meeting $1,042.90. Income since last meeting $50. Current balance is $3,127.31

It was noted that payment of dues has been declining significantly from 137 participating in 2021 to 70 participating in 2024. A discussion was had about how to make it easier for neighbors to pay the dues. Some people had problems with PayPal QR code. The PayPal email link had a typo, missing the “a” in “treasurer”. Kay L. will remind neighbors about how to pay dues with next posting of the minutes from this meeting. Sam D. suggested having an automatic process on the website available and will discuss the viability with Nick C. Venmo was discussed as an alternate to PayPal.

**Listserv Report:** (Paul Cushing/Noni Bourne): Paul reported that there are currently 376 members and our server usage is at around 85% which is typical for our server.

**Welcome Committee Report** (Polly Nodine): Polly report that the Welcome Committee welcomed 2 2 new neighbors, 1 on Birch and 1 on Mt V. Jan Selman mentioned that she and Debbie Cushing also welcomed a new neighbor on Pinecrest. We now have 14 Welcome Committee members. (Thank you!) Amanda Comer is a new Welcome Committee member. Polly advises that the revised Directory Data Sheet is now being distributed in the welcome packets and can also be found on the GENA website.

**Webmaster Report** (Sam Dengler): One phishing problem was avoided by Sam since last meeting. The revised Membership Data form was added to the site for easy access. It was noted that the website contains some interesting neighborhood history. It was suggested that Steve Rushing be approached about adding some of his bird photos to the website. Sam will reach out to him.

**Old Matters**:

* **October: Halloween Block Party**. Once again a successful community event. The costume parade was a hit.
* **G3 Activities** (Carroll Knabe): Carroll reported that late last summer and in the early fall, the G3 adopted a Vision and Goals Statement to (i) create an attractive and well-maintained space that is suitable for GENA nighborhood-wide events and for individual enjoyment, (ii) to come together to work towards the Vision while having fun and fellowship with our neighbors, learning a bit about gardening and each other along the way, (iii) the lamp post bed at the front entrance to the neighborhood on the east side of Glendale at E. Ponce had been hidden for many years. The G3 enthusiasts pulled and cut down old, overgrown hollies. In the future G3 want to add some perennials for a spot of color. (iv) **through a donation by GENA neighbors Julie and Gui Godoy of 100+daffodil bulbs, G3 added spring flora to the park entrance**. (Thank you!) Both sides currently show buds. Blooms are on their way in the coming weeks. G3 also removed some of the invasive liriope, aka monkey grass.
* **Sanitation Workers Cash Gift**. Once again a **big thank you** to Ginny Lester for coordinating the project with such expertise and ease.
* **GENA Directory:** Bert Bender is keeping the GENA Directory on the listserv up-to-date when he knows about new neighbors. All those on listserv have on-line access to the Directory. Decision at last meeting was to wait until 2027 to consider printing the Directory. A discussion was had about the enjoyment of the printed directory as well as the cost of printing such directories. It was suggested that the Board revisit the printing concept at the next meeting.
* Other: No comments.

**New Matter**s:

* **Spring Block Party**: Discussion about how enjoyable live music has been at some of the previous spring block parties and the potential to expand the spring block party concept to incorporate more live music (perhaps a “mini-porchfest” concept). The Board by a vote of 5-1 agreed to the formation of an exploratory committee headed by Kurt Dupuis to determine whether there is enough interest by GENA neighbors who are musicians to change up the spring block party format to involve more GENA musicians. Deadline for a decision is March 15th after which the date (probably in May) for whatever form of party will be set.
* **Annual Graduation List**: Debbie Cushing once again has agreed to coordinate the assembling of the GENA graduate rollcall. A comment was made about how much neighbors and their children enjoyed the 2021 DHS graduate car parade (which was coordinated by the parents of DHS seniors). Those attending the board meeting agreed that it would be a fun event if parents of current seniors wished to coordinate a similar event this year.
* **Other possible informal gatherings**: A discussion was held about encouraging GENA neighbors to consider holding small (non-block party) events to build community engagement, such as coffee and doughnuts in the park. At a previous board meeting the board approved a budget to supplement the expenses of such events. **Amanda Comer** agreed to lead in bringing back the annual Women’s Night Holiday party, Jan Selman, Renitta Trotti and others in attendance agreed to help her with that effort.
* **G3 Plans** (Carroll Knabe). Carroll reported that future G3 plans include continual improvement to the shared space, the Triangle; exploring the wider project of planting daffodils that memorialize children who died during the Holocaust. G3 is meeting with the CoD Urban Naturalist to learn more; another project with the City’s Urban Naturalist is to make a portion of the Triangle a “Native Plants ONLY zone”. The City offers to donate plants and G3 do the installation and upkeep work, including needing some good and amended dirt for the planting.
* **Updated Membership Form:** New updated form can be found on the website. And attached to these minutes
* **Succession planning discussion**. **Amanda Comer** agreed to be a back-up GENA Secretary to Lauren Asbury. Board will consider voting Amanda onto the Board as secondary secretary at next meeting. The suggestion to try AI for the taking of notes was also given. Board will experiment with AI at the next meeting. Sam Dengler offered to look into a google.doc as a location for written descriptions of Board member responsibilities

Adjourn