

Minutes from IHLNA Annual Neighborhood General Meeting February 21, 2021

Via Zoom, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Board members present: Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Marney Richards, Marie-Claire Leman, Ashley Arrington, and John Tomasino (who prepared the minutes)

Board Members Absent: Doug Martin, Rhonda Cooper, Charity Myers, KC Smith, Edward Reid, and William Hill

Other neighbors in attendance: Betsy Tabac, Connie Bersok, Denise Dannels, our neighbor City Commissioner Diane Willams-Cox, Geraldine Seay, Jill Canono, Karla Brandt, Mark's iPhone, Shelly Hatton, Michelle Kazmer, Norma Reesor, Judy Rainbrook, and Melissa Jordon

City Commissioner Jackie Porter made a brief appearance, introduced herself and thanked us for representing our neighborhood before excusing herself.

Ramona Abernathy-Paine introduced the present board members and then welcomed the neighbors who were also present.

Jalicia Lewis and Michael Ohlsen were introduced by Marney. They are members of the city's Clean Energy development team. Their presentation included a PowerPoint and they focused on soliciting neighborhood input on the city's initiative to go carbon neutral by 2050. They encouraged our neighborhood to submit feedback via their online survey available at <https://talgov.com/sustainability/cleanenergyplan.aspx>

Ramona provided an update on Board work over the past year. The board updated the bylaws, elected new board members, and elected new officers. "The Optimist" will be coming out soon, usually the first week of April. The article submission deadline is February 26th. A suggestion was made to include the above survey link in the in the newsletter and include the link on our homepage.

Ramona congratulated KC Smith and the "The Optimist" team as the newsletter came in 4th in a national competition.

Our website address is ihlna.org. Marie-Claire gave a brief update on the website committee progress on improvements to the website. These improvements include a mechanism to self-register for announcements, cosmetic improvements, and the ability to more easily update the site more frequently. Ramona added that we want the website to be a place for neighborhood discussions.

Ramona has had several discussions with Ashley Edwards, Director of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs. Ashley has emphasized that our parks are ours and they are there to assist us, sending this e-mail which Ramona read at the meeting:

"We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy your neighborhood parks and trails recently, and if not we hope that you will soon! Be sure to let us know if you encounter any issues during your visit. You can reach out to us on social media, through the Digitally app or by calling 891-FUNN. If you see an established/sanctioned trail in need of attention, please let our Parks Division staff know at 891-5340. Just a friendly reminder - it is against city ordinance for the public to cut vegetation in parks without prior approval. This is for your safety, and it helps us ensure trails are maintained in the proper way. Thank you!"

Shelly Hatton gave an update about an annual FAMU service where they come to a home or yard to do service work. Next event is Saturday, February 28, 2021. If anyone is interested in this service, please contact Shelly. Shelly and Ramona requested that the city do a cleanup of our trails.

Karla Brandt requested that people go through the association before building a new trail. Ramona added that Ashley Edwards will direct people to the association if they reach out directly to the city.

New bike racks were recently installed at Optimist Park.

Ramona opened the floor to questions from the group. Karla expressed concern about making sure a botanist offers input on any future trail-blazing. Judy Rainbrook expressed concern about people parking near the new trail. Connie seconded the impact of parking under the oak trees. Ramona will express these concern to our neighborhood liaison.

Jill Canono expressed her gratitude for the person who cleared the new trail around the beaver dam area.

The missing Neighborhood of the Year sign has been replaced as of last week.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and if anyone would like to add an item to the agenda, please send an email to indianheadlehighna@gmail.com.

The annual neighborhood meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.