**Groundwork Atlanta Board President’s Report**

Carly Queen

May 17, 2017

Brief descriptions of Groundwork Atlanta-related activities and accomplishments from March 15, 2017 through May 16, 2017 are provided below, listed under the most relevant committee heading.

1. Communications (officially Public Relations)
	1. *Meetings* – The communications committee convened twice during this period, on April 3 and May 4. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
	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. *Contacts list* – Over the coming weeks and months, Jill (and members of the Board as appropriate) will be doing a listening tour to meet 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.)

We need your support in identifying key people to meet, and helping to make introductions for Jill with individuals whom you know directly. **Please add your contacts to the attached spreadsheet and return it to me by Wednesday, May 31, 2017.**

* 1. *Website* – While the website is still lacking in content, it has come a long way in the last few weeks. 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)
	2. *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. *Task list* – To help us track progress and hold each other accountable for our commitments, I have created a Google Sheet task list. Anyone can view this list at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ngnluP7MjlVeYmFBbRKadyvpo-w0f0cQJAqd7lVKkys/edit?usp=sharing> but, if you want access to edit the content, either Jill, myself, or Craig will need to share the document with you as an editor. Feel free to contact us if you would like editing privileges.
	2. *Calendars* – I have created two Google calendars to help us track Groundwork Atlanta Board meetings and events.These have been shared with all of you via email, but please let me know if they didn’t come through or if you want me to share it with a different email address.
		1. Groundwork Atlanta (Groundwork Atlanta public meetings and events) <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fs1lvsoe94s5g9bol5q9alok0g%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York>
		2. GWATL Board Calendar (Groundwork Atlanta Board meetings and events) <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=d5cci64drunq32tjg0edgn7758%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York>
1. Governance
	1. *Meetings* – The governance committee convened once during this period, on April 12. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
	2. *Leadership* – Stacy Funderburke is the chair.
	3. *Committee purpose statements* – I recently requested that each committee chair draft a purpose statement for their committee. However, after further review of the Groundwork Atlanta Bylaws, **I am now asking that each committee chair simply review the existing bylaws (copied below) and recommend changes to the names and/or descriptions**, to be discussed and voted on at our strategic planning retreat in August (exact date and time TBD). I propose changing the name of the Projects and Programs committee to the Programs Committee. Craig Pendergrast has recommended changing the name of the Public Relations Committee to the Communications Committee. These names are currently being used, but would need to be formally adopted (with needed changes made to the Bylaws) for the change to become official. Recommendations for changes are also welcome from any member of the Board.

*Section 5.03 Projects and Programs Committee – The Board shall have as a standing committee the Project and Programs Committee which is responsible for projects and programs including but not limited to a) the improvement of and increase in the quantity, quality, access, connectivity and maintenance of public greenspaces such as parks, trails, greenways and blueways; and b) involvement of youth and adults in community environmental restoration and programs to engage local individuals, especially youth, in environmental stewardship and environmentally focused community service. The President shall appoint the committee chair.*

*Section 5.04 Public Relations Committee – The Board shall have as a standing committee the Public Relations Committee which is responsible for developing and implementing the communications and marketing strategy for promoting the activities of the Corporation to the community. The President shall appoint the committee chair.*

*Section 5.05 Development Committee – The Board shall have as a standing committee the Development Committee. The Development Committee is responsible for organizing and overseeing fundraising activities of the Corporation. The committee shall develop funding goals and strategies, and assist in the implementation of funding programs. The President shall appoint the committee chair.*

*Section 5.06 Finance Committee – The Board shall have as a standing committee the Finance Committee, which is responsible for ensuring the financial and accounting affairs of the Corporation are managed consistent with the Corporation’s mission and purpose, and with the charitable requirements of IRC Section 501(c)(3). The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.*

1. Programs (officially Projects and Programs)
	1. *Meetings* – The programs committee convened twice during this period, on April 19 and May 16. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
	2. *Leadership* – I have stepped down as chair and appointed Keith Sharp as the new chair. Sub-committee chairs were also identified as follows:
		1. People – Bob Kent
		2. Places – Janet Romanic
		3. Food – Donna Stephens
		4. Water – Elena Fash
		5. Connections – Carly Queen
	3. *Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis* – Thanks to support from Wendy Hogg and Mike Wild from NewFields, the GIS Analysis is coming along nicely. With Jill’s guidance, I am 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!
	4. *Meeting with City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Resilience / Sustainability staff* – Jill and I met with Mario Cambardella (Urban Agriculture Director), John Seydell (Director), Ruthie Norton (Asst. Director) and other staff members on April 26. At that meeting we learned about an opportunity to partner with the City of Atlanta to support urban agriculture cooperatives on 10 utility easements and City properties across the City, with the largest site located in our focus area (on a Georgia Power easement). We would serve as a liaison between the farm leaders and the City, providing administrative support and help leveraging opportunities to aggregate needs and resources.
	5. *Community Meetings Attended* – A list of relevant community events that I’ve attended during this period is provided below.
		1. Proctor Creek Greenway Community Forum – March 22, 2017
		2. NPU-D Meeting – March 28, 2017
		3. BeltLine Quarterly Briefing – March 30, 2017
		4. Cleanup at Spink-Collins Park – April 8, 2017
		5. City of Atlanta Design Studio Presents Gabe Klein – April 18, 2017
		6. Women’s Transportation Seminar Leaders Lunch – April 18, 2017
		7. NPU-D Meeting – April 25, 2017
		8. Chattahoochee Brick Community Forum Conference Call – May 4, 2017
2. Development
	1. *Meetings* – The development committee has convened once during this period, on April 24. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
	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.d.) 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 will be set up to accept donations online by May 22. To give online (once setup is complete), please visit [www.groundworkatlanta.org/donate](http://www.groundworkatlanta.org/donate)
3. Finance
	1. *Meetings* – The finance committee convened once during this period, on May 12. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
	2. *Leadership* – Scott Whalen, as Treasurer, is the chair.
	3. *Tax Payments* – All payroll taxes have been paid.
	4. *Payroll* – Four (4) paycheckshave been direct deposited into Jill Arrington’s bank account during this period. Payday is every other Friday (3/24, 4/7, 4/21, and 5/5). The next payday is Friday, May 19, 2017.
	5. *Bank Accounts* – Keith and I are in the process of transitioning control of the bank accounts from him to me. Robbie will remain on the account, with Jill also having access to view and transact using the checking account. A second savings account will be established to accept donations.

One other announcement from the City of Atlanta Office of Resilience / Sustainability is provided below. Jill and I have both applied to participate in this process, but I encourage all interested board members (and your friends, family, colleagues, etc.) to apply!

[Resilient Atlanta](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001-0LlTJq1dnXfZt_sHVP_R1WoZw6CLx4cORcGEKUTQK085Gv8j1-v898IXz1dJuOPw3MFVTV-a1zuHrcCZ8Mb8Gb6Ig89Dhlrf31k9CWkq3kFPthiKIkyVzHhtZtVekpkYYtHx89Qu8UgM9fT0qIDzh9LqGc6X1d2&c=sPpsy45r3v072f6AEvxPWRdeBtSeAuYa2rHbLjH5GjbYQ2hzhYwWKg==&ch=2NmHjMEY5DRB8_-DCKLjLiZxO583mlPrahWcAVYcDX0Mklw2dRtt_Q==) has recently completed Phase I, known as the Preliminary Resilience Assessment, and is ready to embark upon Phase II of the Strategy Development Process. In this phase, cities focus on Discovery Areas, which are priority topics derived from perceptions and data collected in Phase I. Discovery Areas allow the city to develop more knowledge, gather more data, and conduct more analysis to inform work in Phase II as well as integrate and prioritize existing planning efforts.

We need your help to ensure that your constituents are represented in Phase II as well. Each Discovery Area Working Group will include representatives from residents/neighborhoods, academia, faith-based, nonprofits, government, and business communities. We are currently accepting applications for residents to participate in the working groups. People can self-nominate or nominate others. They are accepting applications [http://bit.ly/2pFRIz7](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001-0LlTJq1dnXfZt_sHVP_R1WoZw6CLx4cORcGEKUTQK085Gv8j1-v898IXz1dJuOPrkyU7UZPF2KS3K4TkYi84jT4rCjucUoF48FHiqELgWmavZNnRYp-zJremGrMwVtlHho-lMuztMGWlIjI2eYQvg==&c=sPpsy45r3v072f6AEvxPWRdeBtSeAuYa2rHbLjH5GjbYQ2hzhYwWKg==&ch=2NmHjMEY5DRB8_-DCKLjLiZxO583mlPrahWcAVYcDX0Mklw2dRtt_Q==) until **Noon, Thursday, May 18**.

Below are the ***5 Discovery Areas***.

***Collaborate, communicate, and engage with community stakeholders***

* Vision: How can we create an innovative civic system that fosters social cohesion and ensures equitable and impactful community investment through increased collaboration with residents, academia, nonprofits, businesses, philanthropies, and government?

***Preserve and nurture our neighborhoods and communities***

* Vision: How can we preserve and improve the equity, character, physical assets, arts, and culture for Atlanta’s communities and residents while accommodating growth and enhancing assets?

***Invest in metro-Atlantans to close the wealth gap and increase social mobility***

* Vision: How can we better coordinate and leverage our business, philanthropic, nonprofit, and academia to provide equitable access to knowledge and resources to create pathways to economic prosperity and innovation throughout life span?

***Increase connectivity, accessibility, and mobility for all Atlantans***

* Vision: How can we create an integrated transportation network so that every Metro Atlantan has convenient and affordable access to employment, education, health, recreation, food, and shelter?

***Strengthen and maintain infrastructure and promote community preparedness***

* Vision: How can we establish Metro Atlanta as the global model for preparedness against shocks and stresses that result from natural and human-created hazards in the face of urbanization and climate change?

**Cross cutting: Foster a racially, economically, and socially equitable Atlanta.**(Cross cutting theme does not have a separate working group but is a thread that runs throughout all of the other Discovery Areas.)

If chosen, residents will be notified by 6p, Thursday, May 18th. The **Discovery Area Working Group Kick-Off** will take place **Wednesday, May 24, 4:30-7:30p** at [All Saints Episcopal Church](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001-0LlTJq1dnXfZt_sHVP_R1WoZw6CLx4cORcGEKUTQK085Gv8j1-v898IXz1dJuOPGBnmZt3xi3rSz53cWUg5OZOM1YzgV9iWGD_DDqyhDZWTJqMIilsIDOggoLTSsu4_1Sd4US82U5pwCeAgPQ53XqCZXjgcGCWEu8VLx-B_VUJ2j9yijhPfzcwNyPzHsNaDuSUXEJc9e8I=&c=sPpsy45r3v072f6AEvxPWRdeBtSeAuYa2rHbLjH5GjbYQ2hzhYwWKg==&ch=2NmHjMEY5DRB8_-DCKLjLiZxO583mlPrahWcAVYcDX0Mklw2dRtt_Q==), which is MARTA accessible (North Ave). Free parking, refreshments, and on-site childcare will be provided. Following the kick-off, working groups will meet bi-weekly from June-September for 1-2hrs; dates and times to be determined by each working group.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything contained (or not contained) in this report, please feel free to contact me:

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