

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, April 6, 2023

Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present: Marie-Claire Leman, Ceci Michelotti, John Tomasino, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, KC Smith, Ashley Arrington, and Jason Khan-Hohensee.

Board members absent:, Doug Martin, Katie Clark, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Edward Reid and Melissa Farley

Others in attendance: Betsy Tabac, Judy Rainbrook, Allen Charles, Gordon Magill, Connie Bersok, John Doherty, WarrenDevault, Ryan Wilke, Kelly and Angel Hirai, Shelly Hatton, Kristin Power-Blaiklock, and Geoffrey Brown

1. Agenda and Minutes:

The meeting began shortly after 7:00 outside of the Optimist Park clubhouse.

Marie-Claire introduced John Doherty, one of several Neighborhood Services Coordinators with the city and the one assigned to our area. He can provide information on a variety of different programs. These include neighborhood clean ups, their Vibrant Grant program, and their PREP (Neighborhood Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness) program. With hurricane season approaching (June 1 to November 30) they are starting to plan for this year's storm period. They will be holding 3 or 4 community events which will include build a bucket workshops, representatives from various legal aid organizations, and information on bringing PREP to your neighborhood. John suggested reviewing their PREP for Neighborhood Leaders Toolkit found on the city's website. ([NEIGHBORHOOD PREP- PLAN FOR READINESS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS \(talgov.com\)](https://www.talgov.com)) There are four different modules to complete.

On April 15th, Neighborhood Services is holding a Spring Tune-up program which will include an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the city's various grant programs.

John Tomasino motioned for approval of the March minutes which passed with unanimous support. As for the board members who haven't been at meetings, Eli spoke to Doug, who said the time was a problem and Ceci said she spoke with Katie and the time isn't a problem, just has trouble remembering. Marie-Claire will continue to send out calendar invites to assist everyone with remembering.

2. Updates and neighbor concerns:

- City trees for greenway (Gordon and Ryan)

The neighborhood has been offered 50 native trees, by the city, if we can get them planted. Ryan and Gordon are hopeful that all trees can be planted in one morning with sufficient volunteers. They met with Brian Hopper at the marsh and he suggested planting on the west side of the marsh, near where the two fruit trees were planted last fall. These trees would go in the area between the start of the electrical station and Apakin Nene. They will be planting on April 22nd, on Earth Day. Gordon is hopeful that 10 to 12 people will volunteer.

Brian and crew will be there with a water truck. They hope to spot the trees out on Friday. The Board will send out a solicitation email for volunteers.

After some complaints about trash going into the marsh, the city recently installed a boom where the water discharges into the marsh area. The boom will make it much easier to collect the trash.

- Seed Library at Optimist (Joyce Gardner)

Marie-Claire presented this issue as Joyce couldn't be at the meeting. She would like to install a seed library near the little library. It looks like a bird house, 2 feet tall, on a post, and it only opens on one side. John D. updated that there is concern about putting it in the park and suggested placing it elsewhere at a neighbor's house. Ceci volunteered to host one of the seed libraries.

- Fresenius Kidney Care - update on development

Marie-Claire presented this issue, too. Edward Reid and Ramona Abernathy-Paine attended a recent city meeting where the above business requested variances, on March 27th. Please see the attached information from both Ramona Abernathy-Paine and Edward Reid. They did an excellent job summarizing the history and the requests. John D. updated that part of his job is trying to alert neighborhoods when these type of requests are made. They have an email service that folks can subscribe to to stay informed.

- New items brought by neighbors, if any

Allan Charles, after reading the newsletter, and the great beaver article, thought about applying for a Vibrant Grant to include signage along the trails pointing out local fauna and animals. John D. suggested Allan talk to Jillian Driscoll with the city. Allan will do more research on costs of signage and report back to the Board.

Judy Rainbrook brought up the issue of the gentleman that hates stop signs. Several members expressed concern for their safety as oftentimes this gentleman is very loud, irate, cussing, and at times banging stop signs. Angel Hirari had a recent interaction with him at Optimist Park and felt compelled to call the non-emergency number. The gentleman was causing much noise from the bathroom. Angel was very impressed with the officer who arrived, who also had a social worker present. Judy suggested that maybe someone could try to learn if there is anything that might trigger a de-escalation with him. Martha Murray reported on Facebook that Vince George, her husband, had a normal conversation with him and learned his name. It seems pretty obvious he is suffering from some type of mental disturbance. John D. suggested continuing to contact the non-emergency line and also possibly the Apalachee Mental Health Crisis Number. We will add that phone number to the IHLNA website under resources. John T. will reach out to Judy to discuss options for maybe contacting his family or other resources.

3. Financial update and questions

- Membership Drive – review

The recent distribution of membership renewal flyers appears to have been a success and Melissa reported to Marie-Claire that donations are arriving.

- Insurance

Melissa renewed our liability insurance which is necessary for Nene Fest. Our application for the special event is final and submitted to the city. The insurance agent informed Melissa there wasn't a large increase between last year and this year.

4. Other Board issues

- Website: potentially adding a blog feature or additional pages

Jason and Marie-Claire have interest in working on the website. With our permission, they will explore a blog-like way to store articles like Gordon's beaver article and investigate some other ways to beef up the website.

- Newsletter team - update

The newsletter team needs additional volunteers, especially someone who enjoys proofreading. Marie-Claire stated she needs to give up that role and step down from the team. Ceci volunteered to take the place of Marie-Claire as proofreader (working with Shelly Hatton). The team will likely meet in May to discuss roles and responsibilities. After the May newsletter team meeting, we will have a sense of what other new volunteers may be needed and for what roles. Jason mentioned he would like us to discuss ways to include digital distribution, too, in the future.

5. Discussion of up-coming events

- Yard Sale - April 15

The yard sale will be on April 15th. Anyone who has paid their dues can set up for no cost. If you are a non-neighbor, you have to pay \$10. If you are a neighbor and aren't current on your dues, then the cost is \$10. It starts at 8:00 am. If anyone would like to market what they will be selling, they can let Marie-Claire know and she can include it in the Craigslist ad. Marie-Claire, for now, will cover the event as Melissa has a conflict.

- Nene Fest April 29, 2023 - Update

Laura Nicole Floyd's design was selected for this year's festival. It will be on t-Shirts and tank tops. There is a google form that is a good way to let the Nene Fest group know you wish to assist. The performance set list is full. There will be a puppet show. There will opportunities for adults and children to be puppets. Global Cafe will be there again to sell their vegan food. This year Eli will be grilling burgers and hot dogs. He is seeking volunteers to help grill and serve. Eli proposes that he purchases the food, as a donation, and that he will cover his cost, and then anything over goes to the association. Volunteers to provide sides. Maybe do a price for a plate where you get a hotdog or burger plus a side or two. The desserts will be around a dollar. John T. asked John D. about whether there is another power source at the far end of the soccer field, as we had power issues last year with the limited circuits available at the clubhouse. John D. agreed to walk over and investigate the pole and meter after the meeting. Most importantly, use the Google sheet if you are interested in helping in any way!

- 4th of July Bike Parade

Kristin volunteered to oversee the 4th of July bike ride event. She will reserve the water slide and organize the ride and communicate via Facebook.

6. Other business

Next meeting: The group decided to skip the May meeting and meet again on June 1st.