

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting June 15, 2021

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

Board Members Absent: Charity Myers

Other neighbors in attendance: Katie Clark, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Ceci Michelotti, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Will Hanley, Emma Hanley, Mary DeHoff, Greg Wilson, Ernie Paine, and Kelly Hirai

The meeting, held outside at Optimist Park, was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm. **The minutes from May 18th were approved** and no one had any comments nor concerns.

The Board members and neighbors present cast their ballots for new Board member nominations. **All new Board member nominations received a majority vote and the new Board members were welcomed to the Board.** The new members are: Katie Clark, Melissa Farley, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Ceci Michelotti, and Charlotte Stuart-Tilley.

KC nominated Melissa Farley for the open Treasurer position. (KC had previously spoken to Melissa who agreed to accept the nomination. Unfortunately, a work conflict prevented Melissa from accepting the nomination in person.) **John seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous support.**

Marie-Claire nominated KC for the open vice president position. After giving it some thought, and reflecting on how her main interest is the newsletter, KC declined the nomination. KC nominated Marie-Claire. Marie-Claire asked that we pass the vice president position until the next meeting, and Ramona agreed.

Doug made a motion to remove Rhonda Cooper's name from the First Commerce Credit Union account number 18391, checking and saving accounts, while retaining Ramona Abernathy-Paine and Ashley Arrington's names. Ashley seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Doug then moved to add Melissa Farley to the First Commerce Credit Union account number 18391, checking and saving accounts. KC seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous consent.

Edward gave a brief update on the website committee. Two volunteers are currently active and working on items on the website punch list. Ramona asked the committee to further investigate solutions to help the Board more effectively communicate. Doug asked if we should resort to paying someone to work on our website. Edward asked to give the active volunteers some more time to work on the project.

Marie-Claire provided an update on the South City Foundation and our use of the Neighborhood engagement mini-grant issued to each adjacent neighborhood. We had decided in a previous meeting to give the grant funds to Hartsfield to help furnish the Parent and Community resource room. Our goal was also to raise \$1,000 in donations from neighbors via a match program to increase the impact of the grant. Rather than simply fundraise with a direct request for contributions, Marie-Claire is working on an engagement survey to share with the neighborhood. Marie-Claire hopes the survey will meet several goals: raising money, finding volunteers, and creating connections with those who attended Hartsfield Elementary in the past.

Marie-Claire mentioned that at a recent partnership celebration, Hartsfield recognized the support that Indianhead-Lehigh has given Hartsfield throughout COVID-19 pandemic with multiple donations of cleaning supplies, sanitizer, school supplies etc.

Ramona asked Marie-Claire to give an update on the Winewood redevelopment into affordable housing units. Marie-Claire had no additional information. Ramona has not been successful in communicating with the developer, Ed Ticheli, to invite him to meet with us and the neighborhood. She will continue with her outreach to Ed.

Ramona gave an update on the Magnolia Preschool. Ramona did speak with the relevant parties, but then due to a COVID emergency at the school, plans to meet were put on hold. Ramona relayed that it appears the school is seeking to delay this project. Will reminded the group that years ago, Sandy Neidert worked on getting a crossing light installed at the school's intersection, and suggested this might be a good time to attempt that again. Doug relayed that the Magnolia project includes adding a "pedestrian island" to the intersection of Magnolia and Chowkeebin. A brief discussion on the pros and cons of pedestrian islands ensued. Consensus was it would be best to utilize all available tools to slow down traffic and protect pedestrians at that intersection.

Doug gave an update on Magnolia Drive Multiuse Trail:

Below is courtesy of Gary Zirin, aide to Kristin Dozier, who has taken the lead for the county commission on the project because it is a county road.

This project is divided into 6 phases, with Phase 1, from S. Meridian Street to Pontiac Drive and Phase 6, between Adams Street and Monroe Street, completed in February 2017. Following completion of Phase 1, the IA Board requested Blueprint evaluate opportunities to add a buffer between the trail and roadway. This redesign of the trail was approved at the December 13, 2017 meeting.

The IA Board also directed Blueprint to evaluate opportunities to relocate the existing overhead electric utilities underground along this corridor in coordination with construction of the trail project. Based on direction from the IA Board at the March 1,

2018, meeting, the design of the Magnolia Drive Trail now incorporates a landscaped buffer between the trail and roadway and underground electric utilities. At that same meeting, the IA Board approved an additional \$2,476,700 to fund the redesign and underground of electric utilities from Chowkeebin Nene and S. Monroe Street.

Design and permitting for two phases, Phase 1 Retrofit and Phase 4, have been completed and the construction contract is currently out for bids. The bid opening for construction will occur on April 21, 2021 and construction is expected to begin in June 2021. Working with Leon County staff, Blueprint will manage the public involvement for the construction.

Design work is complete for Phase 2 (Pontiac Drive to Circle Drive) and design work is at 90% complete for Phase 3 (Circle Drive to Apalachee Parkway) while the team awaits final right-of-way determinations. Following construction of Phase 1 and Phase 4 in the spring of 2022, staff anticipates construction for Phase 2 and Phase 3 will follow in the summer of 2022 based on available budget. As detailed at the July 9, 2020 Budget Workshop, additional funding beyond the proposed FY 2021 allocation will be required to complete this project consistent with IA Board direction to underground utilities from Chowkeebin Nene to Monroe Street. Staff will prepare a budget analysis for the project for IA Board review and direction at the FY 2022 Budget Workshop scheduled for May 27, 2021.

John gave a very brief update on the Fruit Tree grant application. A draft survey is ready for Board review to then send to the neighborhood to gauge interest and seek volunteers to assist with the project.

The Board agreed to share their phone numbers and addresses with each other. Marie-Claire will collect that information.

The next meeting will be on July 20th, location to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.