**Groundwork Atlanta Board President’s Report**

Carly Queen

November 14, 2017

Brief descriptions of Groundwork Atlanta-related activities and accomplishments from September 20, 2017 through November 14, 2017 are provided below, listed under the most relevant committee heading.

1. Communications (officially Public Relations)
   1. *Meetings* – The communications committee did not convene during this period. The next committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 6, but was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled.
   2. *Leadership* – Craig Pendergrast is the chair.
   3. *Branding* – I have noticed several instances of people both on the board and off who are referring to our organization as “Ground Works” or “Groundworks Atlanta”, rather than **Groundwork Atlanta** (proper name). **Please take care to use our proper name.**
   4. *Website* – You are encouraged to **visit the website, and provide me with any feedback or ideas you want to share!** [www.groundworkatlanta.org](http://www.groundworkatlanta.org)
   5. *Social media accounts* – Groundwork Atlanta is now on the following social media platforms:
      1. facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GroundworkAtlanta/>
      2. Twitter <https://twitter.com/GroundworkATL>
      3. Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/groundworkatlanta/>

If you or any relevant organizations that you’re involved with are on any of these platforms, please be sure to **like and/or follow us**. Also, if you would like to support content creation on any of these platforms, please let me know.

* 1. *Connecting us with your network* – Jill has been hard at work meeting with dozens of different stakeholders who are relevant to one or more aspects of our work. But we need your help! **As you read through our draft strategic plan and priority projects, please make note of people in your network that we might potentially collaborate with in some way, and provide your insights to Jill and me on who those people are and your ties to them.** If you would be willing to make introductions either virtually or in person, please let us know. We’re interested in connecting with key stakeholders (community leaders, elected and non-elected local government officials, business owners, major land owners, funders, organization leaders, etc.) in our focus area and influencers working in the following areas (and others, as applicable):
     1. Philanthropy (foundations, grant-making entities, individual donors, etc.)
     2. Transportation (transit, bicycle and pedestrian advocacy, complete streets, etc.)
     3. Environment (remediation, conservation, environmental justice, etc.)
     4. Real estate (sustainable development, affordable housing, financing, etc.)
     5. Economy (jobs creation, workforce development, small business support, etc.)
     6. Youth (education, service learning, connecting with nature, etc.)
     7. Food (local and sustainable agriculture, processing, distribution, etc.)
     8. Water (access, monitoring, stormwater and wastewater management, etc.)

1. Governance
   1. *Meetings* – The governance committee did not convene during this period.
   2. *Leadership* – The role of chair is currently open. **Please let me know if you would be interested and willing to chair or co-chair this committee.** This role must be filled by an active Board member.
   3. *Governance Documents* – Five of seven governance documents have been drafted and emailed to the Board for approval, but no Board members responded to my request for approval. As such, we will need to vote on these documents at our November meeting and ask Board members to complete them before or at our January meeting.
   4. *Strategic Plan* – The strategic plan was approved unanimously at our September Board meeting. We are now working to implement and bring together additional resources to implement the plan.
2. Programs (officially Projects and Programs)
   1. *Meetings* – The programs committee convened once during this period, on November 9 at AECOM (Midtown). No further meetings have been scheduled at this time.
   2. *Leadership* – Keith Sharp and Janet Romanic co-chair this committee. Sub-committee chairs have also been **updated** as follows:
      1. People – **Donna Stephens**
      2. Places – Janet Romanic
      3. Food – **Wendy Hogg**
      4. Water – Elena Fash
      5. Connections – Carly Queen
   3. *Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis* – Lindsay Wallace and her colleagues at NewFields are in the process of assembling several maps, a list of major land owners, and a geodatabase of information that we can use to learn about and tell the story of our focus area (NPU-D and NPU-G). If you have any questions or requests for specific information or maps, please let me know. The current layers in the database include:
      1. Education
         1. Schools
         2. School Attendance Zones
         3. School Maps
      2. Markets and Gardens
         1. Farmer’s Markets
         2. Existing Community Gardens
         3. Supermarket
      3. Transportation
         1. Transit Stops
         2. Transit Routes
         3. Multi-use Trails
         4. Major Roads
         5. Railroads
      4. Neighborhood Planning Units
         1. NPU-D
         2. NPU-G
      5. Atlanta City Limits
      6. Industrial Facilities
         1. CERCLIS sites
         2. IFD sites
         3. Landfills
      7. Analytical Data
         1. USGS Groundwater Data
         2. USGS Surface Water Data
         3. USGS Soil and Sediment Data
      8. Hydrology
         1. Flood zones
         2. Streams and rivers
         3. Wetlands
         4. Waterbodies
         5. Streams and Rivers
         6. Watershed Units
      9. Parcels
         1. Potential vacant land lots
         2. Brownfield parcels
         3. City of Atlanta parcels
         4. Parcels appraised at <$10,000
         5. 2016 Tax parcels
         6. Phase I parcels
      10. Demographics
          1. Percent people of color
          2. Per capita income
      11. Parks
          1. Park need (TPL)
          2. Atlanta City Parks
      12. Census blocks
      13. Digital elevation model
      14. Static aerial
   4. *Urban Agriculture Program* – We are moving forward rapidly with our partnership with the City of Atlanta for the Aglanta Grows-a-Lot (formerly Allotment) program.
      1. We have hired Maurice Small (who brings more than 20 years of urban ag experience!) as our new Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator (20-40 hours per week). We also plan to contract another of our top candidates, Terri Carter, for up to 12 hours per week on an as-needed basis.
      2. We hosted our launch event to celebrate the kickoff of the Aglanta Grows-a-Lot program on November 14 at Collins Memorial United Methodist Church. More than 30 attendees, including several Board members (thank you Robbie, Wendy, Nell, Keith, Elly, Donna, and Craig!!!), came together for delicious lunch, remarks from the Aglanta Grows-a-Lot program partners, and a well-attended site visit to the future Riverside Farm at Spink Street.
   5. *Chattahoochee Brick Site* – Lincoln Terminal has dropped their lawsuit against the City of Atlanta Board of Zoning Appeals over the requirement for a Special Use Permit to build and operate a fuel terminal on the former Chattahoochee Brick Company site. We plan to continue elevating the profile of this site through various forms of media and will rekindle discussions around a community forum on the history and potential future scenarios for the site. Further, we are working to identify other opportunities to serve as a convener in bring together community members and organization stakeholders to engage in site visioning and planning.
   6. *Multi-use Path Network* – We have teamed up with the Trust for Public Land, Chattahoochee NOW, the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, the Chattahoochee RiverKeeper, Riverwalk Atlanta, and several other community organizations to develop an integrated community engagement strategy focused on a greenway along the Chattahoochee River. Groundwork Atlanta’s role would be to develop a green corps program focused on invasive species removal along the River, and also support planning and visioning community engagement efforts.
   7. *Community Meetings Attended* – A list of events and meetings relevant to Groundwork Atlanta that I’ve participated in during this period is provided below.
      1. Groundwork Atlanta Launch Event Committee Meeting – 10/2
      2. Meeting with Jodi Mansbach of Chattahoochee NOW – 10/6
      3. Groundwork Atlanta Launch Meeting with Robbie and Jill – 10/8
      4. Ponce City Market Tour for Aglanta Eats – 10/9
      5. EcoDistrict Summit – 10/10-10/11
      6. Groundwork USA National Assembly – 10/12-10/15
      7. Urban Agriculture Coordinator Interviews – 10/18
      8. Budget Meeting with Jill – 10/19
      9. GIS Meeting with NewFields – 10/19
      10. Meeting with Fuller Callaway of Indigo Group – 10/23
      11. Groundwork Atlanta Finance Committee Meeting – 10/27
      12. Groundwork Atlanta Development Committee Meeting – 10/30
      13. Resilient Atlanta Civic Dinner – 11/2
      14. November Work Day at the Chattahoochee River – 11/4
      15. Aglanta Coordination Call – 11/6
      16. Budget Meeting with Jill – 11/7
      17. Economic Development Local Food Forum – 11/8
      18. Groundwork Atlanta Programs Committee Meeting – 11/9
      19. Groundwork Atlanta Aglanta Grows-a-Lot Program Launch Event – 11/14
3. Development
   1. *Meetings* – The development committee convened once during this period, on October 30 at NewFields (Midtown).
   2. *Leadership* – The role of chair is currently open. **This is an incredibly important committee, so if you are willing to volunteer to chair or co-chair this committee, or if you have nominations from outside of the Board of Directors, please let me know.**
   3. *Board donations* – All members of the Groundwork Atlanta Board of Directors are expected to make a financial contribution to the organization at least once per year. **If you have not yet donated for 2017, please do so** at the link below (see item 4.e.) or by writing a check (payable to Groundwork Atlanta, Inc.) and giving it to Jill, Carly, or Robbie (or mail it to our P.O. Box: 794 Marietta Street, NW, #93955, Atlanta, GA 30318).
   4. *Online donations* – The Groundwork Atlanta website is now set up to accept donations online. To give online, please visit [www.groundworkatlanta.org/donate](http://www.groundworkatlanta.org/donate)
   5. *Turner Foundation Grant* – We are teaming up with the Trust for Public Land, Chattahoochee NOW, the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, the Chattahoochee RiverKeeper, Riverwalk Atlanta, and several other organizations to submit a letter of intent for a $120,000 grant from the Turner Foundation. Our portion of the funds identified in the initial plan is $13,000, which would primarily be used to pay green corps members to remove invasive species along the Chattahoochee River.
   6. *Piedmont Hospital Grant* – We were informed that we have not been selected for the $15,000 grant that we had applied for from Piedmont Hospital.
4. Finance
   1. *Meetings* – The finance committee convened once during this period, on October 27 at Smith and Howard (Atlantic Station).
   2. *Leadership* – Scott Whalen, as Treasurer, is the chair. Unfortunately Scott needs to step back from his role on the Groundwork Atlanta Board in 2018. **If you are interested in serving in the Treasurer role next year, or have an idea for a potential new Board member to fill this role (preferably a Certified Public Accountant), please let me know.**
   3. *2018 Budget* – We have been working with Jill to develop our 2018 budget, which will be discussed at the Board meeting on November 15.
   4. *990 Filing* – Scott is in the process of preparing our 990 for submission to the IRS.
   5. *Tax Payments* – All payroll taxes have been paid.
   6. *Payroll* – All payroll direct deposits have been processed without issue during this period. We will be working to get Maurice into the Payroll system on November 15.
   7. *Bank Accounts* – Robbie and I are on all the bank accounts (I have the Groundwork Atlanta credit card), with Jill having access to view and transact using the checking account only.
   8. *Accounting* – We are still working to reconcile expenses now that all bank accounts have been linked.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions for improving my performance as your Board President. I always welcome feedback and opportunities to learn and grow. Thank you for your continued involvement and support of Groundwork Atlanta!