

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, January 4, 2024 Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present:

Ashley Arrington, Melissa Farley, Jason Hohensee, Marie-Claire Leman, Gordon Magill, Edward Reid, John Tomasino, Eli Wilkins-Malloy

Board members absent:

Doug Martin, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Ceci Michelotti, KC Smith, Katie Clark,

Others in attendance:

No others in attendance

1. Agenda and Minutes

John moved for the adoption of the minutes. Gordon seconded. None opposed.

Minutes approved. Marie-Claire asked if Gordon could get an update from Chris Muehlemann with Leon County on where we are with the bid process. We want to know where they are in the process. As soon as there is a contractor selected, we would like to set up a meeting to discuss the detours. The other question that came up from Doug is whether they had finished securing the right-of-ways for the sidewalks. Edward remembered that the bids are to be opened on January 7th. As for right-of-ways, Edward believes most of it has been secured, except for the section from Circle to Lafayette.

2. Financial Update

No material changes. Melissa is preparing a year end update.

3. Updates and neighbor concerns

-Upcoming Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3) meeting

Next Tuesday, at 5:30 pm, N3 is holding a dinner meeting at the Optimist Park Community Center to discuss transition plans since Betsy and Judy are retiring from N3.

The Woodland Drives neighborhood association is possibly interested in doing something similar. Marie-Claire suggested getting flowers for Betsy and Judy to thank them for their service. The Board wholeheartedly agreed!

-New items brought by neighbors, if any

4. Board issues

-Vibrant Neighborhood Grants

Both Marie-Claire and Gordon have ideas. Gordon is interested in expanding the book library and adding more storage to facilitate exchange of other items, like small items. The volunteer hours to build it could most likely be sufficient to qualify for the matching grant requirement. John suggested that it might not be worth the grant application process for a small expenditure in funds. Gordon is going to contact our City contact, John Doherty, to see if we have permission to either expand the existing one and/or add another one.

Marie-Claire suggested that we apply for an event grant, to help offset the cost of Nene Fest. Everyone concurred with this idea.

-Reporter doing a story for the Democrat on the street names in our neighborhood

She is doing a story in relation to the bicentennial. She contacted a Muscogee/Mvskoke group in Oklahoma about our neighborhood street names. One issue she raised is whether the names are "correctly" spelled. The second was questioning whether the Owl name is proper. Marie-Claire is going to share a response over email with the Board before responding back. Edward gave her lots of context. No one present thought we should take formal Board action on her request but instead continue to provide context. The Board discussed whether her information is correct and how to best respond, while also being sensitive to cultural appropriation.

- Membership renewal drive - January

Edward, Melissa, and Marie-Claire met to draft up the membership renewal form. They reorganized the form side of the sheet to make it clearer. Edward made the three ways to join clearer as there was prior confusion on how to pay.

- Newsletter plan and revised schedule

Marie-Claire shared a proposed timeline for the next newsletter. The schedule would see the newsletter distributed by March 11th at the earliest and no later than March 26th. John asked Edward about the color cost estimates he received for the last newsletter and the increase was small. Edward showed what the last newsletter would have looked like in color and the members were impressed and agreed to allow Edward to consider color for the next newsletter.

5. Upcoming Events

-Spring Yard Sale

The Board agreed that Saturday, March 30th would be best, due to conflicting events on March 23rd.

-Nene Fest, April 13th confirmed

6. Next meeting: March 7th, 7 p.m. No February meeting!