

## Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, June 1, 2023

Prepared by John Tomasio

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**Board members present:** Marie-Claire Leman, Ceci Michelotti, John Tomasio, KC Smith, Ashley Arrington, and Jason Khan-Hohensee, Katie Clark, Edward Reid, Melissa Farley

**Board members absent:**, Doug Martin, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, and Charlotte Stuart-Tilley

**Others in attendance:** Betsy Tabac, Judy Rainbrook, Gordon Magill, David July, Mark Okasako, Midori Okasako, and Zoe

### 1. Agenda and Minutes: Approve Agenda

Minutes already approved.

### 2. Updates and neighbor concerns:

#### - The English Forest Preserve:

Mark Okasako gave us an update on the English Preserve. His group has been working on the English Property POD since the amendment came up in 2021. They have worked to slow it down so they can get their ducks in a row. Instead of trying to stop it they decided to work with the city and the developer to come up with a plan to preserve a good segment of the property. It's a ribbon of approximately 300 acres to preserve. The city declined to be the managing entity of this project so their group had to find a new managing entity. Florida Forever and the landowner representative got together and came together with an agreement where now the city did agree to be the management entity. Application accepted by Florida Forever and now it will be a first vote with Acquisition and Restoration Counsel (ARC). Usually, those who make it past the second vote end up on an ARC vote in October. Later, there will be an opportunity for public input. There will be a meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> where the sponsor makes a brief presentation. The public can also speak at this meeting. Mark would like a letter from the Association supporting the project, or, signatures on their petition. ARC will accept such letters prior to the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ramona will be acting as a resident of IHLNA and submitting her support.

A question/request to the Board—does anyone want to write a letter in support of the project? Marie-Claire suggested that the board review the drafted the letters and then propose something, over email, to discuss the content of a letter.

Midori added that from a neighborhood standpoint, Blairstone Forrest gets a lot of visitors from Indianhead, using the path to look at the pond and enjoy the boardwalk. The idea is the two neighborhoods are very rich in diversity and it would be beneficial to our neighborhoods to be able to cross Orange Ave. and enjoy this beautiful forest preserve that goes all the way to Tram Road. It's not just about a wildlife corridor.

KC suggested that Midori's would be a great additional perspective to add to Mark's for the fall newsletter.

### - Access to the Optimist Clubhouse

Marie-Claire provided an update. The city holds a summer camp at Optimist Park and during that time, the clubhouse will not be available to the public. This will be until August 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, when learning about this, the hourly fee to use the clubhouse has now gone up to \$44/hour. Is there an appetite to bring this up with the city to inquire why it is so expensive to rent the clubhouse. Marie-Claire not sure if this should be a Board issue or if someone would like to run with this issue and report back to the Board. If you are interested in this issue please reach out to Marie-Claire.

An additional item not on the agenda was a neighbor who discussed a potential cleanup on Jim Lee Dr., and how that tied in with a possible neighborhood beautification committee. Jason suggested putting in on our next agenda and he'll review his notes.

### - New items brought by neighbors, if any:

David asked about the work on the trail and asked about an update. The work is taking longer than expected and the metal barriers are still up. Marie-Claire will check on the status.

## 3. Financial update and questions

### - Nene Fest profit and expense report

Melissa shared the Nene Fest balance sheet. Please see attached. To summarize, the event paid for itself plus some additional funds.

The Nene Fest committee recently met to debrief. The grill worked very well. Eli did a fantastic job and had great volunteers. He has many ideas on how to improve it for next year.

Everything went great with sound and stage.

Many people reported liking the donation aspect for the dessert table.

We want to make the water and tea more visible and central next year.

There was a discussion about a possible contribution from the merchants. This could be something to consider for future years.

One issue to consider is the shade, or lack thereof. There was concern of high winds which is why the shades were not put up. We have four bins of tarps that we could use but we have to find a place to store them. If we aren't going to use them then perhaps we don't want to continue to store them. Ashley replayed that trying to mitigate the shade is very difficult and we should scrap it. Ceci agreed and shared her experience from last year. Edward is concerned about the safety of using them. Gordon suggested that parachutes can make great shades as they are light and much easier to handle a big tarp.

Marie-Claire will ask via email/Facebook if any neighbors want the tarps.

Marie-Claire hasn't yet heard back from Global Café on whether they did okay and whether they would be okay coming back and whether they would be opposed to us also offering veggie dogs and burgers.

## 4. Other Board issues

### - Nene Fest Take-Aways

See above

### - Newsletter team – update

Marie-Claire, KC, Melissa, and others met in person to discuss the newsletter. They did discuss whether we should yet offer an opt-out of the paper distribution. Because Linda is only doing the next newsletter, they thought it would be best to wait until later to discuss digital distribution options.

Marie-Claire created a new tab on the website, named Best of the Optimist newsletter. Currently, there is Gordon's beaver article and his article from 2021 about re-wilding your yard.

KC reported that she believes she has about half of the newsletter already covered. Ceci is taking over the proof reading that Marie-Clarie was doing. KC needs articles by August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Neighborhood Award Program:

Marie-Claire asked if there was any interest in applying for the awards. There are multiple categories in which to apply. Ceci asked what the timeframe is for the submissions.

### -Hurricane Prep

Ceci provided the update regarding the Hurricane Prep event the city holds. She went last year and said it's a good program. One important aspect is the database of folks who might need to be checked on and who can do the checking. Ceci has the notebook, the example five-gallon bucket, etc. The Board is still looking to see if anyone might want to lead this up. The city workshop is on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Marie-Claire shared that at the Nene Fest debrief, there was discussion about block captains. The group discussed how that might fit in nicely with the Hurricane Prep duties.

## 5. Discussion of up-coming events

### - 4th of July Bike Parade

Ceci will reach out to Kristin and Phil to see if they are still interested in organizing the parade and festivities.

## 6. Other business

No Board meeting in July. The next meeting will be the first Thursday of August, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.