

# THE Inman Park Advocator



Atlanta's Small Town Downtown News • Newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association

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President's  
Message

## What Drives Change?

BY BEVERLY MILLER • PRESIDENT@INMANPARK.ORG

Spending is a reflection of values. Atlanta voters chose in 2016 to allocate T-SPLIST money for street safety and public transit, but many of the planned improvements have sadly been “reprioritized.” Innovations in transportation have since made our infrastructure even more obsolete. This problem is not new. In 2004, Dirk Van Laak wrote in his book, *Technological Infrastructure, Concepts and Consequences*, “It is often suppressed or forgotten that the history of most infrastructures is marked by disasters and mistakes, new dangers and new risks.”

There was a time when infrastructure spending prioritized walkability, when there were more paved sidewalks than paved streets. In 1904, our city spent \$14,803.16 for the construction of 0.33 miles of streets and \$34,752.08 for 6.11 miles of sidewalks. Every city's streets were public spaces, full of pedestrians, vendors, and children at play, all sharing the space with slow moving horse-drawn carriages, wagons, and streetcars that posed little threat to public safety. It was like *Streets Alive* every day.

But suddenly, out of nowhere, strange new devices appeared! The first one traveled at four miles per hour. Presciently, a man walked ahead of it waving a red flag to warn the people in the streets of the coming danger. These new devices proliferated rapidly and got much faster. Within a short time, annual pedestrian fatalities skyrocketed nationally from fewer than 500 to over 15,000 as more and more of them barreled down streets, reaching speeds up to 45 mph. Their drivers were regarded as murderers, consistently blamed for accidents, and routinely charged with manslaughter, their behavior seen as a selfish and violent intrusion upon the formerly peaceful street scene. The devices were derided as toys and were called “pleasure cars.” Newspapers blamed their drivers for accidents and covered traffic deaths in detail. A 1924 New York Times headline proclaimed “Nation Roused Against Motor Killings.” Editorials depicted the devices as Grim Reapers mowing down innocents. A New York City magistrate declared, “The slaughter cannot go on. The mangling and crushing cannot continue.”

Activists waged campaigns. “Every car should be equipped with a device that would hold the speed down to whatever number of miles stipulated for the city in which



the owner lived” demanded one article published in 1920. Car sales slumped. Anti-car legislation loomed. But the auto industry began to lobby against any and all measures to limit drivers' freedom and to work to legally allow cars to take over city streets.

Before cars, pedestrians crossed streets wherever they wanted. By 1925, new ordinances required the use of crosswalks. The new crime of crossing elsewhere became known as “Jaywalking,” a word invented by the auto industry. The word “jay” meant “hick,” a person who didn't understand how to get around in the city. Industry-backed ad campaigns shamed people who didn't use crosswalks and framed pedestrian deaths as the fault of the pedestrians.

Shared streets were doomed. Newspapers' allegiances changed when they began to profit from selling car ads. Within a short time, the auto industry successfully shifted the blame for street deaths to pedestrians. Drastic changes in infrastructure spending were made to accommodate cars. Today our streets are packed with them, our streetcars are long gone, pedestrians feel threatened, and users of alternative modes of transportation have little space to operate.

In 1921, an author writing for pro-car Motor magazine stated “It is impossible for all classes of modern traffic to occupy the same right of way at the same time in safety.” This statement has never been more true than in our city right now. The proposed IPNA budget for FY2020 features large line items for infrastructure, namely lights in Freedom Park and improvements for neighborhood sidewalks.

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this month**

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## Welcome to the Neighborhood

Leslie and Martin Hodges and their daughter Thea to Edgewood Avenue!

## Welcome Back!

Welcome back home to Edgewood Ave. Balint Gergely, Daniel Skwarek, and their son Mitsuhiro.

## Get Well Soon!

Get well wishes to Elliott Winton, Sinclair Avenue, who is recovering from a bicycle accident

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Ashley and Brett Lauter, Edgewood Ave., on the birth of their daughter Ramsey Grace born September 12. 6 pounds 12 ounces; 19 3/4 inches long.


## From the President *continued*

These priorities reflect our closely held values of safety and walkability. IPNA has also worked with the city to plan safety improvements along North Highland Avenue and at the Edgewood-Euclid intersection, and the city assures us these changes are coming. But we need so much more.

The advent of LIT (light individual transportation) devices has simply made the required changes more urgent. Some people view them as dangerous playthings and their drivers as selfish and reckless. Sound familiar? Can our streets accommodate these new devices? Until recently, government forces have been at work only to regulate and slow them.

But last month, the Atlanta City Council authorized a study to investigate reducing the speed limit for cars on all city streets to 25 mph. Studies show that for cars traveling at 20 mph, the risk of pedestrian death is 6%; at 30 mph, 19%; and at 45 mph, 65%. Also, the faster cars are moving, the more likely drivers will be unable to avoid collisions. Many would object that drivers will continue to exceed any posted speed limit, but a counter-argument can be made that a driver going 10 miles over the speed limit would be going 55 in a 45 mph zone but only 35 in a 25 mph zone, so non-drivers would be safer.

There are other hopeful signs. Mayor Bottoms has unveiled a \$5 million plan to add 20 miles of LIT lanes on city streets with the goal of constructing eight miles by the end of 2020 and 12 miles by the end of 2021. APD has also increased fines for blocking LIT lanes to \$100 for cars and to \$1000 for large trucks, with enforcement by ATL Plus. APD asks that anyone who sees a vehicle parked in a LIT lane call 911.

Safe streets for all should be our priority. One hundred years ago, the freedom to use city streets was largely given over to drivers of cars at the expense of everyone else. What will be the outcome this time? Can we accommodate multiple modes of transit while keeping everyone safe? Our city desperately needs to prioritize spending for shared streets as well as for better public transit. 

## Inman Park Security Patrol Activity

### September 2019

Directed Patrols.....	307
Drop Ins .....	68
Suspicious Person .....	2
Demented Person .....	1
Theft .....	1

## 2019 Inman Park Book Club

Meets @ 7:00 pm on the last Tuesday of most months.  
Most book selections are available at our neighborhood bookstore,  
A Cappella Books, 208 Haralson Ave. in Inman Park.  
10% discount! Shop local!

**Oct  
29**

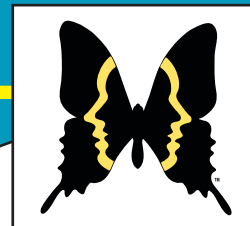
**"Baracoon: The Story of the Last 'Black Cargo'"**  
by Zora Neale Thurston

Pam Parker Gannon, 715 Rosalia St., SE (Grant Park),

**Nov  
26**

**"The Storyteller's Secret"**  
by Sejal 'Badani

Diana Glad, 960 Edgewood Ave.



*the next*

## Porch Party October 25 • 7:30 p.m.

**Hosted by Emily Pelton and Neil Kinkopf  
at 1027 Euclid Avenue**

***This is the last porch party of the year!***

All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share  
and your favorite beverage to enjoy.



Your porch wants to host a party!  
Call Pat or Richard Westrick to get on the schedule.  
404-388-6466

# Other Happenings to Note

## **Frankenstein's Funeral**

**Now through November 3 • St. John's Lutheran Church**

<https://www.foundstages.org/frankensteinsfuneral/>

This sounds so creepy and fantastic! It's an immersive theater experience that engages the viewer in the story through the collective actions that lead Victor Frankenstein and his monstrous creation on paths of destruction and woe, guided by the author Mary Shelley. Looks like you get led around the Gothic church campus as the story unfolds...ooooooh!

## **Scarecrows in the Garden**

**Now through November 3 • Atlanta Botanical Garden**

<https://atlantabg.org/calendar/scarecrows-in-the-garden/>

This is a fun excuse to visit the Garden after hours! Scarecrows, interpreted in many different ways, are scattered all throughout the Garden, lending a perfectly fall feel to the place. Thursday evenings through October are also Fest-of-Ale, so you can sip an adult beverage as you wander about. There's a spectacular pumpkin display that is just calling for you to take a picture of your toddler, who is hopefully also dressed up like a pumpkin. On Thursday, October 24, there will even be a pumpkin carving contest!

## **Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade**

**October 19, 4:00 pm • L5P • <http://l5phalloween.com/parade/>**

Creepy, funny, loud, silly, spooky, and utterly one of a kind. Don't bother driving anywhere this Saturday, there's no point.

## **International Sloth Day**

**October 20, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm • Zoo Atlanta**

<https://zooatlanta.org/event/international-sloth-day/>

Sloths are sleepy, slow, and super cute! Unfortunately they are also at risk due to widespread habitat destruction. Zoo Atlanta has a number of lovely resident sloths, including baby sloth Raisin (!), so come meet them all and learn more on this very special day.

## **Calloween**

**October 25, 6:30 - 9:00 pm • Callanwolde Fine Arts Center**

<https://callanwolde.org/events-calendar/calloween/>

The historic estate goes full-on creepy for the fifth annual Calloween Spooky Celebration! Upon entrance, guests will find trick-or-treating spots, games with candy prizes, and art activities, balloon artists, face painters, and more. Great for kids and reports are that adults will love it too. Tickets are \$10 each at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/calloween-spooky-celebration-at-callanwolde-tickets-65957507681?aff=eac2> and \$12 day of the show.

## **Neon Nightmare Halloween Party**

**October 26 7:00 - 11:00 pm • Ponce City Market Roof**

<https://poncecitymarket.com/event/neon-nightmare-halloween-party/>

Inspired by the 1980s, the Ponce City Market rooftop will be transformed into a creepfest complete with a glow-in-the-dark graveyard! Expect drinks, food, spooky prizes, and music. Find early bird tickets starting October 13:

## **Chomp and Stomp!**


**November 2 • Cabbagetown • <https://chompandstomp.com/>**

Come early to cheer on the Romp and Stomp 5K or come later for chili and bluegrass! The chili cookoff starts at 12:30 sharp so be there in time to sample—it always runs out! This super fun festival is one of Atlanta's best, so come on down, you won't be sorry.

## **Options and Care for End of Life**

**November 15, 10:00 am • Inman Park United Methodist Church**

<https://ipna.memberclicks.net/lifelong-inman-park>

The Lifelong Inman Park Committee will be sponsoring an informational program with presenter Christopher Jons, M.D., a hospice/palliative care specialist from Providence Health and Services, Montana. 

# IPNA Calendar

Oct  
**16**

**IPNA Meeting**  
Trolley Barn  
7:30 p.m.

Oct  
**24**

**NPU-N Meeting**  
L5P Community Center  
7:00 p.m.

Oct  
**25**

**Porch Party**  
See page 4 for details

Oct  
**29**

**Book Club**  
See page 4 for details

Nov  
**20**

**IPNA Meeting**  
Trolley Barn  
7:30 p.m.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Inman Park Halloween Kick-off Party

**Who:** Inman Park families and kids of all ages

**What:** Face painting, entertainment, and trick-or-treating

**When:** Thursday, October 31, 5:00-6:00 pm

**Where:** Poplar Circle (Hurt and Euclid)

Get in the Spooky Spirit. Wear creative Halloween garb. Prepare for old-fashioned fun to start your Halloween. Neighbors are asked to handout Halloween treats along the Route from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**Trick or Treating Route:** From Poplar Circle Left on Hurt Street to Waverly Way; Left on Waverly Way to Elizabeth St.; Left on Elizabeth St to Euclid Avenue; North on Euclid Avenue back to Poplar Circle

**Please Note:** Traffic will be diverted from the Trick or Treating Route from 5:30 to 6:00 while children are gathering treats.

## TRUNK OR TREAT!

On October 26th from 2-4 pm Inman Park UMC

will be putting on their annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. Bring your young children and their friends, come in costume,

and have fun! There will be decorated trunks with treats, face painting, pumpkin painting, and a sweet walk. This event is free and open to the community. Please bring canned goods for Intown Ministries! If you have any questions reach out to the Children and Youth Coordinator at IPUMC, Sara Maughan, at [childrenipumc@gmail.com](mailto:childrenipumc@gmail.com)



## Welcome to Sara Maughan!

Sara Maughan is the new Children and Youth Coordinator at Inman Park UMC. She joins Rev. Dr. Tara Paul in serving the Inman Park UMC community. Sara graduated from Candler School of Theology in 2018 and lives in Decatur with her husband and boys. After serving as a Pastor of a small rural church in Pendergrass, Georgia, she is looking forward to actively engaging in this community and providing support for IPUMC. If you have young people in your life that would like to be involved in Christian community, Sara would be happy to talk to you about IPUMC programming for Children and Youth. She can be reached at [childrenipumc@gmail.com](mailto:childrenipumc@gmail.com).

## Call for Artists!

Calling all Artists and Crafters! KIDS and Parents, it's time to get crafty because the Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair is back! Do you make jewelry? Or maybe you know how to knit scarves? How about key chains, ornaments, or candles? We want you to have a chance to sell your work!

On Saturday, December 14th, Lake Claire Neighbors and Mary Lin Elementary are hosting the 2019 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. A share of the proceeds will help both organizations support local charities and community work. Mark your calendars: Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9 am - 3 pm at the Atrium in the Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. Admission is free.


We are looking for local artisans, crafters, photographers, painters, potters, jewelers, and more to sell their original artwork. All items must be handmade - no mass-produced, store-bought, resale, or imported items.

### Details:

- Artists keep 80% of their sales.

- Payment by check, cash or credit card accepted.
- Only hand-made items accepted.
- Children artists are welcome and encouraged. Exhibit must be supervised by a parent at all times.
- Artists are asked to stay with their art exhibit during the entire sale period.
- Artists are asked to contribute a baked good or other finger food.
- Volunteers are needed for set up, break down and cashier positions.


Please fill out this online application form to become a vendor: <https://form.jotform.com/82388603894167>

For more information, please contact Julie Roseman ([julieroseman@yahoo.com](mailto:julieroseman@yahoo.com)) or Annsley Klehr ([anzoid@yahoo.com](mailto:anzoid@yahoo.com)), Holiday Sales Coordinators, for more details. 

## Inman Park Pool 2019

By YR. EDITRIX • [ADVOCATOR@INMANPARK.ORG](mailto:ADVOCATOR@INMANPARK.ORG)

Some say summer is over when kids return to school in August, some believe summer officially wraps with Labor Day weekend, and some, pedants mostly, adhere to the Fall Equinox as their determinant. Yr. Editrix firmly believes that for Inman Park, summer ends with the Inman Park pool closure on September 30. It's a melancholy moment that really marks the change in season: while there may be hot days in October, once the pool closes, you can't do anything about it. There's one little visit to say hi to the pool on January 1 for the Polar Bear Jump, but really you don't get to see it again until May 1. When you do see it again, it's like an old friend who you haven't seen in a while who maybe got a haircut or something—hey, they look great! This year, the pool welcomed us with a new water fountain, and it is a thing of beauty, let me tell you. It is shiny and firmly adhered to the wall. The water reliably flows forth, cool and refreshing. Best of all, it is a modern water fountain, with a bottle filling spout and a counter to estimate the burden of plastic averted from landfills. I love it.

The banana trees start out small and by the end of September they are over our heads. Your kid couldn't swim a lick in May, but now he's diving for rings and making it halfway across underwater. The pool winks at you as you whiz by on MARTA, but you can't go in for many cold months to come. See you soon, relatively anyway. 

# Revised IPNA 2020 Budget

REVENUE	IPNA Security Memberships - Individuals		Beautification	Beautification Maintenance		25,000	
	Individual IPSP Dues	80,000		Beautification Maintenance - Enhancements		5,000	
	IPNA Security Memberships - Business			Springvale Maintenance - General		7,500	
	Seed and Feed	300		Homeowner Sidewarlk Subsidies		94,151	
	Trolley Barn	300		Lights - Freedom Park		92,500	
	Inman Perk	300		Grant - Tree Watch		2,000	
	IPNA Security Memberships - Multifamily			<b>Subtotal</b>		226,151	
	IPV Master Association	30,000					
	Inman Park Townhomes on Dixie	1,400		Executive	General Board Expenses		5,000
	Iron Workers Lofts	950			Baby sitter for monthly IPNA meetings (\$50/ mo)		600
	Brickworks Condo Assoc	2,050			Storage Closet build out - Trolley Barn		6,000
	Inman Motor Works Condos	1,050			Bank and Merchant credit card charges		4,500
	Other Income				Memberclicks		4,000
	Interest	50			Quick books (Intuit)		960
	Festival	180,000			Property Tax		700
	Atlanta Beltline Wine Stroll	15,000			CPA - Audit / Tax Prep. Expenses		5,000
	Advocator - Advertising revenue (10 mos)	12,739			Insurance - E&O for Officers		2,500
	IPNA Flags & Banners	1,000			Trademark		60
	Film Industry - Donations	5,000			Corp Registration		50
					Legal (zoning)		20,000
		<b>Subtotal</b>			49,370		
		Social	Inventories: IPNA Flags / Banners / Stickers		1,500		
			Holiday Party		21,000		
			4th of July Party		500		
			Porch Parties		100		
			2019 Festival Politicians Party		5,000		
			Other Social Events		1,000		
			<b>Subtotal</b>		29,100		
			Grants	Little 5 Mini Precinct		5,000	
				Art on the Beltline		1,000	
		Ponce de Leon Library		1,000			
		MLK Library		500			
		L5P Center for Arts		10,000			
		Grant to Festival Committee for the 2021 50th Anniversay Festival		15,000			
		Board Discretionary Grants		5,000			
		<b>Education</b>					
		Grady High School		5,000			
		Inman Middle School		8,000			
		Mary Lin Elementary School		5,000			
		Hope Hill Elementary School		5,000			
		<b>Subtotal</b>		60,500			
			TOTAL	\$572,410			

# A Dog Owner's Lament

By OLIVIA HOWEBROWNE • OLIVIAHOWEBROWNE@GMAIL.COM



I am the devoted owner of two middle-sized dogs, both rescues and both with high energy levels. I am not alone. My neighborhood of Inman Village is full of loving dog owners, most of whom are proud of the fact that they are nurturing rescue dogs and many of whom do not have back yards in which to exercise their animals properly.

## Freedom Barkway

In our near vicinity we have beautiful parks but our dogs need to be kept on leashes at all times. So where can they run? The answer is simple: Freedom Barkway. Freedom Barkway is a two-acre, community-run dog park in Midtown Atlanta. It is a heavenly place according to my 3 year old boxer pit Rosa. My deaf and blind Australian mix Lily is not as vocal but she loves going there too. When I am there with the dogs, I feel part of a robust dog-loving community and, as a result, we all benefit.

## Why the lament?

Simply put, this public park is in crisis. It is suffering from erosion. It is pitted and rutted and fairly unsafe for humans to traverse. The fencing is in dire need of mending, mainly due to the lawn mowers on Freedom Parkway, which crash into the fences from the other side and open up holes for our dogs to escape through. To add insult to injury, the water system is leaking so badly that we now have a festering muddy pool at the entrance to the park.


## The good news:

The board of volunteers of Freedom Barkway have been consistently trying to make this area a better place for our community of dogs and dog lovers. They are constantly raising money and they persistently ask the Atlanta City Council to come and address the urgent repairs that are needed. Recently, the board had plans drawn up to vastly improve the park.

## The bad news:

The wheels of bureaucracy grind slow and, in the meantime, the condition of the park is getting worse by the day. The park serves a vast number of animals and owners and yet The City of Atlanta Parks is failing to respond promptly to what is now a potentially hazardous situation to humans and dogs alike.

## The plea:

I am writing this article to ask you to join forces with the Freedom Barkway community; to raise more money to make initial private improvements on our own and to help us lobby the council for a better, safer space for our beloved animals. Kris Kristofferson wrote that: "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." At Freedom Barkway that is becoming dangerously close to true. 



# Speak for the Trees: Trees and Crime


By JIM ABBOT • ABBOT.JIM@GMAIL.COM

We're seeking an answer to this question: As our aging shade trees die, should we replace them? Or are we okay with a neighborhood that is much sunnier, with fewer, smaller, mostly ornamental trees?

If you read earlier installments of this column, you know that a sunnier Inman Park will be a hotter Inman Park. Hotter, in fact, by as many as 10-15 degrees. And you know that not all trees pull their own weight in furnishing us with ecosystem services.

Here's another aspect of the question. Trees reduce crime. In a California study, nine out of ten incidents of vandalism and graffiti occurred in areas without plantings. In Chicago public housing, the greener the environs, the fewer the crimes. A comparison of similar subdivisions in Tallahassee revealed that greener yards meant fewer property crimes. In Portland, residential street trees and large yard trees were found to be associated with less crime. Interestingly, smaller, view-obstructing trees were associated with more property crime.

None of this should be surprising. We know that trees can be an important factor in encouraging us to use and "take ownership" of our residential outdoor spaces. And as for acts of crime, we also know that urban crowding, high temperatures, and high levels of noise create mental fatigue, and that mental fatigue — impairment in cognitive processing, irritability, and impulsivity — can contribute to outbursts of anger and even violence.

To sum up: unless we make a stronger effort to plant shade trees in our yards, we could well be on our way to a hotter, unhealthier, and less safe Inman Park. 

## Joel Hurt Live Oak In Springvale Park Update

*Regrettably, the toppled tree did not survive. Tree Watch and the Springvale Park Committee will be working together to create a landscaping plan for the north end of the park and to replant the oak. Look for details in a future issue of the Advocate.*

# Atlanta Public Schools and Superintendent Carstarphen's Contract

BY ANNSLEY KLEHR, LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORS EDUCATION CHAIR AND MARY LIN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL OF INTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS (CINS) • ANZOID@YAHOO.COM

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) has been known for its less than perfect school system where cheating scandals reigned, many of the schools were low performing, and change in leadership constantly disrupted its reputation. Most people sighed a sigh of relief when Meria Carstarphen was hired five years ago as the APS superintendent, APS' latest solution. It seemed like a perfect fit. Carstarphen dazzled us all with her wit and wisdom; she connected with the Grady Cluster, and we felt we were heard. The years of no transparency were over, though scars of redistricting had yet to fade. When Carstarphen talked, little by little, these scars faded, and the Grady Cluster had hope and promise of a better future, a future of which we were to be a part.

Carstarphen was plucked out of Austin, Texas after three years trying to turn their schools around; her contract had not been renewed. And three years before that, she had another stint with the St. Paul schools in Minnesota. Again her contract was not renewed. APS whisked her away, feeling lucky and proud of this young, determined woman with grace, out-spoken, yet refreshingly honest discourse, strength, and political savviness, who also made in-roads with Atlanta businesses.

On Monday, September 9th, when the Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE) did not renew Carstarphen's contract, many people were shocked, disappointed, and outraged, while others were relieved. How could this situation have two polar opposite responses?

## A Brief History

The previous ABOE voted twice to extend Carstarphen's contract. The first time, in 2015, it was unanimous. The second time, in 2017, the nine-person board voted 7-0 to renew the contract with two members absent, extending it until June 30, 2019. Then, on June 4, 2018, with a 6-3 vote, her contract was extended until June 30, 2020. Therefore, by July of 2019, Carstarphen knew that her contract would not be renewed again.

In the 2018 vote, those three who did not want to renew her contract expressed concerns around these issues:

- District 5 constituents worried about school culture, safety, and its teachers (Erica Collins)
- Fiscal accountability and responsibility – “Dysfunctional” spending habits that are not meeting the needs of addressing the students most vulnerable to educate

## What is the APS community saying?

In the community, the opinion spans the gamut from those who are incredibly irate about the decision to general surprise, to those who expressed pleasure about the decision. Where schools have been doing well, there seems to be more disappointment and anger surrounding the decision, whereas in school districts underperforming, the general sentiment is one of relief.

There are many sides surrounding the ABOE not renewing Carstarphen's contract. There is no right answer; hopefully we can engage in thoughtful discourse around this topic.

## What Questions Can We be Asking?

We can ask the ABOE (Leslie Grant, Michelle Olympiadas, Erika Mitchell, Cynthia Briscoe-Brown, Jason Esteves) the following questions: What's at stake personally for this vote? Are the board members being transparent? Do we have all the facts? Do we reach out to our board members to understand more? How transparent was the process, and how can it be improved? How navigable and how forgiving was the ABOE's work environment? How much of the graduation rate is due to gentrification and upturn in the Social Economic Status (SES)? Are things improving at a rate that they should given the financial support, board support, and community support Carstarphen has received during her tenure? What will a new superintendent decide to do if renovations at Grady High School have not begun yet?

There is no perfect superintendent, and the job is far from easy. Will we be able to find another good one? It takes someone strong, with sometimes definitive views to make changes happen. A leader cannot please all. During the process of letting Carstarphen's contract lapse, the ABOE stated that they are looking

Areas of Strengths/Achievements	Areas of Controversy
APS Graduation rates are at an all time high. (The rates fall short of the state average and are not satisfactory for all student populations.)	Fiscal Accountability – APS gets the second largest per pupil funding in the state, but there is concern that the money is not reaching the schools
Less leadership turnover	Grady Cluster, with a growing population, does not have the physical space to educate and accommodate the growing numbers. Carstarphen promised at each town hall to discuss the matter before decisions have to be made. So far, no discussions have taken place. (Thankfully, the Grady Cluster Advisory Team has developed a long-term planning committee, and the ABOE has embarked on a facilities plan being facilitated by the Sizemore Group).
Relationships with Atlanta businesses	Carstarphen contracted charter operators to run seven of the district's lowest performing schools
Public Speaking	Reports that Carstarphen's temperament did not align with her social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives
Risk Taking	The closure and merging of schools in low enrolled communities without adequate rationale of purpose or outcome
Energy, passion, and perseverance	Lack of transparency on district Milestones Outcomes
	Relationships with necessary collaborators
	Systemic district issues that are still unresolved, i.e. Bus driver/routes, potential success in the most recent food service contract

for a future superintendent who will help maintain “a spirit of continuous collaboration”.

To read more about APS in the recent news, check out:

<http://gradingatlanta.blogspot.com>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/divided-atlanta-school-board-meets-today-discuss-superintendent-future/udqIT86GLYtGnEpXUCQPJL/#>

<https://thesouthernonline.com/72689/news/atlanta-school-board-to-begin-search-for-new-superintendent/>

<https://decaturnish.com/2019/09/school-board-member-michelle-olympiadas-discusses-superintendents-contract-at-kirkwood-meeting/>

Feel free to contact Leslie Grant at: lgrant@atlanta.k12.ga.us or Michelle Olympiadas at: michelle.olympiadis@atlanta.k12.ga.us if you have questions or would like to understand more. **M**

# September Meeting Minutes

President Beverly Miller called the IPNA meeting to order at 7:35 pm

District 2 Atlanta City Council Representative Amir Farokhi spoke briefly about:

- Scooters: growing pains, city's involvement in governance, pedestrian safety, moving forward (permits renewed/edited in January)
- New legislation to ban single use plastics in city buildings and at airport
- Q: What can city do re: climate change and eco-friendly building codes
- Q: How to keep middle class/affordable housing in IP
- "State of the District" event next Thursday: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-the-district-celebration-tickets71117170371?aff=erelexpmlt>

Debi Starnes and Neil Kinkopf asked about the recent seeming "erosion of a neighborhood voice" in NPU processes (re: in particular, special events, liquor licenses and zoning) and how City Council can help. Farokhi is aware of this issue and working to help where he is able.

## Welcome and Introduction of Newcomers

Cate Morrill, President of Shoulders Down, Inc.; Director, Rising Phoenix T'ai Chi reminded membership that September 23 is the 10th annual National Falls Prevention Awareness Day, sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and that practicing T'ai Chi helps prevent falls. She teaches classes in the Little 5 Points Center for Arts and Community.

<http://www.shouldersdown.com/jid15.html>

**Matt Kotheimer** – New neighbor in Lake Claire and current IPCP Co-President with wife Michelle.

**Matt Cherry** – New neighbor on Virgil with wife Anna and son Max.

## Police Officers' Reports

Sgt. Soukup introduced new officer Sgt John Dixon (new to Zone 6, but has been on APD for 22 years). Together they reiterated the need for the new patrol car (the hours of patrol have increased and currently officers are using their own vehicles, which is less effective and more expensive).

Reported on the recent pedestrian armed robbery from the evening of 9/5 off Austin Avenue, and encouraged members to stay aware of their surroundings (and off phones) when walking alone at night.

Reported on the car accident on North Highland on 8/31. Police officer was responding to a 2969 (fight with weapon) and hit a driver, then a bike rack while driving south on N. Highland. Beverly Miller asked about the speed limit required for a police officer in such a situation, and the Sergeants answered that there is no set limit, but they are expected to use "due care." An internal investigation is planned and they will report back results.

## Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion to approve August Meeting Minutes. Seconded. Approved.

## Announcements

Pat Westrick: August Porch Party will be at the home of Carol and Ben Mitchell at 1107 Austin Avenue on Friday, September 27, at 7:30. Neighbors are asked to bring a dish or munchie to share and their beverage of choice.

Joseph Drolet gave an update on the IPNA Tax Reform Committee, which is still working to compile information about all streets in IP re: appealing property tax assessment. The Committee met with Representative David Dreyer last week to extend the Homestead Exemption (<https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB635/2019>). The Committee will meet again next week and still has room for more members; please contact [josephdrolet@bellsouth.net](mailto:josephdrolet@bellsouth.net) if interested.

Carla Jeffries (Advocator Editor), revisited the plan to "Bring the Advocator home" from current publisher KDA and again produce the publication in-house. Readers may have noticed that the number of advertisements (especially from non-local businesses) have crept up, and the amount of original content has diminished over the last 6-8 years. With the help of neighborhood volunteers, the Advocator hopes to regain Inman Park ownership and keep the circulation (currently limited by KDA to 2000, and we'd like to expand to 2500).

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of such a large task (Q: Is the neighborhood biting off more than it can chew? A: IP produced the Advocator in house for 30+ years; KDA has only been publisher for fewer than 8 years) and whether we can instead "ease in" to this transition (A: We will work with KDA until January 2020, so there is a transition period in place, but they have also been threatening to drop us, so this may be a moot point).

Membership voted to pursue this endeavor: In Favor 65, Opposed 0

Still looking for a point person to sell ads; please contact [advocator@inmanpark.org](mailto:advocator@inmanpark.org) if interested.

## IPNA Officers' Reports

President – Beverly Miller (nothing to report)

VP Historic Preservation - Sara Wittich gave another brief update on Asana Partners Krog Street Market Expansion plans per this evening's earlier Immediate Neighbors' Meeting. She reiterated that Asana had met many times with neighbors, made several requested changes, asked for no variances and has made great effort to work with the neighborhood. A recent informal meeting with Doug Young Atlanta UDC resulted in several issues being ironed out. Asana is not asking for any variances and is being flexible in accommodating neighbors' requests re: free employee parking, window design, and planting a tree line behind Waddell Street homes.

Membership voted on Krog Street Market Expansion Plans:

Motion 1: "I would like to call a vote for support of Asana plans with the addition of the conditions of the letter dated 09/05 received from Seth Black. That letter addresses a privacy fence, tree screening, and free employee parking on two floors of the butler building." In Favor 57, Opposed 0

Motion 2: "I would also like to recognize that the city, planning and transportation, and the UDC should address that there is a significant issue with traffic on Krog St, Waddell St, Lake St. with pick up, drop off, deliveries, and that the issues will also increase substantially with the Hulsey Yard development." In Favor 57, Opposed 0

**VP Planning** - Rick Bizot reported that the Hulsey Yards Master Plan is still "moving along" and a "near-final report" is almost ready. Again, this is not comprehensive, but a prioritization of values/fundamentals:

- Connect New Streets to Dekalb Avenue
- Establish a Public Street Grid
- Embrace Modal Options
- Implement Shared Parking
- Prioritize Affordable Housing
- Preserve the BeltLine Corridor
- Advance BeltLine Rail
- Integrate with MARTA
- Reserve Space for a Large Park
- Respect and Strengthen Height Transitions
- Ensure Architectural Quality and Building Flexibility
- Lord Aeck Sargent urban designer and new Inman Park resident (Virgil) Matt Cherry is involved.

Community input results can be viewed here:

<https://hulseymasterplan.com/community-input>

For more information, contact [planning@inmanpark.org](mailto:planning@inmanpark.org)

**NPU** – Neil Kinkopf reported on upcoming legislation for a “party house,” a dwelling that is used for a commercial event. The ordinance would forbid using a dwelling as a party house in areas that are zoned as residential and allow party houses only in areas that are zoned as commercial.

Neil also updated the current situation with the “Vegan in the Park” Festival, which would close Euclid Avenue from Hurt to Austin on Sept 28 (the same day as Wine Stroll) without communication with/approval from any immediate neighbors on those blocks. The application was not presented to NPU for consideration (was deleted online) but Vegan in the Park website lists the date as “on.” As an aside, the summary of how this event slipped through the cracks is representative of the current problems in the process (neighborhood NPU permit).

#### **VP Zoning - Jonathan Miller**

1. The liquor license application for “Skinny’s Hot Chicken and Hookah Hideaway” proposed for the former location of Kimi’s Bistro (1126 Euclid Ave NE; corner of Euclid and Sinclair Avenues) has still not progressed far enough for review by IPNA or NPU-N despite ongoing construction activity.
2. A new historic district ordinance is in the works for the Poncey Highlands neighborhood. Details forthcoming soon. (No action will be required by IPNA but NPU-N will likely weigh in.)
3. Reminder that the City is in the process of revising its entire zoning code. Easy fixes occurred a few years ago and slightly harder ones passed in the last year. The major overhaul is next, although as Commissioner Keane mentioned in his pre-meeting talk, there appears to be difficulty in getting this phase underway due to difficulty in procuring a vendor.
4. Villa de Grip (320 N. Highland) lawsuit update: discovery phase to conclude in November 2019 with possibility of a trial in early 2020.

**VP Public Safety** -- Kevin Curry reiterated the need for and research behind the impending purchase of a new vehicle for Security Patrol [See letter from August]. Discussion ensued regarding details. Q: An extended cab SUV may be a gas guzzler. Can we instead go eco friendly? A: The IPSP needs this size/kind of car and because it is driven so locally they do not use much gas. Q: Why new – not used or leased? A: The type of car IPSP needs (no frills,

no unnecessary extras) can most easily be found new, and the deal we are getting on this new car is cheaper than any we could find used.

Membership voted to approve purchase of new patrol vehicle: In Favor 67, Opposed 0

**VP for Communications - Melissa Miller** (nothing to report)

**Treasurer** - Kay Kirsche presented the proposed 2020 budget, with discussion on various specifics like: Q: What about a year with a poorly performing Festival? A: We keep \$150K in reserves. Q: New line item for internal Advocate expenses/revenue? A: Will amend for final budget version. Q: LifeLong Inman Park line item should be \$1,500, not \$500 A: Will look into and amend for final Q: Delta Park improvements? A: Should be part of traffic plan re: intersection of Edgewood/Euclid.

Motion to amend those two items for October final budget/vote. Seconded. Passed 53 – 0.

**Secretary** - Julie Noble thanked Hampton & Hudson/Nina & Rafi’s for pizza at today’s meeting and reported that while we had been meeting, Atlanta United beat FC Cincinnati 2-0, with Josef Martinez scoring both goals.

#### **Committee Reports**

**L5P Alliance** – IP Rep Al Caproni reported that the Mobility RFP went out today; more info here: <https://l5pa.com/blog/2019/9/18/mobility-rfp>

The L5P Alliance Board is looking to fill 2 At Large positions. More info here: <https://l5pa.com/>

**TreeWatch Update** – Amy Higgins reported that the old oak in Springvale Park is indeed beyond saving and will need to be removed. Allison Gordon is working on salvaging some of the wood for local projects. Jim Abbott and Eileen Brown are planning a ceremony and replanting of new tree.

“What is the Mission and goals of TreeWatch?” For the first 15 years, the goal was QUANTITY of trees in the ‘hood, but now we are focusing on QUALITY. We need more shade trees, and though obviously there is no room for oak trees in the street/sidewalks, given current spacing and development, the goal for the 50th Anniversary of Festival will be that leading up to and during that year we plant 50 new oak trees in people’s yards and in the parks.

Amy also mentioned that the 7th Annual Beltline Wine Stroll is coming up on Saturday, September 28th and that there will be a record 30 stops on the Stroll this year, the proceeds of which benefit the Security Patrol and Springvale Park. There are still a few spots left for volunteer positions, especially as “Restaurant Ambassador.” This role consists

of greeting guests as they enter participating restaurants, checking for wristbands, helping with crowd flow and helping guests who aren’t from the area find their way along the BeltLine. Shifts are 2 hours long and include a FREE TICKET to enjoy the Stroll before or after your shift. This event is an important fundraiser that benefits Inman Park so you’ll be helping your neighborhood and enjoying some free wine and appetizers. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30eod4aa9ae2e5-20191>

Tickets are still available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-beltline-winestroll-tickets-70437266761>

Amy ended by giving away 2 Wine Stroll tickets to the member who could answer this Inman Park Trivia Question: “What was the original title of the neighborhood newsletter before it was the Advocate?” Answer: “Hot Rats!” Winner: Cathy Bradshaw

**Lifelong Inman Park** – Cathy Berger mentioned the 3rd annual Halloween Kick-off event for Inman Park kids in Poplar Circle on Halloween Oct 31. Face painting and balloons from 5-5:30 and then the trick or treat stroll at 5:30. Same route as last year - Poplar Circle to Hurt, left on Waverly Way, left on Elizabeth, left on Euclid, returning to Poplar Circle. Inman Park Education Committee – Eric Goldberg presented a brief summary of the recent APS events surrounding APS BOE’s decision not to renew the contract of Superintendent Meria Carstarphen. Plans are being made to invite local Board of Education members Leslie Grant and Jason Estevez to October IPNA meeting. Festival Committee – Jane Bradshaw Burnette thanked new Caterpillar Ball Co-Chairs Katy and Mark Stedina for volunteering. Festival is also looking for a Sponsorship Chair, Trash Deputy and Treasurer Assistant, so please contact if interested. As always, information updated periodically and available at <http://inmanparkfestival.org/>


#### **Old Business**

Henry Griffith (Albion Avenue) gave an update on his documentation of scooter infractions in the neighborhood and has recorded 120 violations since June 22, 2019.

#### **New Business**

None

Adjourn

President Beverly Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:58. Seconded. Approved. 

# Agenda

October 16, 2019

IPNA Meeting • 7:30 p.m. • Babysitting Available

The Trolley Barn • 963 Edgewood Ave. NE

- I. Welcome & Introduction of Newcomers
- II. Police Officers' Reports
- III. Minutes of Last Meeting
- IV. Announcements
- V. Elected Officials' Reports
- VI. IPNA Officers' Reports
  - A. President
  - B. Planning
  - C. Zoning
  - D. Historic Preservation
  - E. Public Safety
  - F. Communications
  - G. Treasurer
  - H. Secretary
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjourn

*Check [inmanpark.org](http://inmanpark.org) the day of the meeting for any agenda updates.*



## Good to Know

**Inman Park Neighborhood Association (IPNA) membership:** Available to those who live within or own property within the boundaries of Inman Park. Membership is \$5 with online registration at [inmanpark.org](http://inmanpark.org). Membership allows you to vote (see bylaws online for details), gives you access to the directory and makes you eligible for special neighborhood events. In addition to being a member of IPNA, you may register for the Inman Park Security Patrol (IPSP) which staffs off-duty Atlanta Police officers to patrol our neighborhood. There are four levels of commitment starting at \$50 per year.

IPNA meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Trolley Barn.

IPSP membership is based upon a rolling annual membership term. Your renewal date is one year from your membership date and again every year after that.

### Websites

[InmanPark.org](http://InmanPark.org)  
[InmanParkFestival.org](http://InmanParkFestival.org)  
[Facebook.com/InmanPark](https://Facebook.com/InmanPark)  
Instagram: @inmanpark

### Report All Crimes: Call 911

IP Security Patrol: 404-414-7802  
L5P Mini-Precinct: 404-658-6782

### L5P Business Association

[www.little5points.com](http://www.little5points.com)

## Want to be a part of next month's *Advocator*?

If you have news to share with your neighbors in the November issue of the *Advocator*, please send your submissions to **[advocator@inmanpark.org](mailto:advocator@inmanpark.org)** on or before October 29.

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Landscape Lighting Systems, Inc. ....	678-331-3060	
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United Landscapes LLC .....	770-286-3818	
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<b>Atlanta Stress Center</b> .....	470-296-1636	
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Village Podiatry Center-Dr.Mike Laur .....	678-403-7000	
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Jasper Painting Company .....	770-893-3257	
Mendez Painting Specialist LLC .....	770-772-9677	
Painting Plus .....	404-382-9988	
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Schwartz Center For Performing Arts .....	404-727-8769	
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Morrow Family Medicine .....	770-781-8004	
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Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service .....	770-917-1852	
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Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates ..	770-529-7780	
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Coldwell Banker-Sherry Warner .....	404-784-8848	
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The Listing Brothers .....	678-789-5119	
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Exovations-Roofing .....	770-205-2955	
Generation Roofing .....	770-733-3517	
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Montessori Academy at SS & Vickery .....	770-205-6277	
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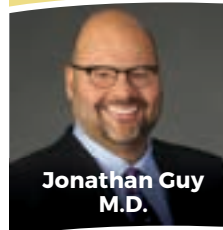
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