



HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION
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Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting August 16, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne DeHaan, Kate Diedrich, Michele Giordano, Ryan Huizenga, Mark Hutchison, Mary McCarthy-Fuller, Wayne Norlin, Erin Shupe, Teresa Dittmer

Absent: Peter Albertini, Todd Hoort, Charles Roelofs, Jim Payne

Staff: Jan Earl, Tansy Harris, Maria Zache Starkey

Public: Neighbors Paul Helm and Julianne Day, Community Officer Craig Glowney and the local company of GRFD.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 pm. Vice President Mark Hutchison welcomed everyone and announced that Todd H. and his wife had had a healthy baby boy, a few days before the Picnic.
2. **Call for New Business:** Erin S. requested, per the Executive Committee, to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel issues.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the July meeting were approved unanimously as written.
4. **Correspondence Files:** Circulated among board members.
5. **Public Comment:** Paul Helm again asked about receiving staff reports and if sensitive information could be redacted as well as inquiring if there used to be an editorial page in the Herald and if that could be brought back. Mark H. thanked Paul for his questions and commented that the board will have to get back to him.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6. **Treasurers Report:** Erin S. reported that with Home Tour proceeds being down by \$15,000, action needs to be taken to make up for the shortfall. The Finance Committee will be meeting soon; stay tuned. If a correction is not made and if CDBG dollars are eliminated, the office very likely will have to close its doors. Discussion concerning Home Tour planning included identifying trends, obstacles, marketing and sponsorship. Jan noted that sponsorship is the area where growth is most possible; ticket sales can vary from year to year. Also that personal asks and lots of follow-up are what work with recruiting sponsors.
7. **Staff Reports:** Written reports were supplied. Tansy H. highlighted aspects of her report including an increase of smash-and-grab car break-ins and encouraged neighbors to educate their guests when parking in the neighborhood. The Museum School interior demo is done, the building is in great condition; the school will open in 2018. The new Dollar General store slated to go in at 363 State St. will sell beer and wine, but hopefully no singles. Foster Park has not seen any public drunkenness or urination since the closing of the former convenience store (at 363 State St). Officer Glowney clarified a new policy for police No Trespassing letters and Tansy reported that she is participating in the continued work concerning GRPD racial profiling.
Jan. E. stated that any plans for 523 Lyon St. NE (Jellema House) are on hold; the prospective owner needs at least two months to come up with a parking plan and then would potentially submit a request for a use variance. Neighbors continue to be interested in the potential for Spectrum Health to lease the house to use as something similar to a Ronald McDonald house. Jan also commented that permit parking does not seem to be gaining any traction in the neighborhood though there was some response from Cherry and Prospect areas. Jan noted that she has a new "ask" in to Mercy Health Saint Mary's, that there has been interest expressed in opening a wine bar at the former real estate office on Crescent St. and reported that the case is now closed with no new leads concerning the theft at the most recent Texas Hold 'Em event.

8. **Committee/Liaison Reports:**

Community Engagement: Erin S. reported that the Picnic went great and that lots of kids were in attendance. Discussion included the food vendors, kids' games and participation from the city. Maria Z. commented that more volunteers were needed and encouraged board members to engage their neighbors for this event in the future.

Administration: Mark H. commented that Finance had been covered in the Treasurer's Report and had no further updates.

Fundraising: Kate D. reported that two houses are committed for home Tour 2018 and that recruitment is underway. Kate suggested adding a drawing to Home Tour; winners would be given a special dinner at one of the Tour homes. Kate also commented that Garden Tour proceeds will come in a little over budget and was applauded for her myriad efforts orchestrating the event.

Jan commented that there will be a big plea in the Pledge Drive letter this year and that the next Texas Hold 'Em event is scheduled for October 9 – 11, 2017; the sign-up sheet was distributed. Members and their neighbors were encouraged to sign up.

Land Use: Wes Beck provided six updates: 1) The board had made recommendation to the Planning Commission of 4 bedrooms for proposed bed and breakfast at 423 Madison SE; 5 bedrooms were approved. 2) HPC has had a lot of follow-up communication with the Heritage Hill Study Committee and interested neighbors concerning the Historic District Study. 3) The bricks on State St. will continue from Jefferson to Madison (when funding is available). 4) A neighbor highlighted wooden pavers from the 1800's being discovered on Fountain St. NE during street maintenance between Prospect and College. 5) A groundbreaking event will be held soon at 50 College SE, Heritage Place. 6) An Open House for neighbors will be held on Wednesday, August 30th at 221 John St. NE to show off completed renovations.

9. **New Business:** Erin S. announced the Executive Session.
10. **Old Business:** Paul Helm commented that he is eagerly awaiting a response to the claim from two months ago that the Master Plan was not followed concerning the use of 74 Lafayette NE; Mark H. reported that a response is in the works. Paul also inquired if the board will be taking a position on the HPC Historic District study. Comments included that all property owners were informed of the public hearing before HPC. Following this notification, few concerns were received by HHA. Mark. H. stated that the board is not taking a position on this issue.
11. **No Public comment.**
12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Board members approved revisions of submitted letter; final draft to be reviewed.
13. Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey