

President's Statement

Regular Meeting — April 23, 2026

Todd Russell, President

I want to address something that came out of our experience last month.

St. Peter's came to our March meeting to present their sidewalk variance request. A presentation is what was agreed to in advance, and that's what was on the agenda. Not a vote.

Despite that, a vote was pushed from the floor before the Zoning Committee had a chance to review any of the information being presented.

During that presentation, we were given information that later turned out to be inaccurate — including the hearing date and a statement about the drainage plan. I'm meeting with Ricky Brooks next week to understand how that happened, and I'll have a fuller update for you in May.

This is exactly why the Zoning Committee exists — to review what's being presented to us and verify it before we're asked to take a position. I want to personally thank John Trott of the Zoning Committee for his sacrifice of a day's work to help fully investigate the situation. He's a neighborhood hero.

Going forward, I have recommended to the Zoning Committee that any developer or applicant requesting a place on our agenda submit their plans to the committee at least 30 days in advance. This gives the committee time to review the proposal, verify the claims being made, ask questions, and bring a recommendation to the full association.

This is about making sure we never again vote on something based on information that turns out to be false.

Mayor Woodfin said it well just today: *"Development should not happen to neighborhoods. It should happen with them."* That's exactly what this process is designed to do.

One more piece of good news: St. Peter's has withdrawn their sidewalk waiver application. The sidewalk on Hagood will be built. That's good news for the neighborhood and I appreciate their decision.

In the meantime, I'd ask for your patience while we work through the remaining issues directly.