

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting March 16, 2021

Via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Board members present: Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Charity Myers, William Hill, KC Smith, Doug Martin, Marie-Claire Leman, Edward Reid, Ashely Arrington, and John Tomasino (who prepared the minutes)

Board members absent: Rhonda Cooper

Other neighbors in attendance: Betsy Tabac

Meeting called to order at 7:10

Rhonda had a scheduling issue, so Ramona gave a brief overview of the treasury report, which Rhonda had provided to Ramona in advance of the meeting:

3/3 deposit of \$1375

3/10 deposit of \$1586

Total deposits: \$2961

Expenses:

Check to Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes, \$1000 per approval by the board at the earlier meeting.

Signature cards need to be updated for the neighborhood accounts at First Commerce Credit Union. Ramona learned at the Credit Union that we need to have specific motions to update the card. The current signators are Grant Gelhardt, Patty Ceci Sharpe, and Mary Louise Bachman. Ashely is still also on the signature card.

John made the motion to remove the three names of Grant Gelhart, Patty Ceci Sharpe, and Mary Louise Bachman from the First Commerce Credit Union account number 18391, checking and saving accounts, while retaining Ashley Arrington's name. Marie Claire seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

John then moved to add Rhonda Cooper and Ramona Abernathy-Paine to the First Commerce Credit Union account number 18391, checking and saving accounts. KC seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous consent.

Next up, we discussed Policies and Procedures.

Marie-Claire mentioned we might want to discuss some various options for how we handle our business. William added how items will be added to the agenda. Charity added that we should discuss the role of the Board/neighborhood association group—what is our mission. Charity questioned whether our goal is more to be guides to those in our neighborhood and help hook them up with resources versus wielding power that we most likely don't have.

Edward had the bylaws handy and reminded the Board that there are five guiding principles in the bylaws:

- 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.

Ramona added some anecdotal issues and relayed that the City sees the neighborhood board as the spokesperson for the neighborhood.

William suggested that we need to come up with a process for neighbors to suggest changes.

Charity agreed with the need for a process but cautioned that we keep it simple.

Marie-Claire—Completely agrees with Charity but feels we should also provide alternate path without going through the Board.

The Board discussed the use of the email distribution group for communications and the need to make sure that when simply communicating information as opposed to a Board sanctioned event, that the email communication should be very clear in that regard.

KC made the following motion, which John seconded, and which passed by unanimous consent: If a Board member requests that something be emailed out, Marie-Claire can proceed with sending the info out to the email distribution list and we should post the info on the website.

A committee will evaluate a process and procedure for a good response when neighbors come to the board with suggestions and ideas. Initially, Marie-Claire, Ramona, Charity, and John will work on this.

Next, we discussed a way to move our Board only communications on to our website, in a place accessible only by the Board members. Edward said this is doable and his website committee is working on providing it

South City Foundation update—Marie-Claire—the three neighborhoods, Myers Park, Indianhead Lehigh, and Woodlands Drives are working together with a grant. They pooled the grant money, \$1,000 per neighborhood, to create a Parent Resource Room, at Hartsfield Elementary. They are going to use two rooms where an adjoining wall will be knocked down to create a large parent engagement/community room. Marie-Claire will share pictures. This info will be in the newsletter, with pictures.

Marie-Claire advised that the three neighborhoods are proposing that we do a matching fundraising campaign to raise more money for the construction and outfitting of the room, including things like computers, a small operational budget, etc. The district is footing the bill for the demolition of the wall.

Marie-Claire also shared what various projects other neighborhoods are accomplishing.

John moved for our neighborhood association board to officially support this grant and work. KC seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Marie-Claire and John will work together on applying for a Vibrant Neighborhood Grant (of possibly up to \$2500) to further enhance the parent engagement/community room at Hartsfield.

Optimist Park update: We have had several conversations with Ashley Edwards, Director of Parks & Rec regarding spraying for weeds and path maintenance. Ramona suggested that Charity chair a committee to gather information regarding the issue of herbicide use in and around Optimist Park and report back her findings to the Board.

Announcements: Ramona encouraged Board members to attend the City Commission meeting on March 24th, at 3 pm, for the announcement of the winner of the Neighborhood of the Year award for which we have been nominated.

The next Board meeting will be on May 18th with the location to be determined at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.