

Minutes from IHLNA Board meeting June 24, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm, via Zoom.

In attendance:

Grant Gelhardt, president

Marney Richards, vice-president

Ashley Arrington, treasurer

Doug Martin, member at large

Joe Gabriel, member at large

Edward Reid, member at large

KC Smith

Marie-Claire Leman

Ramona Abernathy-Paine, secretary, recording

Miscellaneous

Although a request was made for a financial summary to be presented at all board meetings, none was requested or presented at this meeting.

Policing/community safety-Joe Gabriel

1) Joe asked whether IHLNA should submit comments to the City Commission on the two proposed boards under discussion for improving relations between the community and police.

- Discussion followed of differing views expressed on the neighborhood Facebook page
- It is unclear whether the City will proceed with the Citizens Advisory Council that was proposed earlier this year or move forward instead with a smaller review board. Doug Martin has applied for the larger Citizens Advisory Council but selection of members for that council has not yet started.
- Suggestion was made that IHLNA submit a letter supporting the larger Advisory Council.

2) Doug will put together ideas to circulate for discussion, lobbying for the larger Citizens Advisor Council. This discussion will include other neighborhoods whom we contact through Neighborhood Affairs and/or other groups like CONA, CANN, ATN.

Southside Update-Marie-Claire Leman

1) Marie-Claire is our representative to the South City Foundation.

- This group draws leaders from neighborhoods on the south side of Tallahassee.
- Schools and businesses are also represented
- Marie-Claire emphasized that the Foundation is not set up to become a South Side Neighborhood Association, but rather supports the development of such associations among neighborhoods on the south side.

2) South City Foundation will be awarding small grants to neighborhoods to support projects.

- Doug called for Marie-Claire to host a neighborhood meeting to share this information, including the slide deck she has from a Foundation meeting.
- Improved affordable housing is part of the focus of the South City Foundation.
 - Redevelopment of the Orange Avenue Apartments has begun with 58 households being moved to other residences.
 - Development of housing at Lafayette Gardens on Lafayette Street next to the Moon is likely outside the scope of South City Foundation.

3) Doug moved, Joe seconded Marie-Claire's continued service as the IHLNA representative to South City Foundation. Passed unanimously.

- Marie-Claire will bring a memorandum of understanding of the part Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association can best be involved in the Foundation
- Discussion to continue at the next board meeting, August 25, 7 pm.

Development issues-Ramona Abernathy-Paine

1) Chick-Fil-A is building a new store at the corner of Magnolia and Governor's Square Blvd. has requested a variance to the sign ordinance, asking to put signs on all 4 sides of the building in addition to a ground sign. The ordinance allows signs on 2 sides of the building in addition to the ground sign. The item appears on the Board of Adjustments and Appeals agenda for July 9.

2) Governor's Park Corners PUD is seeking an amendment to the PUD, allowing them to build mini-warehouses ("self-storage units") at the corner of Blair Stone Road and Governor's Park Blvd. A public hearing on the zoning change appears on the City Commission agenda for July 8. The request seems to seek access onto Blair Stone Road, although the zoning requires the buildings not be visible from Blair Stone. Also, the buildings are to be designed to look like office buildings. Ramona is seeking more information. This item appears on the City Commission Agenda for July 8.

3) Lafayette Gardens, affordable housing that has broken ground next to the Moon, is seeking a city designation of Brownfield. The developer feels fairly confident that there is no contamination on the property being developed but if anything is found the brownfield designation would give them access to state funds to clean the area. Also, by redeveloping a brownfield the developer avoids paying sales tax on materials used in construction. Ramona attended meeting on June 16 presenting information about the project. She has the slide deck presented at the meeting and will share it with anyone who wants it. E-mail her at rapweaver@embarqmail.com. This item appears on the City Commission Agenda for July 8.

4) South Monroe Walls is a project to rebuild two blocks along South Monroe Street. Bugra Demisel is the developer. Information about the project is available on Facebook at South Monroe Walls TLH, <https://www.facebook.com/somowallstlh>. This portion of the development seems to avoid the Hartsfield House on Oakland that has been of great concern to Myers Park Neighborhood Association.

Candidates forum-Joe Gabriel and KC Smith

1) Joe asked what IHLNA will do to support voter education in the upcoming elections.

- League of Women Voters has joined forces with Tallahassee Democrat to conduct candidate forums, likely using a virtual format rather than in-person appearances. The League is seeking partners who would like to submit questions to the candidates and help publicize the event.

- Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods, of which IHLNA is a member, will be conducting interviews with each of the candidates for City and County Commission seats. Summaries of these interviews will be available to neighborhoods to share.
- Sierra Club is also conducting candidate interviews. Grant will share issues they bring up in forums with the neighborhood.

2) KC offered to research how best to encourage good voter turn-out.

Bike Rack

1) Grant shared pictures of attractive bike racks found in other cities.

- Racks can support 2-4 bicycles each
- A rough estimate of production cost is \$1000 per rack.
- The City will install a more utilitarian bike rack at their cost.

2) Grant and KC know of welders/metal workers in the neighborhood whom they will approach about fabricating decorative bike racks for us.

Board members

1) Grant has heard from 2 neighbors who would like to serve on the board—

- Charlie McCoy is a retired attorney who has served on the board before.
- Steven Blumsack is a retired math professor.
- Doug will speak to neighbors who live near him in Lehigh.

2) Joe called for some ground rules on how new board members are selected as our bylaws lack specificity.

- Desire for a more diverse board was expressed.
- It was suggested that any and all interested in serving on the board be invited, encouraged to attend board meetings.

3) This item will be discussed further at the August 27 board meeting.

Adjournment and next meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 with the next meeting scheduled for August 25, 7:00 pm, using a virtual conferencing platform.