

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, June 2, 2022

Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present: Marie-Claire Leman, KC Smith, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Laura Dearman, Edward Reid, John Tomasino, Ceci Michelotti, and Melissa Farley

Board members absent: Ashley Arrington, Doug Martin, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, Katie Clark, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley

Other neighbors in attendance: Betsy Tabac, Gordon Magill

1. Approval of May meeting minutes: Postponed

2. Treasurer's report: Melissa provided the treasurers report. For Nene Fest, our total costs were \$3,218 and our income raised \$2,978. We came very close to completely covering our Nene Fest costs. Also this year, we sold 2020 stock that wasn't used when 2020 Nene Fest was cancelled. During 2020, we purchased \$2,923.79 of merchandise and between sales during 2020 and in 2022 we generated \$2,737.35.

For our main account, and including the expenses and income from this year's Nene Fest, our balance is \$16,554.57. Several thousand dollars of that amount still needs to be dispensed, such as to Gulf Winds Track Club, Hartfield Elementary, and N3.

3. Updates and neighbor concerns

- Fruit Trees at Optimist Park: John updated the group. The initial group of citrus fruit trees were all planted at Optimist Park on May 6, 2022. We received incredible assistance from Jamake and Marlee with Just Fruits, Marie-Claire, John, and several of the neighbors who adopted trees. We planted in a light rain and finished up just as a pretty big storm came down hard and heavy. The remaining trees, which will be planted at the end of Ostin Nene where it turns into W. Indianhead and at the end of Nancy Dr. will be planted in fall. The volunteers for the Optimist trees are doing a great job with keeping the young trees watered.

Marie-Claire received several emails prior to the meeting from neighbors who had items for discussion. Geoff Brown is organizing a visit to the extension office at 9 am this Saturday. It will be a special tour of the gardens and grounds. Attendance is limited so please let Geoff know in advance.

-N3 Liaison to the Board: Betsy presented this issue. For the elders in Optimist Park, related to the survey to see if older folks were interested in activities at the park. Right now, there is only one event. Jill Canono made a presentation to the N3 Board and the N3 Board agreed to do a survey to gauge interest in increasing activities. More than 60 people responded that they are or might be interested in more activities. Twelve people attended the meeting with lots of ideas such as board games, shuffle board, a pavilion. Jill is spearheading an independent committee to address increasing activities at Optimist Park, with a focus on what our older neighbors would enjoy. On June 14, there will be games at the community center and everyone is invited. Another game event will be held in July. N3 committed one of their Board members to serve as a liaison between the new Elder in the Park Committee and N3. They would like our Board to appoint a representative to also serve on this committee. The shape of the committee is to be determined by the committee. Marie-Claire asked that we discuss it amongst ourselves and see if we have a volunteer who would like to be the liaison between our Board and this new committee.

-Use of Clubhouse for neighborhood groups for meetings: The Board has also identified this as an issue as there are new charges for using the park. Gordon, involved with Ryan, is planning a workshop to educate

interested neighbors with the goal of increasing native trees in the neighborhood. They are arranging a presentation with a forester, for October 25, 2022, and they would like to host it in the clubhouse but they don't have the funds to pay for the rental of the clubhouse. Gordon provided Marie-Claire with a fee schedule and if the meetings are booked by the Board, we receive a discounted price. Gordon is interested in our Board assisting with reserving the clubhouse for this presentation. Marie-Claire suggests that we meet with the city before we develop a Board policy. It used to be free for the neighborhood association so charging us is somewhat new. We will seek out more information from the city regarding the fee structure. Marie-Claire will set this up and another Board member is invited to participate with her.

4. Board issues

- Political candidates at Neighborhood events: There were some political candidates at Nene Fest. But one candidate posted a picture of the festival as it was ongoing and used the post to show his support for community engagement. Claudia brought this issue up at the Nene Fest debrief. She was concerned that he would use our event for his political purposes. Additionally, we had one or two candidates who reached out about setting up a booth at Nene Fest but by the time their request came in we were out of space. However, we don't have a policy so this might be the time to discuss that. Claudia drafted a letter to Jay Revell and is requesting that the Board adopt the letter. Marie-Claire will circulate the draft letter to the Board members. We will discuss at future meetings.

- ATN representative: Do we want to have a representative at the Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods. One neighbor, Heidi Fox, reached out about her interest. A question for us, the Board, is whether we have a representative and if so, should it be someone who regularly attends our Board meetings. We do get their emails as to what they are working on. Stephany, who was working with the English property development issue, had earlier expressed interest in serving in this role but she wanted more time to come to our Board meetings. John will send out an email to the Board to see if we have anyone interested in serving in this capacity.

- Potential graphic designer for Newsletter and other needs: We have a new neighbor, Rose Bestfish, who is a graphics designer. She expressed an interest in both attending Board meetings and engaging in graphic designs. Another neighbor expressed interest, too, possibly more in the copy editing role.

-Local Development updates: Ramona shared an email that provided updates on various local development projects. A developer wants to develop some townhouses at Myrtle and St. Augustine. There was a meeting today involving this project. The city would have to expand and extend the sewer services which would be a large expense. The road itself (Myrtle) isn't up to code as they don't have curbs, sidewalks, gutters. The street would have to be brought up to code by the developer as part of any approval for development. They aren't going to be allowed to have an entrance on St. Augustine which is also limits what the developer can do. Also, there was a request to realign the traffic lights on Magnolia and Apalachee Parkway and the city is going to work with the appropriate folks to do that.

-The last PREP meeting for neighbors is coming up. Marie-Claire will email the information.

5. Discussion of up-coming event

- 4th of July bike parade: Jason spoke to Phil and he believes Kristin is interested in holding another event this year. Jason will reach out to Kristin to confirm and then share the plans with the Board over email. The Board expressed its approval for incurring expenses, such as for a water slide or a bouncy house.

6. Other business-John will send an email to the Board to see if we have a Board member who would like to be

our liaison to the Elders in the Park committee. Additionally, he will see if anyone is interested in the ATN liaison position. And the May minutes will be shared and voted on over email.

7. Next meeting: July 7, 2022. The meeting concluded at approximately 8:40