

**Neighborhood Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2020, 7pm**  
**via Zoom**

Minutes

Neighbors present: Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Ernie Paine, Ashley Arrington, Marney Richards, Doug Martin, Joseph Gabriel, Edward Reid, Marie-Claire Leman, Mary de Hoff, Julie Frederickson, Charity Myers, Nick Gandy, Rhonda Cooper, KC Smith, Betsy Tabac, John Tomasino, Geoff Brown, Karla Brandt, Tom Kenny, Jasun Burdick, Gordon Magill.

### 1- Welcome and introduction of current board members and Project Leads

The current members of the board and project leads were invited to introduce themselves:

Ramona Abernathy-Paine (interim co-president)  
Marney Richards (interim co-president)  
Ashley Arrington (treasurer)  
Marie-Claire Leman (interim secretary)  
Joseph Gabriel (at-large board member)  
Doug Martin (at-large board member)  
Edward Reid (at-large board member)  
KC Smith (editor of the newsletter)

### 2- Presentation on the changes to the Bylaws

Marney explained that the board had recently reviewed the Bylaws and worked to make them clearer. In particular, the amendments clarify the process for joining the Board of Directors and determining officers. The Bylaws are being presented to the general membership of the association for ratification.

At the request of Geoff Brown, Marie-Claire went over the new version of the Bylaws, highlighting the changes that have been brought to them.

(see Annexes to these minutes for the current version of the bylaws with new language highlighted and previous version of the bylaws to see language prior to amendments)

### 3- Vote to ratify the Bylaws

Through a Google Form, the members of the association present at the meeting voted on the ratification of the Bylaws.

15 voted in favor

1 abstained

At the time of this vote, we had 18 people in attendance. Two people in attendance did not vote.

The Bylaws were successfully ratified by the General membership.

#### 4- Presentation on the process for joining the IHLNA Board of Directors

Ramona explained the process for joining the board. The floor was opened to anyone wanting to nominate someone or themselves to join the board.

Charity Myers nominated herself to join the board given her deep involvement with various projects of the neighborhood, such as the Newsletter.

With that addition, the list of nominees was 12:

Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Ashley Arrington

Rhonda Cooper

Joseph Gabriel

William Hill

Marie-Claire Leman

Doug Martin

Charity Myers

Edward Reid

Marney Richards

KC Smith

John Tomasino

#### 5- Vote to elect nominees to the Board of Directors

Given that there were fewer nominees than the maximum number of seats on the Board of Directors, Doug Martin moved that the slate of nominees be elected by acclamation.

The motion was seconded by Joseph Gabriel.

By show of hands, the motion was adopted and the nominees became board members for a term of 2 years.

#### 6- Presentation on up-coming neighborhood-wide events and activities

1) Marney proposed a couple of dates for the next board meeting.

The idea of scheduling via a doodle poll was proposed by Joe Gabriel but in the end, December 8 at 7pm was agreeable to all the board members present except Rhonda Cooper who might be able to join via phone. We decided to schedule that time. The meeting will be via Zoom.

2) Holiday lights Ride: this is an annual bike ride through the neighborhood to see the Holiday light displays. This ride is scheduled for Dec 20. It will be done in a Covid-safe way. More information will be shared as the date approaches.

## 7- Concerns from neighbors

At this point in the meeting, we heard concerns and ideas from neighbors who had emailed us in advance to have an opportunity to speak at the meeting. We explained that this was a time to state the issue and explain the context, but that the item would be put on the agenda of the next Board meeting to be discussed in depth.

### 1) Feral cat situation

Gordon Magill: The situation in the neighborhood is not good. Gordon has cats that are neutered. Gordon shared information about “It’s meow or never” which helps folks trap or show them how to trap. Fall and winter are good times for this process; once neutered, and vaccinated against rabies, the cat is brought back and released.

Gordon offered to write a piece for the next newsletter. He would love to see support for “It’s meow or never” so that more neighbors will know about it and use their services. He knows that donations would also be very welcome.

Geoff Brown voiced some concerns. He feels that it is not a good idea to keep feral cats in the neighborhood.

Gordon wanted to add that the typical life span of a neutered cat is 3 years for males and 4 or 5 years for females.

Geoff explained that he wants to promote wildlife watching and cats are the main cause of decrease of the wildlife population. Cats attract more cats to them, especially when we are feeding them. The reality is that they chase wildlife anyway.

Nick wanted to know if the organization also intervenes with people who keep many many cats. Gordon said he was aware of some problem colony.

Marney acknowledged that this was a tough issue and that we would schedule it for the next Board meeting to be discussed. Joe echoed that this was a hard situation and we needed time to talk about it with some depth. Doug would like to know more what the code enforcement options are.

It was proposed that we could have a meeting with animal control and explore the options and discuss the situation.

**Action: This issue will be added to the agenda for the Dec. 8 Board meeting for further discussion.**

### 2) Installing lights on sports fields at Optimist Park

Jasun is interested in seeing if lights can be installed at Optimist Park on the Sport fields. He brought this issue to the meeting to see if there was any interest to pursue this. The city proposed to meet with those interested to explain the process.

KC asked a few questions: what would it involve? Who would pay? Who determines whether it is feasible? Betsy asked how this might affect wildlife? Joe mentioned that neighbors around the Park would need to be consulted.

Jasun explained that the meeting with the city will serve to find answers to some of these questions. We will know more about the process after we meet with them. There will be consultation with nearby neighbors in the process.

Marney: anyone who is interested in meeting with Ashley and Robyn of the city should let us know.

**Action: once information is gathered through the meeting with the city, Jasun will bring the information back to the board on Dec. 8 for further discussion.**

### 3) Concerns around Facebook

Geoff: understands that the NA doesn't managed the FB pages but wonders if the Board could provide a position brief about what the FB group is there for and what we use it for.

Marney would like there to be a platform that is the face of the neighborhood. Edward explained that at some point in the past he created a FB page but no one ever really visited it. There is the website as well.

Joe explained that the FB issue is a really hard one for the board and that there are a lot of strong opinions about it.

Ashley agreed that we need to have a position that is clear.

MC suggested that this is a two step process: 1) first we have to determine if we want to weigh in at all on how the FB group(s) are used, and only if so, 2) we would then determine what the NA position would be and we would then need to monitor FB and deal with the situations that come up that contravene that position.

**Action: This issue will be added to the agenda for the Dec. 8 Board meeting for further discussion.**

No other issues were raised so the meeting was ajourned.

## **Annex 1**

*Current Bylaws with new language highlighted*

### **INDIANHEAD/LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

#### **BYLAWS**

##### **I. Name**

The name of the corporation is the Indianhead/Lehigh Neighborhood Association, Inc., hereinafter called the Association.

##### **II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Association shall be:

- (a) preserving and enhancing the Indianhead/Lehigh neighborhood as a desirable residential community;
- (b) protecting the natural beauty of the neighborhood;
- (c) promoting sound planning and zoning within and surrounding the neighborhood;
- (d) providing a forum for the residents to express opinions and concerns;
- (e) communicating opinions and concerns to the appropriate City and County officials.

##### **III. Membership**

Membership is optional and is open to all residents **and residential property owners** in the neighborhood. Membership shall be established by full payment of dues.

The Indianhead/Lehigh neighborhood shall mean that region bounded on the south by Orange Avenue; on the west by Magnolia Drive and Jim Lee Road; **on the north by Lafayette Street** and Old St. Augustine Road; on the east by Blair Stone Road but excluding those residences **accessed via Blair Stone Road.**

##### **IV. Dues**

Annual dues shall be \$5.00 per household for those residents who have lived within the boundaries of the Association for 20 years or more and \$10.00 per household for those residents who have lived within the boundaries of the Association for fewer than 20 years. Dues are payable in January and are in effect through the following December.

##### **V. Board of Directors**

**The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of between three and fifteen directors, elected by the general membership. Voting shall be by in-person attendance at the annual membership meeting or by any method the Board deems appropriate.**

Any member of the Association wishing to serve as a director may nominate themselves or be nominated by a current member of the Board.

Directors shall serve terms of two years, with the option of serving multiple terms. Vacancies among directors shall be filled at the next general membership meeting. If, at any point, only two or fewer directors remain, the only business the Board may conduct will be actions needed to fill the minimum number of seats.

## **VI. Officers**

Officers of the Association shall be Secretary, Treasurer and either Co-Presidents or President and Vice-President. All officers shall be appointed by the Board, from the Board of Directors.

Officers continue to serve as directors for the duration of their term. Officers shall serve terms of two years with the option of serving multiple terms as approved by the Board. Vacancies will be filled by the Board as needed.

## **VII. Committees**

The Board of Directors may create committees as deemed necessary to promote the purposes and carry on the work of the Association. Chairpersons of the committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

## **VIII. Meetings**

Meetings of the Board of Directors will be scheduled quarterly to review issues affecting the Association. The Association will hold at least one general membership meeting a year. Other board and general membership meetings may be scheduled on an as-needed basis throughout the year. Meetings may be called by any board member. Meetings may be in any format agreed on by the Board.

## **IX. Quorum**

More than half of the Board members must be present to conduct official business at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Decisions at these meetings will be decided by a simple majority of the directors present.

Decisions at the general Association meetings will be decided by a simple majority of those voting.

## **X. Voting**

Association members in good standing (established by payment of annual dues) may vote at Association meetings. Voting shall be by in-person attendance at the annual membership meeting or by any method the Board deems appropriate.

## **XI. Amendments**

The Bylaws of the Association may be amended at any Board of Directors meeting provided that notification has been given at the previous meeting or in writing at least 30 days in advance. The amendments shall be ratified by the general membership or by any method the Board deems appropriate. A rule of procedure or bylaw may be suspended or waived at any meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of directors present.

Adopted March 22, 1981

Revised April 15, 1984

Revised October 23, 2007

Revisions accepted by Board October 11, 2020

## **Annex 2**

*Previous version of the Bylaws*

### **TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA INDIANHEAD/LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. BYLAWS**

#### **I. Name:**

The name of the corporation is the Indianhead/Lehigh Neighborhood Association, Inc., hereinafter called the Association.

#### **II. Purpose:**

The purpose of the Association shall be:

- (a) preserving and enhancing the Indianhead/Lehigh neighborhood as a desirable residential community;
- (b) protecting the natural beauty of the neighborhood;
- (c) promoting sound planning and zoning within and surrounding the neighborhood;.
- (d) providing a forum for the residents to express opinions and concerns;
- (e) communicating opinions and concerns to the appropriate City and County officials.

#### **III. Membership:**

Membership is optional and is open to all residents and property owners in the neighborhood. Membership shall be established by full payment of dues.

The Indianhead/Lehigh neighborhood shall mean that region bounded on the south by Orange Avenue; on the west by Magnolia Drive and Jim Lee Road; on the north by Old St. Augustine Road; on the east by Blair Stone Road but excluding those residences on Blair Stone Road.

#### **IV. Dues:**

Annual dues shall be \$5.00 per household for those residents who have lived within the boundaries of the Association for 20 years or more and \$10.00 per household for those residents who have lived within the boundaries of the Association for fewer than 20 years. Dues are payable in January and are in effect through the following December.

#### **V. Officers:**

The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers and a minimum of five At-Large members shall comprise the Association's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors serve undesignated terms. Vacancies shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**VI. Committees:**

The Board of Directors may create committees as deemed necessary to promote the purposes and carry on the work of the Association. Chairpersons of the committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**VII. Meetings:**

Meetings of the Board of Directors will be scheduled periodically to review issues affecting the Association. The Association will hold at least one general membership meeting a year. Other general membership meetings may be scheduled on an as needed basis throughout the year.

**VIII. Quorum:**

At least fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of the Board members must be present to conduct official business at any meeting of the Board of directors. Decisions at these meetings will be decided by a simple majority of the Board members present.

Decisions at the general Association meetings will be decided by a simple majority of those present.

**IX. Voting:**

Association members in good standing (established by payment of annual dues) may vote at Association meetings.

**X. Amendments:**

The Bylaws of the Association may be amended at any Board of Directors meeting provided that notification has been given at the previous meeting or in writing at least 30 days in advance. The amendments shall be ratified by the general membership either at a general meeting, by mail or by electronic communication.

Adopted March 22, 1981  
Revised April 15, 1984  
Revised October 23, 2007