

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting Jan. 13, 2021

Via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Board members in attendance: Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Marney Richards, Charity Myers, Marie-Claire Leman, KC Smith, Ashley Arrington, Edward Reid, William Hill, Rhonda Cooper, Joe Gabriel, and John Tomasino (who prepared the minutes)

Board member absent: Doug Martin

Other neighbors in attendance: Janice Hartwell, Betsy Tabac, Marda Messick, and Gordon MaGill

Shortly after 7 pm, after recognition of those attending, Ramona began the meeting by referring to the agenda, starting with reports from committees:

- **Tool Bank-Tony Biblo:** Ramona provided the update for Tony. He has done a little research and been in touch with Christic Henry and the South City Foundation, who also expressed interest in a way to share tools among neighbors. He will report back with more info.
- **Bike Rack-Ramona:** No new info however, Ramona can share pictures of what the city is offering. Marney said there was one particular model where multiple racks could be linked. Simple, U-shaped, black, possibly home for 6 bikes. Suggested using one or two parking spaces, near the little library, as the City needs concrete to anchor the racks. More updates to come.
- **Optimist Park Lighting-Jasun Burdick:** Reported by Ramona. Jasun developed a Google survey, to be shared with the neighborhood. Marie-Claire requested that we come back to this item, in the event Jasun joins later.
- **Website Improvements.** Edward has had difficulty getting the volunteers together. Ed and John will continue researching options for intra-board communications, meeting with the committee via Zoom.
- **Minutes from the last meeting were approved by unanimous consent.** The Board discussed using e-mail tools to approve minutes between meetings. Procedures for doing so will be discussed prior to the next meeting.
- **Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes.** Betsy Tabac presented Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes' (N3) request for \$1,000. Betsy was joined by Marda Messick, the vice president, and Janice Hartwell, who is also on the board of N3. Background was provided on other potential funding sources. Betsy also discussed potential avenues for collaboration between N3 and the association. Marda addressed the Board, shared her personal experience with receiving services from N3, and how helpful that was. Alternative ways for IHLNA to support N3 were discussed:

- requesting personal contributions on the membership form as we do for Hartsfield School
- developing neighborhood sponsored fund raiser
- reporting in newsletter

A request was made to review N3's budget prior to voting on the request. Betsy agreed to share the budget with the Board, who will then vote on the request via email.

Via a January 14, 2021, email from Marie-Claire to the Board, the N3 budget was provided. Additionally, Marie-Claire moved to approve the request to donate \$1,000 to N3. The motion was seconded by Charity. Ed abstained from voting. Three board members did not vote and eight Board members voted to approve the donation. **The motion passed to donate \$1,000 to N3.**

- **Officers. The Board moved to discussion of the Board officers and their responsibilities. Ramona nominated Marney for Vice-President and the motion carried with unanimous consent.**

For the position of Secretary, for the next two years, Marie-Claire volunteered to continue doing certain tasks, related to communication. **Marie-Claire nominated John as Secretary, Joe provided the second, and all agreed.**

To clarify votes taken at our last meeting, Ramona was voted as President; Rhonda Cooper as Treasurer. The vote for Rhonda was repeated at this meeting since she was not in attendance in November.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Board decided to take an official vote for the Treasurer position, as it wasn't clear if a vote was taken at the last meeting. **Ashley nominated Rhonda for the position, seconded by Marie-Claire, with all Board members present voting in agreement.**

- Feral cats. Gordon MaGill reported on feral cat populations in the neighborhood. He is writing an article for the next newsletter. Discussed two cat populations currently being monitored by It's Meow or Never, who support trap, neuter, and release (TNR). Additional locations of concern were mentioned. Marney expressed concern that the Board is without authority to take any specific action, but also suggested ways in which our neighborhood can be educated about the problem, such as the newsletter and a booth at events.
- South City Foundation. Marie-Claire provided an update on the South City Foundation and their work with various neighborhood associations. Woodland Drives, Myers Park, and our neighborhood each signed a Memorandum of Understanding to receive a \$1,000 grant (\$3,000 total) from the South City Foundation. Our neighborhoods will collaborate together on how best to use the grant money. Currently, there is discussion about supporting Hartsfield and bolstering our communication with neighbors about the school.

- Annual meeting. Ramona discussed our upcoming annual neighborhood-wide general meeting, and building on the success of last year's plant exchange. Marney is working with a group who would like to work with us on sustainability—their goal is to connect with as many residents as they can. They asked if they could come to the board meeting. The third Sunday in February, the 21st, was agreed upon for the meeting.
- Lights at Optimist Park. Marie-Claire asked the Board to review Jasun's Optimist Park lights survey and provide him with feedback by Sunday, so that the Board can proceed with the next step, which is sharing the survey with the neighborhood. Ramona clarified that we need to be clear that the Board isn't endorsing this, but only providing a forum for input from the neighborhood.
- Meeting schedule. The Board discussed the schedule for our future meetings. Ramona suggested we next meet in March, and also proposed setting up recurring days, for planning purposes. Marie-Claire suggested we schedule every other month, which would allow additional meetings if needed. The Board agreed to meet on the third Tuesday of alternating months. Therefore, March 16th would be the next regular Board meeting.
- Nene Fest. Marie-Claire discussed the upcoming Nene Fest and the need for alternatives during continued restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic. Marney suggested we solicit input from the neighbors on ideas on how to handle Nene Fest alternatives (due to COVID).
- Spring membership drive. Charity will update the membership form, incorporating suggestions from the board. She will add an option for contributions to N3 to be made when paying dues.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.