

Crestline NA minutes
January 23, 2025
6pm Crafts room
Hope Community Church

Attendance: 45 members present (sign-in sheet attached)

Meeting recorded and archived as part of official CNA documentation

Call to order by President Todd Russell at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call- please sign in on sheet at front

Todd Russell welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself as the new President of the Crestline Neighborhood Association.

Todd made a motion to amend the agenda of the Crestline NA with the following information:

- A. A motion to preserve all Crestline NA meetings on video.
- B. A motion to spend neighborhood funds on signs
- C. A motion to spend neighborhood funds on AV streaming equipment.

The amendment was seconded by Rebecca Stephenson. The motion was unanimously accepted with a show of hands. Todd then made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. It was seconded by Aileen Hunt and unanimously accepted with a show of hands.

Todd made a motion to accept the minutes of our last meeting. It was seconded by Florence Renfroe, all accepted with a show of hands.

Speakers

Tim Gambrel, Chief Planner for the city of Birmingham, discussed the Southern Area Framework Plan Area, which includes Crestline, Crestwood and Redmont neighborhoods. Using a map display, he explained that Crestline's current R-3 zoning will become D-3 zoning in early March 2025, maintaining identical restrictions and uses. The R6 designation is being eliminated citywide. Multi-family zoning is defined as 13 units or more.

Barbara White asked what happens if the developers want to divide the church property up into smaller portions? Tim said they will have to go to the Subdivision Department. The Subdivision Department cases do get notified to properties that are adjacent.

Tim said that the final zoning public meeting will be on February 11 at the Avondale Library. It will be about the entire Southern Area Framework Plan changes.

Jeremy Littlepage introduced himself as a candidate for mayor. He said he will return to one of our future meetings to discuss details of his plans.

Alice Williams, Community Resource Services Division Deputy Director, spoke regarding the benefits of establishing the 501(c)(3) foundation. She recommended consulting with our CRR about using it for traffic calming and other projects, noting some will require city attorney approval. Alice also suggested the Jefferson County Community Service Fund as an additional resource for neighborhood upgrade projects. Their number is (205) 899-7709. Alice Williams' phone number is (205) 410-7374.

Flora Johnson, newly appointed Community Resource Representative, reported the Neighborhood Association balance of \$46,242.37. She outlined project approval requirements:

- Park improvements require Parks & Recreation Department approval
- Sidewalk repairs need City Engineering review
- School support projects require Board of Education coordination

- All expenditures must follow city guidelines

She suggested ideas for fund use including sidewalk repairs, local schools, Fun Days, and joint neighborhood events. Contact: (205) 254-2423 (Office) and (205) 789-3989 (Cell).

Josh Yates from Public Works addressed the issue of the Preserve Crestline Park signs removed from yards in December. He stated his department was not responsible and that crews were instructed not to remove signs from private property. Todd noted this remains an open case. (The incident report is attached below). There was an extensive discussion about right-of-way rules.

Josh also discussed recycling issues. He advised reporting problems via 311 complaint, which he monitors daily. They've ordered 5,000 new recycling carts and are adjusting to the new system. Holiday pickups will be moved to the next day.

Police

Two officers from the East Precinct Police Department were present. They provided contact information: 311 for non-emergency issues (205-328-9311) and East Precinct for non-911/311 calls (205-254-2685). They reported about 28 new officers graduating, to be divided among all 4 precincts.

Our City Council representative **Hunter Williams** and **India Bailey** attended. Hunter addressed concerns about Water Works repair procedures, explaining the 90-day asphalt settling period before final hot patch application. He supported the 501(c)(3) foundation plan and acknowledged receiving many complaints about the Crestline Park area development, stating it's an issue for the neighborhood association to handle.

Hunter discussed his al.com article proposing changes to the 99 Neighborhoods system, part of citywide discussions on modernizing neighborhood representation. He emphasized the importance of public meeting attendance and active participation in decision-making processes.

Regarding AirBNBs, Hunter said regulations are still under consideration, noting concerns about monitoring and management. He suggested certain properties might need cameras linked to the Real Time Crime Center.

New Business

Barbara White explained the Vice President vacancy and officer qualifications: 18+ years old, 4 meetings attended in last 12 months, 120 days residency in Crestline. Hallie Gibbs and Don Ferguson were identified as candidates, with the election scheduled for the February meeting.

Todd Russell announced the formation of the Crestline Community Foundation 501(c)(3), a non-profit in Alabama. He read the mission statement: "The Foundation preserves neighborhood heritage, supports environmental stewardship, and enhances community quality of life through funding, historical documentation, and collaborative projects benefiting Crestline." They're seeking a bookkeeper and legal assistance, and will accept donations once finalized. *Latest update: The CCF has received 501c3 status.

An advisory board has been formed to handle specific matters between regular meetings. New committees planned include AV, Zoning, Shades Creek Greenway, and Traffic & Safety.

Todd noted new all-way stop signs installed at Dunston and Hagood.

Todd and Marion Barnett met with Colin Alexander about a storm drain issue on Monarch Avenue. Mr. Alexander will pass the information to his engineering team.

Todd introduced a motion to preserve all Crestline NA meetings on video, detailing recording procedures, equipment use, and YouTube availability. The motion included \$3,000 for AV streaming equipment, increased from the initial \$2,404.85 after discussion. Don Ferguson moved to authorize the spending, seconded by Barbara White. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Todd motioned to spend \$500 on redesigned yard signs for announcing meetings. Barbara White moved to approve, Rebecca Stephenson seconded, and all were in favor.

Old Business

A developer representative present stated no news about future plans. The discussion continued with numerous residents, expressing their opposition to the plan and Michael Reiley stated that the neighborhood association officials were refusing to meet.

Meeting adjourned by President Todd Russell at 7:50 PM.

Next meeting: February 27, 2025, 6:00 PM

Hope Community Church, 4445 Montevallo Road, Birmingham, AL 35213

Attachments:

1. Meeting sign-in sheet
2. Sign removal incident report
3. AV equipment proposal and specifications, Sign proposal
4. Meeting recording (YouTube link to be added)
5. Foundation 501(c)(3) documentation
6. Historical neighborhood maps
7. Zoning transition timeline

Minutes edited by Barbara White and Aileen Hunt

Respectfully submitted by Marion Barnett, Crestline NA Secretary