

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting May 18, 2021

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

Board Members Absent: Ashley Arrington, Doug Martin

Other neighbors in attendance (via Zoom): Gerri Seay, Daphne Holden, Jeanne Lebow, Judy Rainbrook, Betsy Tabac, Lisa Schwenning, and Laura Reynolds

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm. The minutes from April 20 meeting were already approved and no one had any comments nor concerns.

Ramona began the discussion by asking what the process is for when a Board member speaks to outside groups. Ramona's strength is working with outside partners, whereas other board members have strong relationships within the neighborhood. Ramona would like to expand the Board geographically. Marie-Claire represents us with SouthCity Foundation, just like Ramona represents the neighborhood with ATN. One role is expressing what the board member believes to be the board's position. Is that acceptable? Marie-Claire questioned when can a board member speak for the board and asked what should be done when there isn't sufficient time to seek board input. The ideal is when an issue can be brought to the board for discussion and a vote. The next would be soliciting input via email. If done by email, then need to give members a set period of time to discuss over email and then to vote.

Marie-Claire suggested, and there was consensus, that if the Board's position is unknown, that the board representative could make it clear that they are seeking more information to take back to the board and that any statements made at that time should be seen as from a neighbor, but not from the board as a whole.

Ramona was concerned that sometimes there isn't time to gauge board feedback. The counterpoint was to express that a board member is weighing in as a neighbor and board member, but they aren't speaking for the board nor the whole neighborhood, at that time.

Next the board, with neighbor input, discussed who could weigh in. Gerri Seay asked if input was limited to just active membership. Edward and other members stated that the board has always attempted to seek input from anyone who lives in the neighborhood, whether they are dues paying members or not. The board informally agreed that we should continue to seek input and feedback from all neighbors.

The board next discussed how to accept that input. KC suggested we accept input via text, email, through clearly communicated channels. The board agreed we should have multiple channels open and communicated to the neighborhood. Our goal is to embrace reaching more people and facilitating their communication with the board. Ramona is hopeful that our enhanced website will help facilitate this enhanced communication.

The channels discussed, for neighbor input, were the website, the email address, and using Facebook to direct people to the website/email address.

The discussion returned to how to handle a time-sensitive issue with the board over email. Marie-Claire suggested that if a board member isn't comfortable voting over email that they should be able to call a meeting. Ramona reminded the board that the bylaws clearly state that any board member can call a meeting at any time. If time-sensitive, call the special meeting to discuss the time-sensitive issue. But other times, if the issue isn't time-sensitive, then the discussion can occur at the next meeting. And the board member can inform the outside group that we are interested, that we want a seat at the table, but we don't yet have a position until we meet with our board to further discuss.

There was consensus that the above would be a good policy to follow.

Gerri Seay asked why the Board wasn't more active on the Facebook page. Ramona explained that the two Facebook groups are both private run and that even though Grant created the first page while he was president, it was never an official outlet for the Board but was a private group for interested neighbors.

Marie-Claire suggested that when we see a hot button issue developing on the Facebook pages, then perhaps calling a general, in person meeting would be beneficial. Charity agreed and believes that in-person contact creates better neighbor connections.

Ramona next moved to Charity's points from the last meeting, which included expanded communication access. Charity thought we have generally covered her points and asked us to consider a possible mission statement, which she prepared and distributed. Charity stressed that her mission statement was just a starting point for us to work with: To **represent** and **engage** the residents of Indianhead Lehigh while **protecting** and **preserving** the natural beauty and quality of life in the neighborhood.

Next Charity discussed creating different email headers to use when communicating with the neighborhood that clearly show when we are providing information versus when the board has taken action. The board agreed that these headers/disclosures should be word smithed.

For the mission statement, it was suggested to change it to "To engage and represent the residents..."

Charity next unveiled draft signs for advertising upcoming board meetings. The board was quite receptive to using these signs, posted in strategic places throughout the neighborhood, to increase engagement at the meetings.

Ramona said she would like to move the board meetings back to the clubhouse and she would like to contact Ashley Edwards to see about making some improvements, including WIFI and acoustics.

We next moved to updates on our various projects.

Ramona gave an update on Winewood. Not much new information. The city commission voted to waive the density restrictions that prevented them from utilizing the property for residential. The sale of the property to the private developer will be in July, 2021. Ramona advised that on the Talgov website, there is a detailed map showing the various projects around the city. Suggested that board members and neighbors go to that page to stay abreast of developments.

John asked if this was the time to engage the neighborhood for their input on the Winewood project. Ramona isn't sure if there is a formal mechanism for the board to provide input but she will check. John

suggested that even if there is no further city votes dealing with the project that we could still engage the neighborhood.

Lisa S. advised that a group of neighbors have met and are drafting an idea that includes a trail as a buffer between the houses and the development. One of the neighbors spoke to Karen Jumonville, with the city, about what are the next steps for providing input. Karen suggested reaching out to the developer to provide that input.

Ramona met with the developer, Ed Ticheli, who used to live in this neighborhood. Ramona believes he would be receptive to meeting with us. (Ramona advised that the city's recent new ordinance didn't include the item that would require developers to meet with interested parties, but we could still request a meeting.)

Ramona stressed that, when possible, to please keep her in the loop if board members are aware that any neighbors are meeting to discuss any issues or reaching out to city officials. Marie-Claire replied that most neighbors wouldn't know to contact Ramona or the board and she didn't feel comfortable agreeing to Ramona's request.

Ramona will reach out to Ed Ticheli to get possible dates for when he can meet with us and the neighborhood.

Edward had no update from the website committee, explaining that the volunteers on the committee have not taken action in several weeks. Ramona has spoken to someone who knows WordPress, looked over our website, and believes she could handle what we want done for approximately \$35.00/hour. Marie-Claire asked that we try again to engage neighbors on the committee.

As to the issue of new board members and officers, KC offered that she has spoken to Melissa Farley who is interested in the treasurer position. **KC moved to call a general meeting, to add board members. John seconded and the motion carried unanimously, which will be held over email so it can be done quickly.** Ramona's second action item is to call a request for nominations and then there can be a general meeting (over email) for the vote.

Marie-Claire will draft the email and send to us for review.

The next discussion regarded the Magnolia School. On May 24, there is a development review committee meeting where they will rule on the developer's request for a variance to change the set back. Because they are in the multi-modal transportation district, they are required to be no further than 25', from Magnolia, to the face of their building. The variance is to request a 52' set back, so that they can add the drop off and pick up off of Magnolia. Ramona has talked with neighbors of IHLN, Woodland Drives and city Growth Management planners. No one is enthused with this plan. A meeting was held last week with Lance Jacobson, Senior Planner in the city's Growth Management department. Those at the meetings last week are all in support of the expansion of the school but are against putting this traffic on Magnolia as opposed to Chowkeebin. Our only option right now is to oppose the granting of the variance. The hope is to convince them to move the drop-off/pick-up to Chowkeebin. Charity asked if anyone has spoken to the people at the Magnolia School. No one from our board has spoken to them. Charity will provide Ramona with the contact information she has from when they have advertised in the newsletter.

Judy Rainbrook suggested exploring the small area behind the ball field as a small dog park. Ramona has already spoken to Ashley Edwards, Director Parks, Rec & Neighborhood Affairs. Animal Control also falls under Ashley. Ashley commented that that piece of land gets used from time to time for various things, as well as the rest of Optimist Park. Ramona reminded the group that a similar issue was brought up before regarding Koucky and after it was explored, the neighbors withdrew the request. After hearing the discussion, Judy withdrew her request.

The next meeting, to be held at Optimist Park, will be held on June 15th. We will try to have the signs ready in advance and email the neighborhood well in advance with the invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.