

# Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, April 7, 2022

Prepared by John Tomasino

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**Board members present:** Marie-Claire Leman, KC Smith, Laura Dearman, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, John Tomasino, Ceci Michelotti, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, and Melissa Farley

**Board members absent:** Ashley Arrington, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Doug Martin, Katie Clark, and Edward Reid

**Other neighbors in attendance:** Betsy Tabac (N3), Judith Rainbrook (N3), Jill Canono (N3), Karen Kebart (N3), Stephany Cecil, Sonia Crockett (N3), Christic Henry, Janice Hartwell (N3), and Eric (didn't get his last name)

**Introductions:** Marie-Claire asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

**Approval of the April Board Meeting Minutes:** KC moved to approve and Marie-Claire seconded the motion. **Minutes approved unanimously.** If typos, please contact John within one day so they can be posted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Melissa provided the treasurer's report. Balance as of March 6, 2022, is \$13,675.23. The Board needs to later discuss why our insurance had two consecutive increases. Two years ago, it was \$400, last year it was \$700, and now it is slightly over \$1,000.

## Updates and Neighbor Concerns

**1. Soul of Southside Festival:** Marie-Claire introduced Christic Henry. She is one of the leaders of Soul of Southside Festival and a respected neighborhood advocate and leader. She co-owns Kingdom First Realty. She is the chair of the Hartsfield School Advisory Council. She recently won a Tallahassee leadership award recognizing her service in leadership. She joined our Board meeting to talk to us about the Soul of Southside Festival. Tallahassee Southside Foundation has been talking about holding this celebration for the past 7 years. The goal is to focus on the Tallahassee Southside and bring services together and measure the successes of that involvement. Christic played a video explaining the purpose and history of the upcoming festival. To learn more about this endeavor, you can watch the video at: Honors 2022 - Christic Henry – YouTube.

**2. English Property Development:** Stephany provided the update regarding the development. She's been attending meetings and working with a small group of volunteers. The rezoning was approved at the last hearing. They are switching gears now. The [city/county?] commissioners requested that the owners and developer work with Stephany's group to work on preservation of the unique natural areas. The group is working with Florida Forever seeking a grant to preserve the northern part. They are also meeting with Conservation Florida as they can provide help and be included in the grant application. They have been meeting with various government officials involved in this process. Anyone who wishes to participate should get in

touch with Stephany. They would appreciate the assistance. Stephany is the point person communicating with the realtor handling this project.

**3. Potential development on Old St-Augustine Rd:** Marie-Claire provided the update. There is a large lot at the corner of Myrtle and Old. St. Augustine Rd. There is interest to divide that large lot into six lots. It is very early in this process. Marie-Claire attended a city meeting to learn more about it, but the petitioner didn't attend. The process is pre-submittal, so this was a scheduled a meeting for the petitioner to listen to feedback. Even though he didn't show, a city employee asked Marie-Claire if she wanted to share her concerns, as she knew Marie-Claire was there for that issue. Marie-Claire made clear that our Board hasn't discussed this issue yet, so her views were her own. She relayed that it needed to address walkability and include concurrency funding to improve pedestrian and other non-motor vehicle access to any improvements at this site. If anyone would like to take on following this project, please let Marie-Claire know.

**4. Neighborhood Leadership Roundtable update:** Marie-Claire provided an update on this periodic meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to give neighborhood leaders [word missing; "give...leaders what?"] throughout the city to provide updates on the different projects that are going [on?]. They discussed the northward development, the Thomasville Rd. multiuse path and discussed various Blueprint 2000 projects. The second hour was a panelist discussion regarding community engagement. The meeting was recorded and is available for viewing at: <https://youtu.be/I9piTKZNBvo>.

**5. Trail work update:** Marie-Claire provided this update. The city is almost done [with what?]. Because of the work, there is one area, near the little bridge, that is holding mud and water. They plan on doing remedial work on that area. They are also going to hang No Trespassing signs on the now-cleared section that cuts to E. Indianhead Dr.

**6. New Items Brought by Neighbors:** None

### **Board Issues**

**1. Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3):** Betsy Tabac began by introducing herself and the work of N3 and the Board members present. N3 thanked our Board for past contributions and requested another annual donation to assist N3 with their ongoing excellent work for our elderly neighborhood residents. N3 also provided their request in letter form. The letter outlined their ongoing work and commitments and how funds are being used. Betsy introduced the N3 Board members and what their roles are. Jill is spearheading the initiative to increase the recreational and social activities in our neighborhood. They are interested in using the community center more and possibly adding more features to the parks. They are holding a meeting at the community center on May 11 at 2:00 p.m., and all are welcome.

Betsy discussed the N3 request for a new supportive donation of \$1,000 from the Board. The last donation from the Board, also for \$1,000, was in 2021. After Betsy's presentation, Eli suggested that we consider a yearly match, from the Board, of what the neighbors earmark for

N3 during the membership drive. Marie-Claire supported that idea. The Board will discuss this via email or at its next meeting.

**2. Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods Representative (ATN):** Marie-Claire provided the update. Ramona was the Board's prior representative to ATN. Stephany is interested in this even though she does have a full plate with the English property development. If anyone is interested in helping with this, please speak up and to continue thinking about how to handle this while Stephany continues to engage with our Board.

**3. Newsletter:** It is with Charity for formatting, then it will go to the proofreaders, and then it should be distributed in 7 to 10 days. So it will go out before Nene Fest but not before the garage sale.

**4. Neighborhood Awards Program:** Marie-Claire asked whether we want to apply. The Board has applied many times in the past. Marie-Claire relayed that the application process does require time and effort and suggested that perhaps we wait for more accomplishments before applying again.

#### **Discussion of up-coming events**

**1. Neighborhood Yard Sale:** Marie-Claire and Laura are working on a public-facing Facebook page to advertise the event. Neighbors who have paid their dues can set up booths at Optimist Park. Melissa will be there a couple of times to make sure those who are setting up and selling have paid their dues. Patty Sharpe has garage sale signs and will drop those off with Melissa. John volunteered to place the signs around the major entrances. Advertisements will be going live soon, including Craigslist, Facebook, and the Tallahassee *Democrat's* online events section.

**2. Fruit Tree Grant:** The contract is signed, and we are planning on the initial workshop and planting. We are proceeding with just half of the trees at this time and planting the other half in fall. We are moving forward and have been in touch with those who volunteered to adopt a tree.

**3. Nene Fest:** Marie-Claire provided the update on the upcoming festival. We now have a Facebook event that includes all of the ways a neighbor can contribute. Marie-Claire sought approval to send this information out to our neighborhood email list. In the past, this information was in the newsletter and because of the timing of the newsletter, we need to share this information in alternate ways. Marie-Claire sought the Board's guidance on what we should do for the food this year. The consensus was for Marie-Claire to reach out to the vegan food service vendor who is regularly at FSU. The Board discussed ideas, such as a BBQ, grilling, returning to a potluck idea, etc., that we can consider for future years.

The meeting concluded shortly after 9:00 p.m.