

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting September 2, 2021

Board members present: Marie-Claire Leman, Ashley Arrington, Doug Martin, KC Smith, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Charity Myers, Ceci Michelotti, Melissa Harley, and John Tomasino (who prepared the minutes)

Board Members Absent: Edward Reid, Katie Clark

Other neighbors in attendance: Edward Acoff, Betty Cummins, John Doherty, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, David July, Arthur Anderson, Jill Canono, Connie Bersok, Karla Brandt, Haylee Glasel, Glen Gifford, Anasa Hicks, Douglas Schrock, Daphne Holden, Jeanne Lebow, Betsy Tabac, Clifton Callender, Eli Scheetz

The meeting, held via Zoom, began shortly after 7:00 pm. **The minutes from July 18th were approved** and no one had any comments nor concerns.

John Doherty introduced himself to the group. He is new in his position with the City. His title is Neighborhood Services Coordinator. His contact info is: john.doherty@talgov.com, 850-901-5208.

John shared info on the Hurricane Preparedness Program. Three modules in that program. The first is the Neighborhood Response Team, where you create in essence block captains. They work as a network to check on neighbors throughout the neighborhood. Another module is a resource directory and the third is a special needs directory. The City can also come out and provide information on creating a hurricane prep bucket. More information can be found at https://talgov.com/neighborhoodservices/na_safety.aspx#prep.

John encouraged us to reach out if we have questions or concerns regarding our neighborhood.

The board members present introduced themselves followed by the neighbors who were in attendance.

Melissa presented the Treasurer's Report. Melissa balanced the books from January 1 to September 2, 2021. Current bank balance of \$13,840.09. John made an informal motion and Melissa agreed to transfer the \$843.00 raised for Neighbor to Neighbor during the membership drive to Neighbor to Neighbor. Also included in the balance is a \$1,000 grant that is earmarked for Hartsfield Elementary.

Haylee updated the group on the speeding issue on Jim Lee Road. The City suggested a flashing sign with speed limits but that requires a petition from a certain number of parcels that are on that road. The other issue is the trash on Jim Lee. One suggestion was to request trashcans at the bus stop. Haylee will look for another neighbor to assist with the petition drive.

John gave an update on the basketball court issue. Ramona spoke with Ashley Edwards regarding our request to add a small 10 by 10 foot court with a lowered basket. Ramona relayed that the initial answer was a negative because it would change the nature of our park from a family park to a non-family park. John volunteered to reach back out to Ashley to make sure that what the board approved at the last meeting in July had been properly relayed to Ashley. Glen gave a brief history wherein approximately 15 years ago one of the two baskets was lowered to address some problems in the park. Since that time, the bathrooms were added. Glen (and a non-neighbor) requested that the lower basket be raised and the board wanted to first confirm that the City would add a small concrete pad and lowered basket. Doug Martin questioned why this issue should be a board priority. Jill Canono relayed that we might want to take a step back and look at the park and how it might better serve our senior residents. Betsy added that N3 could add this issue to a survey they are working on, including what type of new services/perks seniors might want at Optimist Park. Jill also mentioned about using the club house for more activities for the seniors. Jason asked about whether we should also look at Koucky Park too. Marie-Claire will place this larger issue (best use of the park for all residents) to a future agenda.

We next discussed the Winewood complex project. Daphne gave the update and provided a brief history. A developer wants to purchase Winewood and turn it into residential apartment units. A group of neighbors on Wahalaw (who back up to the property) are meeting and have several concerns. Those include a buffer area, a nearby road, and noise abatement. This neighbor committee would like to work with the developer to make some adjustments to create a better environment both for the complex and the neighbors. One item that would really help would be to close the back road that is parallel to the neighborhood, and leaving it for only emergency services. This would help create a larger buffer, up to possibly 30 feet. Marie-Claire added that another goal is to have the City and county look at better traffic calming and increasing the safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Charity provided an update on the Halloween Party, as she is chairing the party planning committee. Charity suggested that the Board approve paying the musicians more this year, especially considering how hard musicians were hit with covid. Charity is exploring the possibility of a food truck since we won't be doing the traditional potluck. Another idea was to create an interesting backdrop for picture taking. They are also looking into some smaller fun games, like corn hole. They are also looking into doing costume contests with little home-made prizes. **Ashely made a motion to set a \$600 budget for the party which would include the increased fee for the band. KC seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.** Doug volunteered to help with the games. The band will be the same as years past (the Ontological Elephants).

The next update regarded the addition of a generator at the electrical substation. John learned from Ramona that the City is planning to start this construction in three months and they will be adding curbs and working on drainage issues. The work is expected to take 3 months to complete. Charity asked about the noise. John volunteered to check with John (with the City) on that issue.

The next update concerned the Magnolia Preschool. There is no update as they have asked for more time and thus the request is delayed. This involves their desire to add a new drop off and pick up location.

Marie-Claire opened the floor for questions and feedback from the neighbors in attendance. Edward asked for an update on the fruit tree project. John provided a brief update on that project and that we need to now complete the grant application for the fruit trees.

Marie-Claire was asked by a neighbor about more regular maintenance around our neighborhood signs. This will be placed on the next agenda. John will ask John what the City's schedule is for that maintenance.

Lastly, we discussed the leadership roles of the board to try not to overwhelm board members with unnecessary work and stress. Marie-Claire suggested we think of perhaps having chairpersons instead of a president. Doug shared that he was disappointed that the City was alerted to Ramona's resignation before the board was informed. John relayed that he emailed Ashley Edwards to discuss the children's basketball hoop request and explained in that email why he was reaching out, due to Ramona's earlier announcement to John and Melissa that she was resigning as president and from the board.

Marie-Claire introduced Eli and David, who are working on the website. Marie-Claire showed the new (private) forum, on the association website, that board members could use for fostering better communication. Board members can create new topics and follow and add their comments on the various topics. The members can also specify how/when they are alerted to new topics and comments.

KC reminded the group that if they are authoring articles for the newsletter, the deadline for submissions is fast approaching and please get those turned in.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30 pm.