

HLNA Board Meeting Summary, June 5, 2025

Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present:

Melissa Farley, Marie-Claire Leman, Ceci Micheloti, Edward Reid, John Tomasino and Eli Wilkins-Malloy

Board members absent

Ashley Arrington, Katie Clark, Jason Hohensee, Gordon Magill, and KC Smith

Others in attendance:

Nancy Gines, Molly Jameson

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda
2. Updates and neighbor concerns

Nancy Gines worries “speculators will start knocking on doors” once the Comp-Plan changes density. Many longtime elderly owners, she said, might feel pushed to sell. With both federal and state cuts looming, she fears some socially isolated or low-income residents could lose access to key services. She suggested the N3 be ready to tap its own funds if gaps appear. Nancy reported four new Neighbor-to-Neighbor volunteers and noted service requests are rising, though the mix of requests is changing. Her takeaway: N3 is “alive and growing,” but it needs to stay flexible.

-Magnolia Project update:

No update. Project appears to no longer be ahead of schedule—maybe now on schedule.

-City/County Comprehensive plan

Ceci briefed the board on proposed changes that would designate Indianhead as *Suburban Residential Preservation* and raise allowable density from six to eight units per acre on connector roads such as Magnolia and Blairstone. Members worried the new language drops long-standing references to preserving neighborhood character, easing future up-zoning even though RP-1 zoning now caps density around 3.6 units per acre. Ceci shared a draft joint letter by Jeff Blair urging stronger protections. After discussion the board reaffirmed its earlier decision *not* to sign; the focus will remain on educating residents rather than taking a formal stance.

-Update on Koucky Park

John reported the City extended concrete-bag armoring along the creek without notifying the neighborhood, later admitting it should have done so. He is pressing Stormwater to provide advance notice for any future creek work. Parks & Rec has invited the neighborhood to help design restorative planting; Connie Bersock will coordinate. Ana presented erosion photos and concept sketches—gentler slopes, native vegetation, erosion-control plantings—which the board will use during next week's on-site meeting with Parks & Rec.

-New items brought by neighbors, if any

3. Board issues

-Recap on Nene Fest + date for next year

Despite early rain the festival ran smoothly, and the second stage was a hit. Tentative date for next year: Saturday, 11 April 2026. Action items: purchase rain drop-sheets, promote the event in the fall newsletter, and open band/puppet sign-ups earlier. The apparent budget shortfall was due solely to a one-off \$400 event-insurance policy; once counted, the fest essentially broke even. A \$500 City grant can cover insurance in future years. Unsold T-shirts remain with Melissa. All volunteers are willing to serve again, though Marie-Claire may be away next year, in which case another lead organizer will be needed.

-Forming a Resilience Committee

Ana proposed—and the board informally approved—a committee to maintain a hurricane-prep web page, improve outreach to vulnerable or new residents, and offer home “resilience assessments” (pilot program this fall). Nancy requested an N3 representative be included on the committee; Ana agreed.

- Finalizing Hurricane Prep page on website

Marie-Claire screen-shared the draft WordPress page (checklists, emergency numbers, sand-bag sites, county links) built from Ana's workshop notes. Edward confirmed he could edit it on the back end. The board agreed to publish the page immediately (comments disabled) so the committee can refine it in place; major revisions or expenses will still require board approval. Nancy suggested linking it in the main site menu and the summer e-newsletter. Ana will add a brief “How to help your neighbor” section before hurricane season.

- Facebook page

Residents still confuse the privately run Facebook group with an official Association outlet. Marie-Claire noted this persists despite repeated clarifications; Edward, an admin, recently took criticism for “heavy-handed” moderation. John suggested a board-managed group with clearer rules. The board mapped existing channels (discussion group, dormant page, new announcement-only page) and weighed options: pinning a disclaimer atop the current group, launching a new group, or diversifying to other platforms (Instagram, blog, BlueSky). Edward and John favored a pinned post; Marie-Claire doubted many people read them. Ana recommended a multi-platform approach to reach different age brackets. No vote was taken, but the board agreed on the need for a clearer, board-controlled communication strategy.

4. Upcoming Events

-4th of July

The board will repeat last year’s relaxed format. Ceci texted Kristin (usual organizer) for confirmation; Eli offered his flat-top griddle and small Weber for hot dogs, eliminating the need for the large grill. Ceci will manage the budget, with Melissa checking last year’s figures. The gathering remains a casual potluck; final details will be settled by text once Kristin responds.

5. Other Business

Marie-Claire announced she will step off the board for at least a year while her family spends the academic year in Canada. She thanked everyone and offered informal help during her absence. John, Ceci, and Melissa expressed appreciation for her long service and made clear she is welcome to return anytime. The meeting adjourned on that very sad note.