**Groundwork Atlanta Board President’s Report**

Carly Queen

September 19, 2017

Brief descriptions of Groundwork Atlanta-related activities and accomplishments from May 17, 2017 through September 19, 2017 are provided below, listed under the most relevant committee heading.

1. Communications (officially Public Relations)
   1. *Meetings* – The communications committee convened once during this period, on September 15. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 6 at 8:30am at Taylor English.
   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 convened twice during this period, on July 14 and August 25. No additional meetings have been scheduled.
   2. *Leadership* – Since Stacy Funderburke has resigned from the board, 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. *Board Training and Retreat* – During this period the governance committee has supported planning and execution of a board training event on July 28 and a strategic planning retreat on August 26. The National Park Service (NPS) provided funding and support to facilitate these trainings, which have brought us much closer to meeting the expectations set out for us by Groundwork USA in launching our local trust.
   4. *Governance Documents* – Five of seven governance documents have been drafted, and are ready for Board review and feedback before they are finalized. **Please take time to review each of these documents and provide feedback on them at our September 20 Board meeting.** If it is determined that we need more time to review and provide feedback on this document, a timeline for submitting feedback and finalizing the document will be outlined during the meeting.
   5. *Strategic Plan* – Since the strategic planning retreat, Jill and I have pulled together a Draft Strategic Plan for Groundwork Atlanta for the two-year period from the beginning of 2018 through the end of 2019. This document has been shared with the programs committee, and updated once more since that meeting. **We are now asking all Board members to review this document and provide feedback on it at our September 20 Board meeting.** If it is determined that we need more time to review and provide feedback on this document, a timeline for submitting feedback and finalizing the document will be outlined during the meeting.
2. Programs (officially Projects and Programs)
   1. *Meetings* – The programs committee convened once during this period, on September 13. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at 8:15am.
   2. *Leadership* – Keith Sharp and Janet Romanic co-chair this committee. Sub-committee chairs were also identified as follows:
      1. People – Vacant
      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 Lindsay Wallace from NewFields, the GIS Analysis is coming along nicely. With guidance from Jill, Wendy, and me, Lindsay is 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). We will be scheduling an update meeting in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions or requests for specific information or maps, please let me know!
   4. *Urban Agriculture Program* – We are moving forward rapidly with our partnership with the City of Atlanta for the Aglanta Allotment Program. Atlanta City Council approved a resolution to enter into a lease agreement with Georgia Power Company and Groundwork Atlanta on September 18. We are also advertising a new job, for an Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator. Please view the job listing at <http://www.groundworkatlanta.org/urban-agriculture-program-coordinator> and share it widely with your networks, especially any qualified candidates you know! We are planning to host the Groundwork Atlanta launch event as a groundbreaking for the Georgia Power Allotment Gardens near Spink-Collins Park in our focus area in early to mid-November (potentially around lunch time on November 6 or 14). I hope to finalize the date during our September 20 Board meeting, or very soon thereafter. Once this date is announced, I will be asking for as much participation among our Board members as possible, so please plan to lend support in whatever ways you are able, including by attending the event. Robbie Burr has offered to lead planning and execution of this event, but she will need our support!
   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. **This is a big win, as it appears to indicate that Lincoln Terminal will not be moving forward with their original proposal for a truck and rail fuel terminal on this site.** Thank you Craig, Jill, Keith, Kathy, Donna, Robbie, and everyone else who has put so much time and energy into protecting this place and the surrounding communities from yet another heavy industrial development in our focus area! We plan to continue elevating the profile of this site through various forms of media, to build on the inclusion of Chattahoochee Brick as a large public space in the Atlanta City Design that was recently released by the Department of City Planning. We will rekindle discussions around a community forum on the history and potential future scenarios for the site and work to identify other opportunities to serve as a convener in bring together community members and organization stakeholders to engage in site visioning and planning, and activation. Additionally, we will provide direct support to community planning efforts for the site through the NPU-G Master Plan update. As we move forward, we will be further defining our role in implementing plans and strategies for bringing this site into public use.
   6. *Multi-use Path Network* – Ground has officially been broken on the Proctor Creek Greenway (Phase 1), which starts at Bankhead MARTA Station. Further, much progress has been made, largely thanks to Keith and Kathy and many wonderful volunteers, on clearing paths and removing invasive species from areas along Proctor Creek and the Chattahoochee River in our focus area. I believe that framing our support of Riverwalk Atlanta, the Proctor Creek Greenway, the Atlanta BeltLine, and Connect the Comet in the context of developing a complete and connected multi-use path network for our focus area (to involve a nearly endless amount of invasive species removal for a Green Team or Green Corps or similar youth-oriented program) will allow us to leverage many potential partners and funding sources to see these projects implemented. One such resource is the Atlanta Regional Commission, where a key staff member (Byron Rushing) has offered to lead or otherwise support a planning session and/or implementation workshop focused on bicycle and pedestrian networks in our focus area.
   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. Meeting with Mario Cambardella (City of Atlanta) – May 19
      2. Meeting with Wendy Hogg and NewFields staff – May 31
      3. Meeting with Mario Cambardella – June 1
      4. Atlanta Transportation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting – June 12
      5. Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) D meeting – June 27
      6. Meeting with Robbie Burr – July 6
      7. Taste of Aglanta call – July 11
      8. GIS meeting with NewFields – July 12
      9. Groundwork Atlanta governance committee meeting – July 14
      10. Taste of Aglanta meeting – July 17
      11. Taste of Atlanta liquor license hearing – July 18
      12. Taste of Aglanta run of show – July 21
      13. Taste of Aglanta – July 22
      14. Groundwork Atlanta Board Training – July 28
      15. WTS Bicycle and Pedestrian Lunch and Learn – August 14
      16. Proctor Creek Greenway Groundbreaking – August 17
      17. Tour of Chattahoochee Brick Site – August 22
      18. Dinner with Steve Burrington (Groundwork USA) – August 22
      19. Groundwork Atlanta governance committee call – August 25
      20. Groundwork Atlanta Board Strategic Retreat – August 26
      21. Meeting with Caroline Ledlie (Americorps) – September 6
      22. Groundwork Atlanta launch event call – September 8
      23. Groundwork Atlanta programs committee meeting – September 13
      24. NACD Grant Overview Meeting – September 14
      25. Groundwork Atlanta communications committee meeting – September 15
      26. Lincoln Terminal community leaders meeting – September 15
      27. Spink-Collins Park volunteer work day – September 16
      28. Groundwork Atlanta finance committee meeting – September 18
      29. Aglanta Eats 2018 team meeting – September 18
3. Development
   1. *Meetings* – The development committee has not convened during this period. No additional meetings have been scheduled, but it is anticipated that we will schedule a meeting in the next couple of weeks at our 9/20 Board meeting.
   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. *Taste of Aglanta* – Thanks to Wendy, Jill, and everyone who supported the Taste of Aglanta event on July 22, we were able to raise more than $9,000 to help fund our urban agriculture work, which will involve hiring an Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator as our second staff member.
   4. *NACD Grant* – Groundwork Atlanta will receive a $50,000 grant that was awarded to the City of Atlanta in support of the Aglanta Allotment Program, with $20,000 going towards the salary of the Groundwork Atlanta Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator. Wendy Hogg will be leading up the effort to raise additional funds in support of this program and the soon-to-be-created staff position.
   5. *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).
   6. *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)
4. Finance
   1. *Meetings* – The finance committee convened once during this period, on September 18. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 27 at 11:30am at Smith and Howard.
   2. *Leadership* – Scott Whalen, as Treasurer, is the chair.
   3. *Tax Payments* – All payroll taxes have been paid.
   4. *Payroll* – All payroll direct deposits have been processed without issue during this period.
   5. *Bank Accounts* – Keith has transferred signatory authority for all Groundwork Atlanta bank accounts to me. Robbie is also on all the accounts, with Jill having access to view and transact using the checking account only. A second savings account has been established to accept donations, and a corporate credit card with a $13,000 line of credit has been opened with me as the primary account holder.
   6. *Accounting* – Scott and I have cleaned up our QuickBooks account, and have also provided access to the account for Jill and Robbie. We will work together 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!