



#### **INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MESSENGER**

Making Sense of Learning

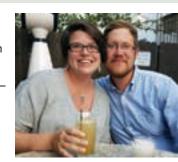
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Introducing the Neighborhood Church

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## **Mid-Summer? Update**

By Zaid Duwayri, president@candlerpark.org

Schools started back on August 1st! The traffic patterns changed again, the Candler Park pool hours got shorter and the parade of kids and parents marching up and down Candler Park Drive is back. In my mind, the start of the school year used to signal the end of summer, but here we are, early August and as hot as ever. I'll get used to it, I



We are also few weeks away from our biggest event in the year, the Candler Park Fall Fest (September 30th and October 1st). I mentioned Fall Fest in several of these columns in past issues and discussed the enormous effort that the fall fest committee has been investing in planning and fundraising activities. Many thanks to the great job this committee is doing.

#### PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING

As the date approaches, the tasks will multiply and the team will be looking for volunteers to help in the planning and operations of the festival. There will be a sign-up sheet coming soon, but if you know that you could dedicate few hours to help, please don't wait; reach out to fallfest@candlerpark.org

> to volunteer. In addition, this is a great time to reach out and check if any of our sponsorship spots are still available. This is a great way to promote your business and support your community - the email address to use for sponsorships is ffsponsors@candlerpark. org.

On a different note, we are getting ready to nominate candidates for the 2018 board officers for election by the membership. Per our bylaws, we need to form a committee to seek qualified candidates for our board positions. If you could volunteer to help in this short, but super important, task, please reach out to me at president@candlerpark. org. The committee meets a handful of times and most of the interaction

happens over email. In addition, this is a good time to start considering serving on the CPNO board for 2018! Please reach out to me to at the email address above to check on the eligibility requirements. As I mentioned last month, the momentum is strong, the wind is at our backs and we need your help to make the most of it.

See you around!

The mission of the **Candler Park** Neighborhood Organization is to promote the common good and general welfare in the neighborhood known as Candler Park in the city of Atlanta.

#### **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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**Lindy Kerr EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER** externalaffairs@candlerpark.org

Find a complete list of CPNO committee chairs, representatives and other contacts at www.candlerpark.org.

#### **MEETINGS**

CPNO Members Meetings are held every third Monday at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive.

Committee meetings take place at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1561 McLendon Ave., unless otherwise announced (enter from the street level door and ring the bell if you're late).

All are welcome. Only registered members are eligible to vote at monthly meetings. Membership applications must be received by Membership Officer by the first day of the month of meeting.

Find specific meeting information on page 1 and a complete list of CPNO meetings at www.candlerpark.org.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

CPNO membership is free to Candler Park residents, property owners and businesses. Membership must be renewed annually.

Sign up at www.candlerpark.org or mail name, address, and email to

CPNO membership, PO Box 5418, Atlanta, GA 31107



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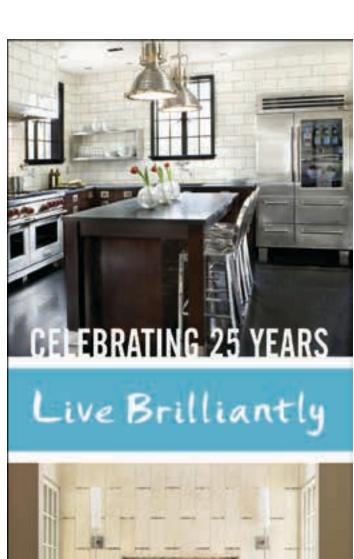
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### Thanks to Fox Bros Bar-B-Q!

Thanks to Fox Bros Bar-B-Q for sponsoring the July CPNO membership meeting with barbeque, beans and coleslaw! (And thanks to Lisa Morris for providing the Wonder bread as an accompaniment!) Opened on DeKalb Avenue in 2007, Fox Bros Bar-B-Q began receiving recognition when Texans Jonathan and Jason Fox started serving their BBQ at Smith's Old Bar in 2004. With the Candler Park location, they operate



a full-service restaurant with bar and patio dining. Named by ABC News as one of the top ten most popular BBQ joints, Fox Bros Bar-B-Q stays very busy. Walk, bike or avoid blocking neighbors' driveways when you visit this Candler Park establishment.



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#### THE MESSENGER

#### **EDITOR**

Susan Rose editor@candlerpark.org

#### **ADVERTISING**

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The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization. Articles reflect the opinions of authors, and not necessarily those of CPNO, the CPNO Board of Directors, the Messenger or the editor.

Articles must be signed and submitted via email to <u>editor@candlerpark.org</u> by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

If you have a news tip or story idea, please email relevant information including contacts to <u>editor@candlerpark.org</u> or call the editor.

If you live in CP or own a business in CP, and aren't receiving the Messenger by mail, be sure to notify us! Send your name and address to <a href="mailto:editor@candlerpark.org">editor@candlerpark.org</a>. Place the words "Messenger Delivery" in the subject line.

#### **CP ONLINE**

For the most up-to-date information on Candler Park events and news, check us out on the Web at <u>candlerpark.org.</u>

#### JOIN CPNO TO GET EMAIL BLASTS



To receive informative email blasts, sign up online to become a CPNO member. We don't spam!

#### **MESSAGES & CRIME ON NEXTDOOR**



Join the Candler Park group at candlerpark.nextdoor.com to keep up on crime reports and other messages.

#### **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**



You'll get the latest news and will be able to interact with 500 of your neighbors at facebook.com/CandlerPark.

#### **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**



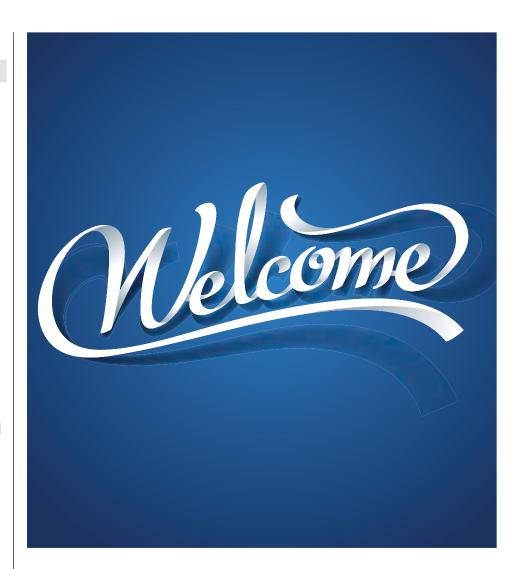
Our handle is your handle: twitter.com/CandlerParkATL

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **AUGUST**

- APS First Day of School
- **CPNO Zoning** Meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church
- Candler Park Movie Night, featuring Sing
- **CPNO Board** Meeting, 7 pm, The Neighborhood Church
- Candler Park Conservancy Meeting, 7 pm, Rush Center Annex
- Candler Park Movie Night, featuring The Jungle Book (2016)
- **CPNO Members** 21 Meeting, 7 pm, 1st Existentialist Church

In case of cancellations or changes, check CPNO's online Events at candlerpark.org. For meetings at Epworth, knock on door at street level to get in. All CPNO meetings are open to the public.



## Welcome New Members and **Thank You Contributors**

CPNO thanks members for their contributions:

Gene and Cristina Likins Genna Panagopoulos

Paula Buchanan

...and others who wished to remain anonymous

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SEP 16** Candler Park Movie Night, featuring Star Wars: The Force Awakens

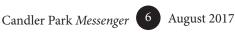
SEP 30 - OCT 1 Candler Park Fall Fest OCT 9 - OCT 13 APS Fall Break

OCT 21 - L5P Halloween Parade (4 - 6 pm) and Festival (12 - 10 pm)

NOV 20 - NOV 24 APS Thanksqiving Break

**DEC 25 – JAN 5 APS Holiday Break** 

If you have a Candler Park event that you would like added to this list, email editor@candlerpark.org





## August Porch Party Set for Fun

By Roger Bakeman (membership@candlerpark.org) and Amanda Bolster, Candler Park resident

When: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 6pm-8pm

Where: The driveway between houses at 325 Brooks Ave NE and

321 Brooks Ave NE

Hosts: Emily and Naoya, and Nancy and Ken

Come spend some time with neighbors as some of us commiserate on school starting back August 1 (crazy...). Bring a snack and/or drinks (alcoholic or not) to share, and join the fun!

Contact Amanda Bolster (amandafbolster@gmail.com) if you have questions or you want to host the October porch party, which will be the last for 2017.



# Grady High School Foundation Theater Capital Campaign

Source: http://gradyhsfoundation.weebly.com/

The Vincent D. Murray Auditorium has been a hub of Grady High School and community culture since 1984. The Grady High School Foundation is initiating a capital campaign to raise \$50,000.00 to replace and upgrade the sound and light systems to contemporary standards. Currently, we are operating with limited capacity and obsolete technology. With your help we can guarantee our students and the Grady Community at-large a fully functioning facility ready to serve all types of events, performances, and ceremonies for years to come. Please join us in this drive to support not only the arts at Grady, but also the capacity to serve as a nexus for our entire Grady constituency. You can learn more through this article published by Atlanta Intown newspaper. http://atlantaintownpaper.com/2017/01/lights-sound-grady-high-school-foundation-launches-auditorium-fundraiser

Contributions can be made to "The Grady High School Foundation" at this link:

http://gradyhsfoundation.weebly.com/

All donations are tax exempt.

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2568 Canton Road, Marietta helpanimals@ourpalsplace.org

## Little Five Points Findley Plaza Redesign Update

Source: Post by Walter Brown on Nextdoor social media site.

Plans are underway to redesign Findley Plaza in Little Five Points and your input matters! The Little Five Points Community Improvement District's (L5PCID) Findley Plaza Redevelopment Committee will conduct two community input meetings on the following days, times, and location:

Saturday, August 12th from 10:00 am to noon in the Sevenanda Community Room (the downstairs of 467 Moreland Ave)

Wednesday, August 16th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Sevenanda Community Room (the downstairs of 467 Moreland Ave)

The L5PCID/Findley Plaza Redevelopment Committee will display draft concept plans and seek input to improve the plan and prepare for its approval by the City and the L5PCID Board. This project is being funded through the Renew Atlanta Bond program with additional funding to be provided through private fund-raising efforts led by the L5PCID and other community groups. Improvements are projected to be complete by the fall of 2018.



Photo credit: Little5Alive





Mark Clement founded Candler Park Movie Night eleven years ago

## Movie Night Resumes For Fun and For Free!

By Susan Rose, editor@candlerpark.org

The shortening of the long days of summer means the return of Movie Night (aka Candler Park Fick-Nic)! At press time, three newly released family-friendly features are scheduled for screening for free in picnic-friendly Candler Park.

Festivities start one hour prior to dusk, and the movie screening begins at sunset in front of the pool house. You will want to arrive early to set up your lawn chair, blankets, picnic and coolers. Remember, no glass containers or bottles, which are strictly forbidden in city parks.

At press time, Sing was scheduled for August 5. A larger crowd was expected as the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) promoted the event as part of a series of events geared toward young families who live Intown, to enjoy Jewish programs, and other activities, in their neighborhood. Through a press release, the MJCCA called it Havdalah Movie Night at Candler Park and planned to provide snacks and beverages and Shabbat-friendly Havdalah crafts for the kids

August 19 will feature The Jungle Book (2016). Dr. Bombay's Underwater Tea Shop and The Learning Tea plan a number of activities in association with this

screening. Daniella Korwek, GM of Dr. Bombay's and Program Director of The Learning Tea, shares that, "The Learning Tea will be playing music, selling samosas, iced tea, and Katrell Christie's book, Tiger Heart." Katrell Christie is the founder of both Dr. Bombay's and The Learning Tea, which aims to provide life scholarships for 13 women scholars in Darjeeling, India to help them continue their educational pursuits. Her memoir, Tiger Heart, outlines how her first journey to India not only changed her life, but also the lives of a handful of young scholars in the foothills of the Himalayas.

On September 16, the Movie Night season concludes with a bang with the screening of Star Wars: The Force Awakens. This movie was rescheduled from September 9 to avoid conflict with the Beltline Lantern Parade. Join your friends and neighbors to witness whether the Jedi can prevail against the dark side.

The 2017 Candler Park Movie Night season would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors:

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CPNO (movie licensing and insurance)

Last but not least, this popular community event would not exist without the countless hours and personal dedication of Mark Clement, who founded Movie Night eleven years ago. Thank you Mark Clement!

Thanks also to his team of volunteers: Peter Bluestone, John Perantoni, Sam Bacote, Joe Dennis, Amy Clement, Kelly Joe Bluestone and helpers from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.





Photo credit: SkullSense Multisensory and Educational Products

## Making Sense of Learning: A Mom's Journey

By Kelly Karim, Skull Sense founder and Lake Claire resident

I have two very active, social and passionate boys. We spent most of their early years outdoors, especially roaming the woods at Candler Park. Everything seemed pretty normal until my youngest was exposed to learning the alphabet in preschool. Life changed after that in ways I could not understand at that point. He became more angry, frustrated and more sensitive to life in general.

As an older student in Kindergarten, he struggled with recognizing letters and simple words. But, I knew that he was a smart young boy. Sometimes he seemed to be able to read. Later, we discovered that he was memorizing whole books, but not reading. After a conference with a teacher, I decided to have him tested. She believed he wasn't trying hard enough. I knew him better. The test confirmed clinical level of dyslexia, very severe.

Thinking that the school would know how to help him, I let them be the experts. At the same time, I did a lot of research, but still felt lost. By first grade, he had made very little progress. I took a course in Orton-Gillingham, a multisensory phonic based learning approach. By the middle of the year, we found a specialized tutor, and I helped him with his homework using some of these techniques. The assignments from school were frustrating because they were way above his level. I listened to his sessions and continued to research.

In third grade, he tutored, I worked on fluency, teachers worked with him, and he reached grade level. I volunteered to help others in his class with fluency. Now, he is in honor classes going into high school.

About 3 years ago, a friend referred a student to me for tutoring in reading. I found working with other children very rewarding. I learned different approaches that worked with different students. It was amazing how quickly most children connected to reading when they started tutoring in a multisensory phonic method at or before 1st grade. New research shows that there is very little difference in the long run in reading between most dyslexics

and non-dyslexics if multisensory phonic interventions or these routines are implemented at or before 1st grade. However, it doesn't happen overnight.

While I was tutoring, I started thinking about better and simpler ways to use the multisensory methods. I spoke with my friend and neighbor, Gretchen Connell, about developing multisensory portable cards. Having a child with similar learning issues, Gretchen was interested in the project. Using my painting and tutoring experiences and her photography and graphic design skills, we created our first 4 sets of multisensory phonic and math cards. I painted fruits and veggies series and 2 animal series for the phonics. Gretchen designed colorful graphics for our math cards. Every card has le letters or number to help with memory. All are attractive to kids and older students.

As great as these are for interventions, my hope is that they become a beginning set for all learners. I am a big advocate for pro-active, early multisensory learning. Most children will benefit by touching, saying, seeing and hearing while they are learning. However, for some children this is the absolute best and necessary practice. With the prevalence of numerous worksheets and delay in recognizing different learning styles for very young students, these bright students lose valuable time and tools in their learning experience. For many kids and families, the sense of failure takes an emotional toll. My hope is, with these cards, we can make a difference in many kids' and families' lives. This is more than just a business. This is my bucket list.

We created SkullSense Games to be a supportive educational site with suggestions, directions, and short workshops. Our hope is to work with schools, preschools and organizations to strengthen educational support.

We are online at www.skullsensegames.com and at the Workshop on McLendon Ave. every second Saturday from 10-1pm as well as a variety of places listed on our website.







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## A New Church Gets A New Name And A New Approach To Church

By Erin Brown, Neighborhood Church Director of Communications

At the corner of McLendon and Mell, just across the street from Candler Park, transformation is underway.

Since the 1930s, the location was the home of the Epworth United Methodist Church and was also home to many community organizations and educational groups. The members of the Epworth Church, though, grew older, and as time went by

there were fewer participants in church functions. And so in early 2016, the Epworth Church made the brave and bold choice to give up their old identity and merge with another United Methodist congregation close by - the Druid Hills United Methodist Church - which had also seen declining community connection and attendance.

A new church was formed, which has been gathering together officially since Easter (early April) of 2016. This "New Church" (which was selected as a placeholder name until a permanent one could be selected) was to become not a standard church merger in which two congregations meet together and operate much as they had before – just with more people. New Church was to become a "vital merger" - a merger in which all earlier customs, habits, names, and traditions would be given up in

order to seek a new identity with a radically different focus - the people of the surrounding community.

In June of 2016, a new pastoral team was sent to guide the church in its new mission of becoming something new. The Rev. Andy and Anjie Woodworth became the co-pastors of the New Church (yes, they are married) and quickly set about the work of listening to the community and finding a new vision for the congregation that would emerge.

In order to help this work and to allow for transformation to occur, worship became a monthly event. New art pieces in the front of the church sanctuary expressed a different way of thinking about Jesus, and pews were removed from the worship space. But more than merely changing the buildings and materials things, Anjie and Andy have spent much of their time over the last year simply meeting people in the communities of Candler Park and Lake Claire and elsewhere.

"Human relationships are an inherent good," says Andy Woodworth, "and it has been so wonderful getting to know the incredible people of this community."

These conversations helped to form the vision of the new congregation: to be "collaborative Christian neighbors building relationships for community and justice." And in May, the congregation unveiled its new permanent name to match the vision: Neighborhood Church.



The Neighborhood Church on McLendon at Mell Ave.

"Our hope is that Neighborhood Church is a progressive, radically inclusive faith community working to be anti-racist and pro-LGBTQ+," says Anjie Woodworth. "Our worship moments tend to touch on the justice issues of our day, and we hope people find us a safe place to wrestle with how to live a spiritual life in an authentic way. We also try to have church be something joyful and not depressing. We are very kid-friendly, with a special place in our worship space called a PrayGround where kids can play quietly during our services and still listen in." The abundance of children in recent services shows this approach is popular with kids and parents alike.

But, the work of Neighborhood Church doesn't end with a church service. Neighborhood Church is also home to many community groups and organizations - likely because the church facility at Mell and McLendon is one of the largest community gathering spaces in the area. In the past year, Neighborhood Church has hosted Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Zumba and yoga classes, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) trainings, CPNO committee meetings, Beltline Lantern workshops, recovery

groups, voting, and other programs. There is also a special connection with two permanent organizations – the Candler Park Arts Center, which holds art classes and events for adults and children, and the Candler Park Day School, a half-day pre-school for children from 18 months to Pre-K.

Something that isn't a part of Neighborhood Church? A cell phone tower. Community residents may remember a proposal to place a cell phone tower inside the steeple of the Epworth Church a few years back. After community pressure, the cell tower operator backed out of the arrangement, and the tower was never constructed. But the experience of Epworth Church with the cell tower controversy helped to show that something was missing: connection and conversation between the congregation and the community.

"The old church did the best they could, but didn't know who the community was any longer," says Andy. "Our hope is that our new congregation can clearly live out our vision and our name: Neighborhood Church. We want to put the neighborhood first."

Neighborhood Church begins holding worship services every Sunday morning at 11 am beginning August 13th, and will begin small group programs for adults and children beginning in September.

"We'd love for anyone interested in a different kind of church to come and check us out," says Anjie. "Even if you have been hurt or rejected by church in the past, we hope you will find a safe place to be you here at Neighborhood Church."



Rev. Andy and Anjie Woodworth are co-pastors of the Neighborhood Church.





## **Fighting City Hall**

By Lexa King, Candler Park Resident, safety@candlerpark.org

This isn't my first rodeo. Back in the 1980's my neighborhood opposed the plans for a divided, elevated highway that had been approved by the Department of Transportation. Homes had been acquired by eminent domain and had been razed. I can't even imagine the price we would have paid from a quality of life perspective and, of course, from the standpoint of property values if that highway had been built. Fortunately, we fought City Hall. And we won.

Now, I again find myself at odds with government entities regarding my habitat. In December 2016, I received notification that someone had filed a grievance against me with Code Enforcement, a department which falls under the Police Department. A couple of other homes on my block were cited as well. The description of my offense was unclear to me, so I called the officer for clarification. She came over and met with me and explained that I had some overhanging branches and some vegetation on the front sidewalk. I agreed to clear it, which I did within the next couple of weeks. At that point, I considered the matter handled and breathed a sigh of relief at having avoided a dreaded court appearance.

Several weeks later, during the spring, I got a call from my tenant who rents my upstairs apartment. He seemed a bit alarmed and informed me that the police had come to the house looking for me and had issued an arrest citation for a code violation. The next day I called the officer who accused me of not having cut back the overgrowth. She stated that my yard was overgrown and messy. It had been a couple of months, and it was Spring, a time of extreme growth, which I explained to the officer. Although I had cut the growth back, new growth had probably appeared. She was unrelenting and insisted that this time I had to appear in court.

I appeared, as ordered, in Municipal Court on a May Monday morning a few weeks later. The judge instructed me to meet with the officer outside of the courtroom and come to an agreement regarding the completion of the work. I told her the work had been done. She told me she would return to re-inspect it, and I took her at her word. She was to call to arrange a time to reinspect, and I was to reappear in court in 3 weeks to find out the disposition of the case. During the 3 weeks until my next court appearance, I never heard from the officer. I tried to call her 3 times during the third week, with no success. Upon returning to court, I was told she was on vacation the third week, with no mention of the 2 weeks that she was actually at work but didn't call.

At this court appearance, given that we had still not come to agreement, a date in August was set for a trial. In the interim, the officer was to return to my property with her supervisor who was to give his opinion of the "overgrown and messy" state of my yard. As the appointment came closer, I decided to ask a neighbor to attend the meeting with me as a witness. The best ally, I thought, would be the man who started our neighborhood garden club a few years ago, Scott Jacobs. I had been one of the first members, and we had been friends for a few years.





Photo credit: Lexa King

The day of the appointment, the officer called and told me she was ill and could not attend the meeting. She asked if I wanted to reschedule, but I declined. Scott was already set to come and, frankly, I wanted to get this put to rest and in my past. In the few weeks since the last court appearance, I had been working on purging some of the monkey grass and tree sprouts that the spring rains had made so abundant. A word about my yard. I have a typical city lot in that it is not very large. Also, there are wonderful, old trees around me, so the yard is shady. Given that I don't particularly like grass and that grass is almost impossible to grow in shade, I dug up the grass in 1996 and put in all gardens. Mostly I have Azaleas, Hydrangeas, Hostas, Ferns, Liriope, Astilbe, Helleborus and Heucheras. Interspersed are planters with annuals, garden art and paths. This year we have had an inordinate amount of rain, so it is lush and, perhaps, to some, a bit over the top.

The appointed Thursday meeting time came and so did the Code Enforcement Supervisor and Scott. After exchanging a few niceties, we got down to business. The yard is divided into 2 separate parts by the sidewalk leading to the porch and front door. To the right of the sidewalk is a huge 100+ year old Water Oak and a wall of Azaleas I planted shortly after buying the house over 30 years ago. They were tiny at the time since I could not afford more mature plants. The other side of the walk has around 7 garden beds, with walkways between them. Some of them are defined by Liriope, which can be invasive. That is where I have been concentrating my energy in an effort to please the Flower Fascists.

As the conversation progressed, it was clear that I kept referring to the larger section of yard containing the garden beds. All of a sudden, the Officer said, "Wait a minute. That part of the yard is fine. There are no problems there. The problem is THAT", as he pointed to my wall of Azaleas forming a border between my yard and my neighbor. "That is excessive." Huh? In 6 months of attempting to please the Landscape Nazis, this

was the first I had heard that my gorgeous, 8 foot high wall of Azaleas that blooms with huge pink flowers resembling Orchids each Spring was so offensive to some unnamed person that they filed a complaint and insisted that they be cut back. Color me shocked. They are on the border of my property, about 8 feet from the sidewalk leading to my porch. They are not obscuring any public walkway, nor are they blocking any view for drivers. They are growing under a gigantic Oak tree which will allow little else to flourish. They are just standing there in their glorious beauty. The Officer insisted that someone could hide in the bushes and jump out and assault me. I pointed out that immediately behind them are the neighbor's Azaleas, and I have a huge, motion activated security light that illuminates the yard even if a cat enters. This made no impression. Logic, it seems, has no place in an argument with the Officers of Code Enforcement. He just kept reiterating that the bushes are excessive. Scott repeatedly asked him for a definition of excessive which, of course, he could not provide. I made one last plea for him to dismiss the charges and drop the case, which he refused. We are to proceed to trial in August.

Later that day, Scott called and asked my permission to notify the area residents of my situation via a post on the social media site Next Door. I had no problem with that. That evening and the next day and all through the weekend I read with delight all of the support my neighbors were offering. Scott had not identified me by name or address, but I eventually disclosed that to the group. In my mind, I was preparing to generate a petition to have signed by neighbors and take to court as part of my defense. Several people wrote to our City Council Representative and copied me. City Council writes these codes.

Monday afternoon I was again out working in the yard. A few area people had come by over the weekend to check out the yard and offer verbal support. That afternoon a young woman came up to the front retaining wall, told me her name and that she lived in Kirkwood, an adjoining neighborhood. Then, she told me she was a reporter with a local station, and she would like to interview me. In the meantime, her cameraman walked up. They took some action shots of me doing some weeding and then agreed to give me time to shower and change before coming back to interview me on the porch. That interview was a time of revelation for me. It wasn't until the interview that I actually understood why I felt so strongly about this whole process. It all came together for me.

Thirty years ago, I planted some small bushes in my yard. I nurtured them, fed them, watered them and enjoyed their blooms for over 30 years. They were like babies to me. And they are gorgeous. I took a piece of land that was marginally attractive and created what is, to me, a work of art. Others may not see it that way. Some seem to be offended by them for some unknown reason. But why would someone think they have the right to dictate to me what I can do with my garden? This creates no safety hazard.

The penalty for my offense can be up to a \$1000 fine and/or up to 60 days in jail. Neither of those hold any appeal to me. As I told the reporter, "This is not about me. It is not about those Azalea bushes. This is about a way of life in a neighborhood I love."

My ideal outcome includes several items:



Photo credit: Lexa King

- · Accountability for making these complaints needs to be part of the system. I have no idea if this was a neighbor or someone from the suburbs, or Boston for that matter, just driving through.
- Reassurance that seniors are not disproportionately being targeted and receiving these citations. They usually have the least resources and may have difficulty maintaining their yards. Since my birthdate is on the citation, this information should not be difficult to tabulate. A system making support available to seniors needs to be in place.
- The Code needs to be examined and reworked. The guidelines are vague and subjective. My abundance may be excessive to an officer.
- Code Enforcement officers need to possess basic gardening knowledge. To confuse poison ivy with English Ivy and not realize there is a difference is not acceptable for someone making evaluations about gardens and issuing citations.
- Training on communications needs to be required for these officers. For the citation to be worded in such a vague manner that I was not aware of the exact location and nature of the "offense" until 6 months into the process is inexcusable.

Who we are as a nation begins with who we are at the most local levels. A community or a group of Law Enforcement Officers gets to decide what they value and what is their focus. If your life is so empty and void of experiences that you must strong arm little old ladies to cut back their prized flowering shrubs, you need to research another line of work where you cannot continue to abuse your power. The wasted time and resources allocated to an issue like this is appalling.

I was interviewed the following day by a reporter from another channel. Both reporters asked the same question, "Will you cut back the bushes?" I can't answer that truthfully now. My brave, knee-jerk reaction is not only no, but hell no. But if found guilty and threatened by one or both of the penalties, I do not know how I will react. I do know one thing. In this sometimes dreary, sometimes depressing, sometimes overwhelming world, we need more flowers.

## **Meet Our State House Representatives Candidates Running for District 89**

By Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

Editor's Note: This article was written for and originally published in the Lake Claire Clarion. The author provided permission for publication in the Messenger.

As you may or may not know, Stacey Abrams, who currently is our State House Representative for our district, 89, will be running for governor. As of now, Bee Nguyen (pronounced WEN) and Sachin Varghese are running for her position. Below is a Q & A with both candidates running:

#### Q: Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Bee Nguyen (BN): I am one of five daughters to former Vietnamese refugees who escaped Vietnam by boat in 1979. My family fled a repressive regime that did not enable them to have basic civil liberties. That's why I have dedicated my life to serving others - first by starting my nonprofit, Athena's Warehouse, and then by becoming an advocate for women and girls, communities of color, and refugee families.

Sachin Varghese (SV): I was born in India and immigrated to Georgia as a child. Both my parents relied on MARTA to commute to their hourly jobs and support our family. And while my parents did not have savings to pay for college, I was able to obtain a scholarship to attend the University of Georgia.

After college, I taught briefly in an elementary school in a disadvantaged Atlanta neighborhood. I gained firsthand insight into the challenges facing schools and teachers, as well as kids growing up in low-income communities. I also met my amazing wife, Serene, who was also a teacher.

I returned to UGA for law school. Following graduation, I clerked for a federal judge before joining Bondurant Mixson & Elmore.

As a litigator, I represent individuals and businesses in their pursuit of justice and defend those accused of wrongdoing. Among others, I have represented the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, GALEO, and others in challenging Georgia's discriminatory statewide redistricting maps and argued against those maps alongside Rep. John Lewis. I've also represented a death row inmate, an abused inmate, and helped establish a partnership with an Atlanta nonprofit to defend individuals being wrongly evicted from their homes.

In January 2016, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, but fortunately had health insurance, a supportive employer, and amazing family and friends. Following surgery and radiation, a scan in December 2016 thankfully revealed that I was cancer

My wife and I have made our home in East Atlanta for the past decade. My daughter attends the public school a few blocks from our house, and my son will join her there when he gets to kindergarten.

#### Q: Why have you decided to run for State House District 89 (currently Stacey Abrams)?

**BN** My bid for office is an extension of the work I have been doing for the last decade. I quickly recognized that I could be more effective in my work with underserved girls by influencing policy. I returned to school and earned my MPA from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. I spent three years at the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, where I developed a solid foundation in public policy.

In 2016, I worked with sexual assault survivors and successfully lobbied the passage of the Pursuing Justice for Rape Victims bill. During the 2017 legislative session I served as Chief of Staff for Rep. Sam Park, the first openly gay man elected to our Georgia General Assembly.

The environment at the Georgia State Capitol is challenging - and it took me one full session to feel as if I belonged there. We currently do not have an elected body that is reflective of the greater diversity of our State - not in age, race, gender, or ideology. If I want that change reflected in our legislature, then it's up to me to possess the political courage to make that change. If elected, I would be the first progressive Asian American women to ever serve in our General Assembly.

My colleague Jason Carter has encouraged me to explore elected office for some time now. With two young children and a wife that I love, I did not think it was the right time for me do that. Following my cancer diagnosis, I particularly did not think the time was right.

However, once a scan revealed that I was cancer free, and outraged and frustrated by the results of the presidential election, Serene and I decided we needed to do more to build the type of community we want to see for our children, our neighbors, and all Georgians. I knew that the time was never going to be perfect, but I needed to step up and do more.

Serving in the State House will allow me to work on all of the major policy areas about which I am passionate: public education; healthcare; women's rights; transportation; civil rights and liberties; building economic opportunity; the criminal and civil justice systems; and protecting our environment.

#### Q: How do you think you can contribute to a Republican House?

**BN** My history of working with diverse communities enables me to connect with people who have different ideology. Navigating a Republican environment will no doubt be challenging but I have already effectively worked with Republicans on issues such as the Pursuing Justice for Rape Victims bill - in fact, some of the Senators on the Republican side helped us talk to their colleagues and supported our efforts to push the bill through the legislature.

This past legislative session Rep. Kendrick created the Future

Caucus, a bipartisan caucus for legislators under the age of 40. I believe there are issues we can work on together such as environmental issues, criminal justice reform and solutions to address the opioid crisis.

I will be a vocal advocate for protecting the rights of all Georgians and fighting against discrimination, whether on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or age. On those matters, I do not believe there is room to negotiate. However, in other policy areas (education, healthcare, transportation, criminal justice reform), I believe that progress, even if incremental, is better than no progress, and I will work with moderate Republicans where we can find common ground.

#### Q: What do you think you bring to the table, different that your opponent?

**BN** I am a community organizer and because I have been entrenched in the community for the past decade; I witness the ways in which broad policy decisions trickle down to the every day person. My work is my moral compass - I work with young girls who are often overlooked and suffer from a system that does not protect them. After the national election, I had

to face these girls and explain to them why America elected a man who not only called members of their community "rapists" and "criminals" but also felt entitled to disrespect women and girls. They hold me accountable and never let me forget why I fight so hard for progress.

I also believe in empowering individuals to understand the power of their voice and their vote. I just came off the campaign trail as the campaign manager for Sam

Park, where I talked to people who didn't believe their votes were important. I am currently working to mobilize AAPI, Latino and Millennial voters in the 6th congressional race to elect Jon Ossoff. Engaging disillusioned and disempowered voters is critical in our current political environment. I understand how to mobilize those who are typically not at the table. We cannot afford to leave any voters behind.

SV I believe my experience makes me the best candidate for the position.

My life experience—growing up working class, a minority, an immigrant, a husband, a parent, and a cancer survivor—has provided me with a broad range of perspective and has instilled in me a strong desire to fight for a Georgia that provides educational and economic opportunity to all Georgians and that treats all Georgians fairly and equally.

My professional training and experience has also prepared me for the position. I have a graduate degree concentrating in public policy and a law degree. I understand how to analyze and assess policy, how laws are interpreted and implemented, and how legislation can be drafted or amended to maximize benefit and minimize harm.

Finally, I am able to work well with individuals from many different backgrounds. I have succeeded in a variety of different settings and believe that I will work well with other legislators, even those with whom I may often disagree, as well as constituents, community organizations, and the business community.

#### Q: What is your take on education, especially in relation to Atlanta Public Schools and its relation to the State?

BN I am a strong advocate of local control for schools. As a nonprofit leader, I have spent a lot of time working with underresourced public schools and the issues vary from school to school. For example, Clarkston High School, a DeKalb County public school, implemented policy to defer testing for newly resettled refugee students during their first year of enrollment. The students are tested to provide benchmarks for achievement but the actual scores are not counted towards the school's overall testing scores. This policy enables students the time to learn English, so in their second year the test scores more accurately assess their competency in all subjects.

> From a state perspective, we must fully fund the QBE formula - cuts that were made during the recession have not been fully restored. We have been underfunding public education since 2003. We must also invest in early childhood education. From a district perspective, building stronger relationships between APS, Atlanta City Council and the state are critical.

We must also examine the ways in which issues like

economic security and health care access intersect with quality education. It is not a coincidence that struggling schools belong to struggling communities. We need to stabilize communities economically, so that parents can afford to be active participants in schools.

SV I believe that every child deserves to receive a strong education and to graduate from high school ready for college and/or with a marketable skill that can lead to a well-paying job. I believe that Georgia must fully fund education, including providing universal access to pre-kindergarten. Georgia must also support, excellent school leaders and great teachers. Further, I believe that it is critical that children receive a wellrounded education that includes social-emotional learning, arts, recess, technology, and vocational training, along with the core subjects.

#### Q: We've had some serious infrastructure issues lately. What do you think the State's role should be in this?

BN The State should absolutely support the expansion of transit. We have a long and complex history with MARTA and we have seen the lack of planning cripple our city. As metro-Atlanta begins to grow, a shift in ideology must take place. We



are already starting to see this in counties such as Gwinnett. We need to take the massive numbers of cars off our roads and bridges, so that we can reduce the stress they put on our infrastructure. But in order to do that, we have to put a plan in place where people can efficiently get to one place to the next. We also need to invest in repairing our structurally deficient bridges and crumbling roads and we need to find sources of revenue to fund these projects.

Georgia must play a significant role in building a strong public transportation system and improving infrastructure. Georgia must: invest in the expansion and strengthening of public transportation; allow county and municipal governments, either alone or with neighbors, to raise revenue dedicated to expanding public transportation; ensure that roads, bridges, and highways are safe and well-maintained; and encourage and protect alternative modes of transportation, including cycling and walking.

#### Q: Housing and gentrification have been larger Atlanta issues lately. What are you thoughts about city growth, housing development, and gentrification?

BN This is an issue we have seen in other cities as well - and we need to develop a successful model for investing economically without displacing. At the city level, affordable and workforce housing initiatives are being pushed. Councilman Andre Dickens has done a great job of being a leader in this space. But we need to build on that with broad solutions, especially with the latest round of Fulton and DeKalb

Your Neighborhood Agent Candler Park Resident Intown specialist Patter Burne patterbyrne@gmail.com 404-825-0880 I am all about Intown Living! Having spent the majority of my life right here in Candler Park, I know what it takes to get the house you want and how to get top dollar for the house you want to sell. Call me for a home evaluation! Keller Williams Realty Buckhead 404-604-3800 County tax assessment increases. We need measures that protect seniors and those who are on fixed incomes. We need legislation that would cap the appraisal increases per year for property taxes. Being hit with 100 to 300 percent property tax increases in one year is not manageable for any family.

We have to protect the ability of long-time neighborhood residents and senior citizens to remain in their homes, even as property values appreciate. We also need to be a city that is welcoming of, and makes space for, people of all income levels. Atlanta must do a much better job of promoting affordable housing, and Georgia can help in that effort by providing tax incentives for affordable housing and also by limiting tax increases for low-income residents.

#### Q: What's your favorite dive in Atlanta?

**BN** I have a special place in my heart for El Myr, the Plaza Theatre and the Majestic. I love the remnants of old Atlanta the Earl, MJQ, the Righteous Room, though I rarely frequent them now! I miss Gato Arigato in Candler Park!

SV The Earl

#### Q: What is something that is quirky about you?

BN I am fluent in Vietnamese but also illiterate in Vietnamese! My vocabulary is also limited; I had to learn new words like "vote" and "representative" in Vietnamese to reach out to Vietnamese voters during Sam Park's race and during my work to get Jon Ossoff elected!

We're currently fostering a feral cat and her four kittens. Along with our two kids, dog, and cat, our small house is even more chaotic than normal.

A special thank you to Bee Nguyen and Sachin Varghese for taking the time to talk with me and share some insights, and for coming to our Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting.



## Fore! Be Safe Around Candler Park Golf Course

By Susan Rose, editor@candlerpark.org

According to PGA Tour statistics, British Open Champion Jordan Spieth tees off and sends a golf ball soaring down the fairway at a speed of 158 to 173 mile per hour. Although it is unlikely you will get hit by one of Spieth's balls at Candler Park Golf course, a golfer at Candler Park could hurt you if you get in the way of a ball traveling at half Spieth's ball velocity. At the July CPNO members meeting, Candler Park Golf Club manager John ("JW") Wood pleaded to members to stay off the course unless they are playing golf.

Indeed, the well-maintained greens and natural habitat area may allure some people to walk their dogs, enjoy nature, observe wildlife and even have picnics. However, these activities violate golf course rules and are dangerous, when the course is open for play.

Golf is a very safe sport when golfers follow common-sense rules of safety. When these rules are ignored or non-golfers suddenly appear on the course, injuries can occur.

#### **Safety Rules for Golfers**

- 1. Be Aware of Your Surroundings and People Nearby Never swing your club when playing partners are too close. Look ahead and to the left and right of the area where you are aiming your shot. Do not hit your ball until you are sure that no golfers ahead are in the way.
- 2. Watch Out for Other Golfers You can't always know whether other golfers are being aware of their surroundings. If you have to retrieve an errant ball and must go to an adjoining fairway or go in the brush, be careful of golfers playing in that area who may be unaware.
- 3. Yell "Fore!" or Cover Up When You Hear It If you slice or hook your ball to an adjoining fairway or to a nearby sidewalk or street, yell "Fore!" to alert other golfers or pedestrians. Fore is the international word of warning. If you hear "Fore", be aware, make yourself a smaller target, and cover your head.



4. Never Hit Your Ball Into the Group Ahead of You – It can be frustrating when the golfing group ahead is moving slow, but it is dangerous to intentionally hit toward the group ahead in an attempt to push them along.

Golfers and neighbors together can ensure Candler Park Golf Course remains a safe, beautiful place by showing respect and courtesy for each other and abiding by common-sense rules of safety. The Candler Park Golf Course is open for play seven days a week from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm.

Sources: http://www.pgatour.com/stats/stat.02402.html;

"Simple Safety Guidelines for Golfers" by Brent Kelly, https://www.thoughtco.com/simple-safety-guidelines-forgolfers-1563379;

"How Fast Does a Golf Ball Travel" by Michael Joseph, https:// www.golflink.com





## **CPNO Officer and Committee Reports for July**

These reports were submitted by officer and committee chairs prior to the July Members Meeting.

#### Membership-Roger Bakeman

Membership in CPNO is now 468. For comparison, it was 485 at the end of 2016. Renewals are up, but new members, at this point half way through the year, are about half what they were in 2016. Have we saturated the market?

#### **Zoning-Bill Morris**

The Zoning Committee meeting was held on May 3 with four members in attendance. The applications on the agenda were v-17-163 (1280 Mclendon Ave) and v-17-166 (591 Page Avenue). In addition, zoning ordinances amendment z-17-33 which address a number of changes to zoning requirements pertaining to the belt line corridor and overlay district was also on the agenda.

V-17-163, 1280 Mclendon Avenue.: Application is for a variance to reduce the half depth front yard setback from 17.5 ft to 11 ft in order to construct a new single family home on a vacant lot. The Applicants for the variance own the home on the adjoining lot to the east side of the vacant property. Part of the justification for the variance is the narrowness of lot -44 ft wide. With a 17.5 ft ½ depth front yard set back on one side and 7 ft on the other side yard, the house would have to be only 20 ft wide. Other nearby similar lots on Mclendon Ave. have ½ depth front yard setbacks that average about 6.8 ft. Proposed impervious lot coverage for the new house would be 50%. Because of the late submittal of a number of items on the CPNO checklist, the committee was not able to have a complete and thorough review of the materials; therefore, the committee voted 4-0 for a deferral of the application to the August meeting for further consideration. The applicant was also requested to provide notification letters for the neighbors at 1270 and 1273 Mclendon who were not contacted prior to the meeting.

U-17-166, 591 Page Ave.: Application for a Variance to reduce the half depth front yard setback from 17.5 ft to 3.2 ft to allow for construction of a rear addition to a single family residence. The renovations include enclosure of an existing porch at the rear of the house; removal, relocation and reconstruction of non-compliant interior staircase; rear family room and master bedroom addition @ rear of house and the removal and replacement of existing deck and stair. Proposed lot coverage would be 46.8%. The committee voted 4-0 in support of this application with the condition that the applicant appear before the NPU and the project is constructed in accordance with the site plan filed with the City dated 6/7/17.

Z-17-33: These amendments address various issue pertaining to zoning requirements that apply to the beltline corridor and overlay district. At the time of the meeting, the zoning committee had only received a copy of the fact sheet from the city but not the actual text of the amendments. Notice from the City also indicates that the amendment would be on the NPU agenda in September. The Committee discussed the amendments but did not vote on any motions related to it. Further consideration of these amendments can take place in

future zoning meeting if necessary. The overlay district does not include any of Candler Park and the amendments should not directly impact the neighborhood.

#### Freedom Park Conservancy-Carol Gregory

Happenings with Freedom Park Conservancy board--

- The board made further progress in completing our visioning exercise for the park. Perkins + Will have provided a detailed park map that identifies opportunities for future activation and areas with challenges the board will need to address. This map will be a critical jumping off point in the development of a new master plan.
- The board has also begun working with the Branding team at Perkins + Will to refresh our brand as it relates to our development strategies. A refreshed brand will present a fresh face to our communities as we start fundraising for Master Plan development.
- Thanks to the help of some industrious Cub Scouts and volunteers from Lake Claire and Candler Park, the Bird and Butterfly garden (North and Candler) has received a much needed face lift. Volunteer efforts will be focused on this area of the park in the coming months, with an eye toward getting ready for new plantings in the fall. Watch for dates and volunteer to help.

Carol Gregory, Candler Park Rep. to Freedom Park carolagreg@gmail.com

#### **External Affairs-Lindy Kerr**

Notable Zoning matters:

There were no zoning votes for properties in Candler Park. Two proposed city-wide amendments were discussed:

- 1. Z-16-11 Ordinance to create the I-MIX Zoning District in Atlanta: There was additional discussion, but the board did not vote because the final language of the ordinance is still in development.
- 2. Z-17-26 A proposed zoning code amendment to provide that appeals from decisions of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) are by writ of certiorari and amends the code to state what a person must establish at the BZA to appeal a decision. The NPU board voted not to support this ordinance to require a writ of certiorari to appeal BZA decisions (5-0-3). There were some unanswered questions that the board requested the City Planner look into, such as does a City official have to sign the writ and can the legislation be modified to include more details on the process and would a similar limitation apply to other appeals (such as the Tree Conservation Commission)? It didn't seem appropriate to support legislation that would reduce a citizen's ability to appeal, although the point may be moot based on recent Georgia Supreme Court decisions. There will be a public hearing on this change at the July 6 BZA meeting.

#### **Notices:**

- 1. The Board voted unanimously to support a special event application for the Health and Wellness Festival to be held in Candler Park on September 9, 2017. This one-day Class E festival with an anticipated attendance of 1,000 will serve as a fundraiser for the new Aimee Copeland Foundation, an organization devoted to increasing access to outdoor recreation activities and mental health services for the disabled. There will be a one-mile walk around the park (parking lot, Terrace Ave, PATH, Candler Park Drive, sidewalk to pool house) starting at 3 pm. There will be three bands, two food trucks, and multiple vendor booths all located on the parking lot hardscape. Admission is free, but a \$10 donation is suggested. See www.aimeecopelandfoundation.org.
- 2. Zone 6 Commander, Major Peek, noted: (a) the the APD have been devoting significant

resources to fight car break-ins and in turn, the break-in numbers are down; (b) the APD recently did a sweep of Little Five Points and made a number of arrests on Qualify of Life and Narcotics violations,

3. Those interested in looking at the current development of the City's transportation plan

or in completing a survey for citizen input can visit www. atlantatransportationplan.com.

#### **CPNO Membership Application**

All who live in Candler Park, or own property or a business in Candler Park, are eligible to join. Mail this application or visit our website to join <a href="www.candlerpark.org">www.candlerpark.org</a> register or renew. <a href="www.candlerpark.org/renew">www.candlerpark.org/renew</a>

Name:	
Address: _	
Email:	Date:

#### **Business applicants**

Name of business:		
Address of business:		
Name of designated agent:		
Agent's Email:	Date:	

#### **Optional contributions**

Membership in CPNO is free, but we welcome optional contributions. To contribute, please visit our website <a href="www.candlerpark.org/contribute">www.candlerpark.org/contribute</a> or mail a check with this application. Typical contributions range from \$10 to \$100.

If sending by mail, please address to: CPNO Membership P.O. Box 5418, Atlanta GA 31107





## July 17 CPNO Members Meeting - draft minutes

These draft minutes are presented for review. They may be amended before being considered for official adoption at the August 14 CPNO Members Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Zaid Duwayri, President. Welcome and introduction of new members. Motion to adopt the agenda as presented passed. Thank you to Fox Bros. for providing dinner.

#### **Announcements:**

- Anyone who is interested in the Local Historical District Designation should consider joining the committee.
- Lexa King requested members to sign a petition regarding her Code Enforcement Violation.
- Edi Kelman solicited tax deductible donations for the BiRacial History Project.
- Zaid Duwayri announced the Board appointment of Carly Berg as the CPNO representative to the CID Committee for the redesign of Findley Plaza.
- A meeting for public input regarding the redesign of Findley Plaza will be held from 10am to Noon August 12, 2017 at the Wrecking Bar.
- Lauren Welsh, Candidate for District 2 Councilman, encouraged people to vote on November 7. 2017.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Sgt. Hines, APD, reported no new issues in Beat 608.

#### **Presentations:**

- 1. Trees Atlanta representatives, David Simpson and Christina Gibson, explained the work of Trees Atlanta.
- 2. Ken Edelstein, CPNO representative, presented the conceptual design projects of Candler Park Conservancy.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Rohini Kukrega, Treasurer, presented the year to date income and expenses.

#### **Discussion:**

- 1.CPNO Website "Motion to allocate \$2,000 in the 2017 budget to pay for the migration, set up, hosting, and ongoing maintenance of the CPNO website passed.
- 2.Bylaw change- Motion to defer the change of Section 3 of the Bylaws until next month passed.

#### Zoning:

Monica Woods presented the application for 591 Page Avenue. The motion to support the application with the provision that the applicant appear before the July 22 NPU N and the project is constructed in accordance with the site plan filed with the City dated 6/7/17 passed.

Motion to approve the June minutes as printed in the Messenger passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Bonnie Palter, Secretary July 17, 2017



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- Laura Thompson - Candler Park



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Hampton + Hudson is your local neighborhood community bar and restaurant. Husband and wife team, Bill + Jenn Streck created a neighborhood place where people can gather for all occasions. Executive Chef Savannah Sasser's food compliments the neighborhood with items that include fresh ingredients from local farmers. Located in the courtyard of Inman Quarter beilding.



FOR 30307 NEIGHBORS. ONE PER CHECK

BRUNCH | SATURDAYS + SUNDAYS | 10:00AM-3:00PM KITCHEN OPEN WITH LATE NIGHT MENU TIL CLOSE I FREE WI-FI

PH: 404.948.2123

for more information on events - daily apecials - private reservations, go to our veloute:

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