

## Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting January 20, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance: Jim Payne, Suzanne DeHaan, Mary Robinson, Marie Koster, Deanna Smith, Teresa Dittmer, Ryan Huizenga, Charles Roelofs, Stephanie Kolbe, Erin Shupe, Jackie Taylor, Todd Hoort & Michele Giordano

Absent: Kate Diedrich, Peter Albertini

Staff: Jan Earl, Tansy Harris

Public: Kim Koster

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04 pm
2. **Call for New Business** – Introduction of newest board member, Michele Giordano
3. **Minutes** – Minutes of the December meeting were approved as written.
4. **Correspondence Files** circulating amongst board members.
5. **Public Comment for Agenda** – None.

### Action Items:

6. **The annual request for CDBG (community development block grant) funding** was discussed. The same funding as last year will be requested (\$43,756). A letter of intent is first submitted and then the City will invite the actual request. The amount granted is based on the size of the city's "neighborhoods pie" that is allocated to neighborhoods and distributed based on a long standing formula. Jan believes the pie is likely the same as last year. It might be important to note here that this use of CDBG funding is not something found in every city. Grand Rapids made a commitment to its neighborhoods (going all the way back to 1978) and feels community organizations are integral to the city's well-being. After short discussion, a motion was made and seconded to proceed with the funding request. It was approved by all.
7. **HHA Committee Chairs** were appointed by HHA's President Jim Payne and the respective committee members were ratified by the HHA Board per the distributed list.

### Information Items:

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Mary R. explained that as of November 30, the Association's revenue and expenses were at about 93 – 95% of budget. December's receipts and expenses were as expected and believes we are in position for good end-of-year numbers, putting emphasis on the results of Home Tour sponsors/underwriters as well as the Texas Hold'em events. End of year mailings (both electronically and postal) garnered quite a few pledge donations as well.
9. **Staff Reports:** Jan talked about the recent interest in housing co-ops that the City's Zoning Appeals Board recently determined would be treated as rooming houses. There is a request for a cooperative at the former Thresholds property on Lake Drive just east of Fuller. Though Thresholds is beyond the Heritage Hill district, Jan was asked by interested neighbors as to options to addressing this use before the City. The HHA Board briefly talked about 535 East Fulton that is owned by the same person as is proposing the Lake Drive

property use. The Fulton property complies as a multi-family per zoning but is in theory a housing co-op. The isolation of this property, it's believed, has kept complaints down due to large gatherings that have been hosted at this location. Maintenance has been spotty at times as this has been a resident responsibility rather than the owner's provision. It was also mentioned another new house is soon to be built in the Hill: on Pleasant between Madison and Prospect.

Tansy is officially Heritage Hill's new Crime Prevention Organizer. She has recently reorganized her office and talked briefly about a few concerns occurring in the neighborhood recently: Carjacking, Direct Energy scam and packages disappearing from porches during the holidays.

10. **Liaison Reports:** Began this portion of meeting by breaking into the Board Liaison groups to decide member participation and elect a chairperson for each group.

A Code of Ethics form was signed by all members.

1. **Administration:**

Facilitated break-out sessions.

A February 4 meeting with Mercy Health St. Mary's CEO is planned to continue the ongoing relationship and conversation with this western border neighbor.

2. **Fundraising:**

The Liaison group elected Peter Albertini to remain as chair of the group.

Home Tour 2016 still in need of house captains. Homes have all been visited and write-ups, staffing needs, maps are in process.

The pledge drive is going well and Grand River Builders has already signed on (once again) as a pillar sponsor for the 2016 Home Tour.

Texas Hold-em dates for March 2016 have been cancelled. The other dates; June 23 thru 26, July 21 thru 24 and October 3 thru 5, are still a go.

Many gardens are already signed on for 2016 tour. No date set yet.

3. **Community Stewardship:**

Erin Shupe and Deanna Smith will co-chair this Liaison group.

No report, but Annual Meeting will probably go back to Thursday evening- possibly 12/8/16.

4. **Land Use Issues:**

Ryan Huizenga will chair this group in 2016.

Nothing to report from HPC (Lansing decision to look at/vote on historical designation had not occurred prior to this meeting . . . more to come at February meeting).

State Street lighting is in – not all wired as yet.

Looking for parks enthusiasts to help in monitoring Pleasant Park.

Zoning issues –Jim Payne clarified discussions with the Zoning Committee in regards to the committee's job description. Improved communication should remedy matters. No new Zoning requests to report.

11. **New Business** – None

12. **Old Business** – None.

13. **No Public comment.**

14. **Motion to Adjourn**, made, seconded, passed – 8:57 pm.

Submitted by Tom Truesdale