

Minutes from IHLNA Board Meeting, March 7, 2024

Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present:

Melissa Farley, Marie-Claire Leman, Gordon Magill, Ceci Micheloti, John Tomasino, Eli Wilkins-Malloy

Board members absent

Doug Martin, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Edward Reid, KCSmith, Katie Clark, Ashley Arrington, Jason Hohensee

Others in attendance:

Chris Muehlemann

1. Agenda and Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved over email.

2. Financial and Membership Update

Melissa did her first financial statement. The current balance is \$15,313.34. Financially, we are in a little better place than in years past. Out of 512 addresses, 130 people have already paid their 2024 membership, and dues are still coming in. In addition to the dues, thus far, we have collected \$2196 in extra donations.

John suggested having a Board booth at the Fest. All agreed. Perhaps right next to the merchandise table. Include information about the Magnolia Project.

3. Updates and neighbor concerns

-Magnolia Project Update by Chris Muehlemann

Since Chris last updated us, the bids were received. The County Commissioners approved the low bid. They have received the signed contract with Sandco. They conducted an initial

coordination meeting with Sandco, Blueprint, all of the affected utility owners in the corridor. Next is getting the contractor schedule. With the lead time for ordering the structures, getting the shop drawings reviewed, they anticipate starting in 45 to 60 days. They plan on having their pre-construction meeting in approximately 30 days. Once the contractor receives an official Notice to Proceed he must start within 15 days.

The scope of the project has not changed. The electric, water, and storm water will all be underground as part of this project. It will include complete road reconstruction with an 8 foot trail and 4 foot bufferment with landscaping, irrigation, and lighting. There will be a traffic signal with crosswalk at Jim Lee and Magnolia.

They are now also working on their Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan. We will have plenty of time to review the MOT. They have already discussed the importance of keeping traffic out of the neighborhood as they develop the MOT. It is still anticipated that Magnolia will be closed between Pontiac and Diamond, but allowing local traffic for those who live on that stretch. Chris has worked on all phases of these projects, with 29 years experience, so he will do his best to make sure a good plan is developed.

We are sure the neighbors are going to be interested in seeing the MOT. Three weeks before beginning of construction they will have to have the finalized MOT. That gives them sufficient time to get that plan out to everyone before construction starts.

Chris has a website ready to go for the project and is working with the County and Blueprint's Public Information Officers.

There will be periods where some of the homeowners will be without water, sewer, and/or electricity, due to the nature of the project.

Chris also confirmed that unless there is specific work, like trenching, being done, folks should be able to cross Magnolia if they are on foot or bike.

The contract specifies 18 months for the total duration.

-Neighborhood entrance signs in need of repair

Someone messaged us about the entrance signs needing repair. Melissa advised that on the membership form, someone mentioned that the posts needed to be replaced. And maybe the ones along Magnolia should be removed during the construction. Marie-Claire will reach out to Jason to let him know about this issue.

-Board structure and roles review

Someone asked Edward about who is the president and vice-president. Instead of saying those positions are vacant, on the website, we will say the responsibility of those positions is being shared by the members of the Board.

Marie-Claire asked if there should be a discussion about the current board process. No one had any complaints about the structure. Ceci is concerned that Marie-Claire does a lot and we don't want her to burn out. Marie-Claire suggested sharing the responsibility of chairing the meetings. Perhaps we can have a list of board members who wish to facilitate the board meetings.

We will continue to use the Board email to route issues to the appropriate folks.

-Vibrant Neighborhood Grants

John mentioned the vacant lot across from Connie about the possibility to do a community garden on that lot (the lot owned by Joyce Gardner). Word got back to Joyce who is very interested in that, but has valid concerns such as rent and insurance. Based on Joyce's response, John tracked down our insurance policy and was surprised to learn what we are paying for, for over \$1400 a year. It has also doubled over the last 5 or so years.

John checked with the city to see if they required this insurance. Ashley Edwards said the only thing the city would require is event insurance for things like Nene Fest, but Ashley said that that insurance is much cheaper. She also mentioned errors and omissions insurance that some Boards go with.

John volunteered to shop around for the specific event policy, and to see about quotes for the errors and omissions. Gordon used to work in insurance so he volunteered to look over our policy.

John asked if we should seek input from the neighborhood on whether there is any interest in pursuing a community garden project. John will continue to put out feelers to see if there is any interest.

-Newsletter Update

Ceci and Shelly edited all of the articles, and then Marie-Claire, Shelly and Ceci proofread the newsletter. Edward did all the layout. This one will be a 12 page newsletter, with some color. We will still get it out before the yard sale. It is now with Gandy to provide the proof and then once we approve, they'll print it. Hopefully it will be out a couple of weeks before Nene Fest and right before the yard sale. Melissa did a great job of selling the ad space, including in color.

- Nene Fest Update

Richard Bertram, who is in charge of the music, let us know via Marie-Claire that the set list is just about full. He is awaiting a response from one band. Nick Gandy will MC again. Marney Richards will be in charge of the booths. Ceci will be in charge of desserts and Emma will be in charge of the sides. Eli, the grill master. Eli is recruiting for help with the grill. Gordon offered to assist on the grill. Ryan has offered his smoker to Eli. Eli likes the idea of smoking the pork in

advance for pulled pork sandwiches. John offered to contact Johnston's Meat Market about their fundraiser pork to serve up as sandwiches.

We will be sharing the sign up sheet again looking for volunteers.

Melissa has the shirt color choices narrowed down. Stage and sound are booked. We will also be selling tote bags with Laura's excellent design.

The puppet show is ahead of schedule. They've had three work sessions thus far, with lots of volunteer help. Lots of kids already signed up and Doug is working on scheduling the final rehearsal.

4. Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- Spring Yard Sale, March 30

Marie-Claire and Melissa have it scheduled to collect the fee/dues.

- Nene Fest, April 13

See above.

- 4th of July?

Ceci will reach out to Kristin about whether she wants to head this up again this year.

5. Other Business

6. Next Meeting

April 4, 2024, at 7 pm. Location to be determined.