

# Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, May 5, 2022

Prepared by John Tomasino

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**Board members present:** Marie-Claire Leman, KC Smith, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Laura Dearman, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, Katie Clark, Edward Reid, John Tomasino, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Ceci Michelotti, and Melissa Farley

**Board members absent:** Ashley Arrington, Doug Martin

**Other neighbors in attendance:** Betsy Tabac, Judith Rainbrook

**1. Approval of the April Board Meeting Minutes:** Ceci made the motion to adopt the minutes. John seconded the motion and the **Minutes approved unanimously.**

**2. Treasurer's report:** Money is still coming in for t-shirts. Nene Fest receipts will be ready by June. \$13,483.99 is our current balance. The Optimist ads have been paid for, which added up to a little over \$200.

### 3. Updates and Neighbor Concerns

- Soul of the South Side Festival Reminder: The event is May 14<sup>th</sup> through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Their web address is <https://sosfesttlh.com/>. John suggested that we would share the information using the email distribution list and there was general agreement. Marie-Claire was hopeful neighbors would take advantage of this great, close-by event.

- Neighborhood PREP (Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness) Program: Ceci provided the update as she attended a recent meeting. The goal is to help our neighborhood "PREP" for hurricanes and other natural disasters. They would like each neighborhood to do workshops to help get our neighborhood ready for hurricane season. We need to decide how we want to be involved. A big component deals with organizing the groups who can provide different services in the event of natural disaster. One popular event has been a build your bucket event, which is an event we can host ourselves or invite the city to participate. Two things that stood out to Ceci included developing a special needs registry and creating a resource directory. Laura volunteered to help Ceci with this endeavor. We would need to form a planning committee, and then that committee can take the lead on the various components of the city's Prep program. Laura and Ceci will develop a plan and then bring their ideas back to the Board. Marie-Claire also mentioned that there are three upcoming workshops that neighbors could attend, independent of any planning our Board does.

- New items brought by neighbors, if any: None. Betsy did remind us that a community-wide meeting is coming up to discuss the responses and ideas for adding activities at Optimist Park. The meeting will be at the Optimist community center on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. John asked if we should publicize the upcoming meeting via our email distribution list and Betsy agreed. Betsy shared that one item that the survey showed interest in shuffleboard courts.

John asked if anyone had brought up the VA hospital weekly generator test noise issue. The VA tests the generator each Wednesday morning, for 30 minutes. John saw the issue on the Facebook page. No Board members have been approached about assisting. Melissa suggested that she could let the concerned neighbor know that if she wanted any assistance, we would be happy to assist.

### 4. Board Issues

- Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3) funding request: Prior to the last meeting, Betsy provided a detailed letter with a request for funding. The Board discussed the idea of the Board matching a certain amount of neighbor donations earmarked for N3 that come in via the membership drive. The hope is by offering a matching grant that additional neighbors might also donate to N3. Marie-Claire liked the idea also because it is evident that the neighborhood independently supports N3 and this is another way for the Board to signal their support, too. As to the matching grant

idea, **Eli made the motion for the Board to match up to \$1,000 each year. Ceci seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.**

- Newsletter future: In the last newsletter, an advertisement was included looking for a new graphic designer as Charity is preparing for greener pastures out of country. One interested person responded to the advertisement and said they would like to help with the newsletter, both graphic design and copy editing. Other topics Marie-Claire brought up for discussion is whether KC desires to continue helming the newsletter, whether she is getting the support she needs from Marie-Claire and Shelly. KC added that she thinks it is good to evaluate whether the newsletter still provide a value to the neighborhood. KC is happy to continue with her current responsibilities. Multiple Board members, started by Katie, expressed their strong support for the newsletter and thanked KC for the excellent recent newsletter. Jason offered that if we can't find another graphic designer that his company uses something called Constant Contact, which would enable us to move the newsletter online. The Board in the past has debated moving 100% online versus giving neighbors the option of not receiving a paper copy of the newsletter. An idea KC and Marie-Claire discussed was using the website in tandem with the newsletter. The website would open it up to maybe continued series, and/or longer articles. Edward relayed that the backend of the website is on what was originally a blogging platform so it could easily be accomplished. This direction would also allow us to start exploring the digital world. Judith stressed that we continue providing a paper copy. John volunteered that he would like to try offering neighbors the option of opting out of receiving a paper copy and then marking out the addresses of those who opted out. John suggested that this be done before each newsletter, instead of the Board trying to keep track from newsletter to newsletter. John volunteered to do the work of marking out the addresses with the goal of not increasing Sandy's workload. Jason volunteered to pick up a route for future deliveries. KC suggested that if cost is a concern we could shorten the newsletter to save on printing costs. Marie-Claire advised that we need someone to pick up selling the advertisement, as that was also handled by Charity. Charity is providing us with the prior graphics which will assist onboarding a new person. Marie-Claire is going to send out on more call for volunteers and then have a newsletter committee begin planning for the next issue.

-Nene Fest Debrief: A longer debrief will be scheduled for all of those who handled various areas of responsibilities. The purpose tonight is for the Board to get a general sense of how things went and whether we are supportive of organizing future events. There was overwhelming support from the Board members on Marie-Claire's fantastic job of taking the lead on organizing the event. Everyone concurred! John asked what feedback Marie-Claire had received about the food vendor and it was all positive.

Marie-Claire shared that she always laments the lack of cohesion between the Hartsfield race event and the starting time of Nene Fest. She suggested that perhaps there could be a grill/cook-out after the race, as well as the idea of a kickball game after the race between students and alumni. Another area for discussion is the stage and what other options we might have to avoid that big cost. Edward mentioned that in the past there was discussion about whether the city would put in a pavilion that could be used both for music and other events. Another expense we should be aware of is the cost to rent the park for the entire day. Since we are paying for the park all day, that could be another reason to add in another post-race event. Another suggestion was possibly a breakfast where Board members and other interested volunteers could take part in preparing the food. No one suggested changing the traditional date from the last Saturday in April. Ryan did an approximate head count of 375 folks. Melissa shared that she thinks the concept of marking items down toward the end of the event is crucial to continue as it helps her manage the stock.

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

- First Fruit Tree planting session: The volunteers are meeting tomorrow, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm at Optimist Park to plant the initial trees.

- 4th of July bike parade: Kristin spearheaded a ride last 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Marie-Claire inquired whether anyone would like to volunteer to organize the event this year and if not, advise the neighborhood soon so someone else can volunteer to organize an event if they are interested. Jason volunteered to organize an event for this July. Ceci added that in years past, there was a bouncy house and/or water slide. Jason is going to reach out to Kristin and Phil to get their input. If the organizers wish to pursue a bouncy house, Ceci said she could assist

with that. Otherwise, Jason will report at the next board meeting. Marie-Claire asked if any Board member objected to committing Board funds for a bouncy house and no one objected.

The next meeting will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting concluded shortly after 8:40 p.m.