

Heritage Herald

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

The Newsletter of Heritage Hill

Volume XLII, No. 6

Come Celebrate our Year End with Heritage Hill Neighbors & friends!

2016 Holiday Potluck & Annual Celebration

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

6:00 to 9:00 pm

GRCC DeVos Campus – 435 E. Fulton

Enter the Welcome Center and turn to your left.

Please be aware there's a parking fee to park in GRCC's lot. If you are using this lot, use the parking lot entrance on Fountain Street.

6:00pm- Holiday Potluck – Please bring a dish to pass.

7:00pm- Santa arrives with seasonal joy!

7:30pm- Annual Meeting- HHA 2017 Board elections

& 2016 Distinguished Service Awards.

Thanks to Grand Rapids Community College and Martha's Vineyard for supplying the Hospitality & holiday cheer!



The Heritage Hill Association

126 College S.E.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 616-459-8950 Fax: 616-459-2409
 Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Thurs.
 Voicemail available for after-hours messages.
 EMAIL: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
 WEBSITE: www.heritagehillweb.org

Purpose:
 The purpose of the Heritage Hill Association is to provide neighbors a way of collectively building a healthy, historically preserved community in which people can live and work in a secure and stable environment.

Office Staff:
 Jan Earl, Executive Director
 Tansy Harris, Crime Prevention
 Maria Zache, Administrative
 Barb Lester, Office

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors

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 *Erin Shupe, 427 Prospect SE, (C) 633-8946
 *Deanna Smith, 346 Morris SE, (C) 295-3223
 *Jackie Taylor, 5155 Quail Crest Dr SE, (H) 942-5941

* 1st Term
 ** 2nd Term

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of each month at the Hauenstein Center - H1 Community Room at Mercy Health Saint Mary's. The meeting is open to the public.

The Heritage Hill Foundation Board of Trustees

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**J
O
Y**

Join Heritage Hill neighbors as we gather to usher out 2016 with applause and Santa on December 6th.

Open yourself to your friends, family and neighbors throughout this upcoming winter season. Help out wherever whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Your voice matters and working as a team makes good things happen! Engage! Participate!!!

... and give thanks that we got through another year working together to make our neighborhood a great place to live, walk, play, work in and visit. On to 2017!

Jan Earl

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Joy in Neighborhood is on tap at the *Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting Tuesday, December 6th – 6 to 9 pm*

Calling all Heritage Hill neighbors to the community table on **Tuesday, December 6** to celebrate the season and our collective 2016 accomplishments. We extend a special welcome to all new neighbors to join all “experienced” neighbors from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the GRCC Campus at 415 East Fulton. Please come!

Thanks to **Martha’s Vineyard** for providing beverages for toasting our 2016 neighborhood accomplishments; And thanks to you for providing your own “dish to pass”. **Santa** is coming to add seasonal cheer and usher the kids out so that the grown-ups can be a part of the Association’s annual meeting.

The HHA Annual Meeting ...Is the time to recognize neighbors for their 2016 service to our neighborhood. It is also time to plan for next year with the **2017 HHA Board of Directors Election**. There are five, 3-year terms up for election and five candidates have provided written notice of their candidacy per the HHA Bylaws’ required notification. Because there are 4 candidates for 5 seats, the

slate will be elected by proclamation by the membership. *(Because the deadline has past to run for the fifth seat, that seat will be appointed by the HHA Board in 2017.)*

Child Care and Activities ... Santa’s helpers will be on hand to assist children visiting Santa and oversee crafts. If you have very small children who want to see Santa, please accompany your child.

Please come one, come all!!!!

Meet the 2017 HHA Board Candidates: Lisa Baars, Wesley Beck, Karen McCarthy Fuller, and Charles Roelofs.

Each has provided their statement to the following:

Why they want to serve on the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors.

**Lisa Baars
139 Prospect NE**

As an almost lifelong resident of GR I feel strongly about schools, neighborhoods and the general wellbeing of the city. My first apt was 217 Prospect NE, almost 40

yrs. ago. I have owned rental property since 1998 on Lyon St. and owned and lived on Prospect NE for 3 yrs. In 2015 my home was on the tour. This was a great experience and gave me an inside look at the HH organization. I feel my experience as a real estate broker, business owner, landlord and current resident of HH gives me the background and knowledge to contribute in a positive way to the continuation of the goals and mission of the HHA.

**Wesley Beck
225 Fountain NE**

Drawn by the incredible diversity of historic architectural styles that define Heritage Hill, I purchased my home twenty years ago. For six of those years, I was pleased to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. Neighborhoods are usually defined by people’s proximity to one another but, in accepting designation as a local historic district, we have committed to follow preservation principles. These legal restrictions can be viewed as one agenda item that binds us

(Cont’d on page 4)



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Holiday Potluck *(Continued from page 3)*

together, in ensuring that the integrity of the district is maintained and enriched. This vigilance, this 'caring' attitude toward our special neighborhood and our neighbors requires real work and real volunteerism. In this regard, I would be honored to serve on the Heritage Hill Association Board.

Karen McCarthy-Fuller

203 Morris Ave SE, Apt. 1

I was a child of the 60's and 70's, growing up on College Avenue just outside of Heritage Hill. I lived in an old home, played kickball in the lesser trafficked side streets near my house, and walked to Highland Park to swim. This childhood

instilled in me a love of urban living as well as a love and appreciation for the historical homes, parks, and sense of community in our beautiful city. I was sad to see the mass move to suburbia that took with it all of the charm of close neighbors, shops, parks, and friends.

As my life has progressed and changed, Heritage Hill ultimately has become my home. I immediately became interested in the projects and events that were directly affecting my neighborhood, and in helping Heritage Hill to maintain the integrity of the properties that have been here for a century or more. I have volunteered for the Tour of Homes and have been

in contact with the Association about various items of interest.

Over the years, I've had the great privilege of watching our small town of Grand Rapids grow into a culturally rich, diverse mid-sized city while still retaining its small town feel. I've watched families gradually begin moving back into the city, and I love the sound of children once again playing outside in my neighborhood.

Today's Heritage Hill is made up of a changing demographic, as a result of more people choosing to live and work downtown. We are seeing a greater mix of professionals in rental properties living alongside families who have bought homes in Heritage Hill. This brings a unique vibe to our community. My goal is to help give a voice to renters and property owners alike so that we can look ahead while continuing to build a stronger community together.

Charles Roelofs

614 Sheldon SE

I just completed my first term on the Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, and am seeking re-election for a second term. I moved back to Heritage Hill in 2009, but my family has lived in the neighborhood for almost 3 generations.

I am Director of Development at the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, an international educational and public policy organization, headquartered just outside of Heritage Hill. I hope my non-profit experience has been a benefit to how our neighborhood association operates.

I currently live just outside of Heritage Hill with my wife, Chelsea, and our three young children, Steven, Olivia, and Hal. Like most in the neighborhood, we love older homes and want to ensure their preservation for future generations to enjoy.

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Please Think of the Heritage Hill Association In Your Year-End Thanks

If you have yet to submit your 2016 Pledge to the Heritage Hill Association, please think of us! We will put your money to good work right back into your neighborhood! We need your support more than ever.

Thank You!



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Continuing thanks to our recent Association contributors:



Lisa Baars
 Wesley Beck
 Larry and Nancy Beckwith
 Margaret and Robin Bowles
 Patricia Brewer
 John Buckley
 Rick Bylsma
 Bylsma Painting

Mike Cary and
 Marge Loughrin
 Isabella Cata
 Tom Clinton
 Fred and Judy Clowney
 Bob and Julie Connors
 Ann and Bob Cooper
 John and Sylvia Cooper

Nancy Coulter
 Kay Courtney
 Evan and Janna Dawdy
 Dennis Delano and Merritt Taylor
 Kate and Dan Diedrich
 Glenn and Lannie Eisenbrandt
 Themis and Linda Fotieo
 Fountain Hill Center for Counseling and
 Consultation
 Patricia Gardner / Kim DeStigter
 Karen Garibaldi
 Clarice Geels
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 Chuck Goldsmith and in Memory
 of Kevin Machiela
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Don Dekker of the Meyer-May House Wins 2016 WAVE Award for Attractions in Kent County

The WAVE Awards (*Way Above Visitor Expectations*) recognize excellence in hospitality in Grand Rapids and Kent County. Every day, service providers create a positive experience for guests and residents, and it is the goal of the WAVE Awards that the hard work and dedication of these individuals is truly noticed.

Others nominated in this category were from the Van Andel Arena, GR Art Museum, UICA, Downtown Market and the Deltaplex. All the other nominations are creating outstanding visitor experiences for their venues, but the nomination from the Meyer May House for Don Dekker outshined the others. Congratulations Don!

(excerpted from Don Dekker's nomination essay)

"Just as Frank Lloyd Wright paid attention to every detail in the design of the Meyer May House, Don pays the same attention to keeping the house and grounds in top condition and enhancing every aspect of the visitor experience. This ranges from the state of the gardens to the condition of the windows to the authentic menu we serve to corporate guests. Don also works tirelessly to keep the team of nearly 80 docents engaged and well informed.

When Don was retiring from Steelcase after 37 years in sales and corporate hospitality, he asked to continue on in his role at the Meyer May House. He is extremely thoughtful about what needs to be done to keep the Meyer May House in pristine



condition and a true Heritage Hill gem that Steelcase holds dear for the community as well as for corporate visitors from around the world. Don is well respected by his peers and highly regarded by all as the guy that always has a good story to share.

Don makes visitors his priority and treats each tour as if it's the first time he has told the story...a rare quality indeed! As a frequently-requested guide, Don demonstrates his passion for the house and the story of its restoration and totally exceeds

visitors' expectations.

Don is clearly a very knowledgeable person who has lived in Grand Rapids his entire life and has many connections throughout the area. He is a wealth of knowledge about Frank Lloyd Wright and the Meyer May House and has been interviewed several times on both. He is an avid learner and continuously connects with others in the community about local events.

I consistently receive wonderful feedback on Don and his team all the time. The Meyer May House is one of the most popular stops on the annual Heritage Hill Home Tour, and dinner at the Meyer May House is often cited as one of the highlights of a Grand Rapids visit by our corporate guests. If Don says he is going to do something; it gets done...plain and simple. He keeps his commitments always and with a smile!"

CONGRATULATIONS, DON!



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Odd/Even Parking

A sure sign of the coming winter began Sunday, Nov. 1, as street parking restrictions once again are being enforced in Grand Rapids. Odd-Even and Same Side parking restrictions took effect from 12:01

a.m. on Nov. 1 of each year until 11:59 p.m. on April 1 of the following year. Odd-Even parking restrictions mean that, on each even-numbered day, starting at 1 a.m. and until 6 p.m., parking is prohibited on the odd numbered side of the street.

On each odd numbered day, starting at 1 a.m. and until 6 p.m., parking is prohibited on the even numbered side of the street. From 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., the next day parking is PERMITTED on both sides of the street unless signs restrict parking.

Same Side parking restrictions require that residents only park on a designated side of the street from Nov. 1 to April 1. On some of the narrowest of streets, parking may not be allowed at all. This practice allows for removal of debris and snowplowing and helps to keep one lane of traffic open and available for emergency and public service vehicles.

Parking restrictions begin in November annually to allow Department of Public Services street sweepers to access curbs and gutters of neighborhood streets to clear roadways of leaves and debris that naturally fall to the ground (please note that it is unlawful to purposely rake your leaves into the street). Street sweeping work is critical in November so that curbs, gutters and catch basins are cleared and ready for the snow and ice that can accumulate later in the month. Once snow has fallen, the restrictions allow the City snowplows to easily navigate neighborhood streets to effectively clear snow over the course of a couple of days.

The Grand Rapids Police Department will begin enforcement of winter parking regulations whether there is snow on the ground or not. Each parking violation is subject to a \$20 fine. To avoid enforcement action, please comply with the signs posted on the street where you are parking.

For updated information about streets affected by Winter Parking restrictions, please visit: www.grcity.us, under the Traffic Safety Department tab. If you have any questions, please call 311 or dial (616) 456-3000.

Sidewalk Snow

City ordinance requires that property owners completely clear all ice and snow, down to the concrete, from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snowfall. When the City receives a complaint about a sidewalk that has not been cleared, the property owner is mailed a written notice of the violation. This warning is generally successful in achieving compliance, as 86 percent of property owners who receive the notice do clear sidewalks during this grace period. However, if the sidewalk is not cleared within 48 hours following the notice, the City will hire a contractor to complete the



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Please let me know if you are in need of extra help shoveling. Call Tansy at: 459-8950 or email at heritage@heritagehillweb.org

Trash and Recycle Bins

We have received a few complaints about both Trash and Recycle bins being left out on curbs or in the front of the house. Per City code, these should be returned to either the side or back of your home or in a garage or shed. Please do not leave the bins on the street after they have been collected.

Package Safety

With the Holidays fast approaching and more and more shopping being done online, we must be mindful of how we receive our shipments. It is smart to use extra precaution to ensure your package arrives to you.

- Send the package to the residence of a trusted friend or relative who you know will be home. Be sure that the friend is ready and waiting to retrieve the package when the doorbell rings.
- Request that your package is marked "signature required." This requires the delivery person to stand by and wait until you're available to retrieve the package. You could also put a note on your door, requesting the deliverer go to your next-door neighbor for the signature.
- FedEx packages can be sent to the nearest FedEx office. They will hold them for up to five days. You can also schedule a delivery time with them.
- Leave special instructions on where to deliver the package. A good place is on the side or back of the house, so that the package is out of sight from the road and sidewalk. Ask the delivery person to take and discard the note with him/her or leave it with the package. (I have my packages placed between my fence and recycling bin.)
- Use a company that provides a tracking service and check online to see when your package is scheduled to arrive.
- Have the items shipped to the nearest store for "in-store pick up."
- If you have an understanding boss, have your packages delivered to you at work.
- Small cameras are also a deterrent.

(Continued on page 10)



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Neighborhood Popcorn

(Continued from page 9)

All Dogs Must Be Leashed

We had a horrible attack happen in our neighborhood where a leashed dog was severely injured by a dog that was not on a leash. The owner also suffered bites to the hands trying to save their little dog. I have had many neighbors reach out to me to tell me they have been running into unleashed dogs while walking. It is a city law that dogs must be leashed. Sec. 9.209. - Running at Large Prohibited; Leash or Lead Required; Clean-Up Required.

(1) A person who owns or has custody or control of a dog shall prevent the dog from running at large. A person who owns or has custody or control of a dog shall, at any time the dog is off that person's property, restrain the dog with a lead or leash no greater than six (6) feet in length.

(2) A person who owns or has custody or control of an animal shall prevent the animal from defecating on any public or private property other than his or her own or shall immediately collect and properly dispose of all fecal matter deposited by the animal while it is off his or her property.

(Ord. No. 2003-06, § 1, 1-28-03)



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Update on Development Projects in Heritage Hill

Several projects were reported in this newsletter earlier this year. We thought neighbors would like an update on where they stand.

Oakwood Manor, 547 Cherry St. SE: This application for a retail development (restaurant or other commercial) on the garden level of this apartment building was submitted to the city by the Oakwood Manor owners earlier this year. This is on-hold as the owners seek a commitment from a restaurant. The application was tabled in May by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals until the applicant can come back with a specific proposal to be reviewed. With a defined use, neighbors' and the Zoning Appeals Board's concerns can be addressed.

50 College Ave. SE (former medical and Social Security building): Orion Construction has worked with neighbors since buying this site for residential redevelopment in July. Candid discussions have taken place with Orion representatives through a neighborhood meeting in August and with 2 meetings with a smaller representative group of neighbors this fall. Numerous changes have been proposed since the initial conceptual drawings were proposed. Orion is reworking the design after consulting with the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

During November, the smaller group of neighbors will meet with Orion to discuss the redesigned building and site before meeting with all neighbors. Orion has agreed to a Planned Redevelopment District. This means that very specific plans must be presented. The final design will need approval by both the Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Commission. Public hearings will be a part of both these approval processes. Orion's goal is to demolish the non-contributing structure during the early spring and start construction after that.

363 State St. SE: This project will replace the former Clark's Market with a taller building (4 & 3 stories respectively) of 71 micro-units. This project stirred controversy among neighbors because of the number of micro-units proposed, limited parking on the site and the increased traffic more apartments could generate.

State Street is zoned as Transitional City Center (TCC) per the City's Master Plan. The TCC serves as a "buffer" district between the dense City Center

Zone District and surrounding near-downtown neighborhoods. This district provides a transition in the intensity of the downtown development pattern for adjacent areas, however, it allows for more development than would ordinarily be allowed in general neighborhood commercial locations." (City Zoning

Ordinance 5.6.02.B) Because State Street is zoned (TCC), the project meets all the zoning criteria for this zoning designation. It is allowed in the zone and therefore no public hearings were needed before City Zoning or Planning committees.

(Continued on page 12)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Welcome to our historic congregation in the heart of Grand Rapids — a center of hospitality, worship, spiritual formation, mission, and outreach.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Sunday Worship:
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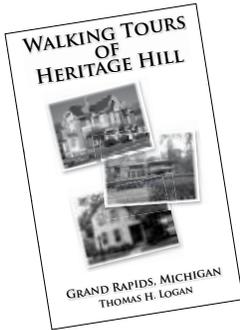
Update on Developments (Continued from pg. 11)

Neighbors did have the opportunity to voice their opinions before the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). HPC's responsibilities are to evaluate the merits of the proposed development using the federal Department of Interior guidelines on historic preservation. HPC is not able to consider the use of

the property such as density, parking or traffic in approving the project. Its decision making is limited to design, setback and siting of the development on the parcel. The position of the Heritage Hill Association to HPC was in support of the demolition of the former Clark's building that was viewed as a non-

contributing building, HHA deferred to the expertise of HPC in its review of the proposed building and acknowledged the parking, traffic and density concerns of neighbors. Also, the project is within the area covered by the *State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan* and is consistent with this plan (developed by neighbors and adopted by the City.) The development is expected to begin demolition and construction in the spring.

430 Madison SE: The sale listing of this mansion, Glenn Reed's old home, and the 3 adjoining lots bears watching. The sale price has been lowered to \$1.2 million. There are three empty lots to the north of the mansion on Madison up to the corner of Wealthy Street. Nearby neighbors are concerned what might be developed but the lots and the location could make it unsuitable for various developments. The berm on Madison and Wealthy must remain so the footprint of any development is rather small. The properties are zoned LDR (low density residential). Any proposal that is not allowed in that fairly restrictive zone would need public hearings and approvals by the City's Planning citizen's bodies. HHA and our neighbors will keep an eye on this sale.



WALKING TOURS OF HERITAGE HILL

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

BY

THOMAS H. LOGAN

- Author Tom Logan has curated 5 Walking Tours in this informative and insightful guide book.
- Visit the first and largest of the historic districts in Grand Rapids, Michigan, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.
- Learn intriguing facts about early owners and their contributions to community life, architectural styles, home-based occupations, and changes over time.
- Maps and guides accompany the photos and narratives of over 100 structures highlighted in this handy guide.

Informational Meeting on Proposed Changes in the City's Zoning Ordinance:

The City's planning staff will be holding an informational meeting on proposed changes and clarifications in the City's zoning ordinance for the community on **Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 6:30 pm** at the City's Development Center, 2nd floor (1120 Monroe NW, 49503). Residents of Heritage Hill are invited to attend this meeting.

This meeting will provide an in-depth review of the proposed changes and cover the Supreme Court case for changes to the sign ordinance, GR Forward recommendations, proposed amendments, and other miscellaneous changes. A red-lined copy of the Zoning Ordinance will be made available. Another public hearing will likely be held by the City Commission in January/February. This timeline provides for several months of discussion.

Per City Staff, "the changes that are being proposed in the Ordinance are largely organizational and we (City staff) are still working through the Downtown amendments with the GR Forward's work group."

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Board Notes

Discussion at the September, 2016 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Tobacco Free Living – Pilot – Pleasant Park: Cassandra Kobler and Jill Meyer from the Kent County Health Department (working in conjunction with Cherry Health) presented a potential pilot project concerning tobacco free living at Pleasant Park as part of a larger health initiative funded by a Community Transformation Grant and a REACH Grant. If Heritage Hill and South Hill neighborhoods agree to participate, there would be clean-ups, educational signage (as well as a possible event) at the park and the park would become a tobacco-free zone that would be self-policed. Jan E. stated that she would send out an ask to the south end neighbors as well as the South Hill neighborhood via E-Alert.

Zoo / Public Museum Millage: Dale Robertson, Director of the Public Museum, provided an overview of the .44 proposed millage that would benefit both the Public Museum and the Zoo and would mean an annual increase of \$37-\$40 per homeowner. Mr. Robertson highlighted that the museum is the oldest in the nation, the zoo one of the oldest in the nation and that both entities receive very little public monies. The millage would protect all exhibits at both institutions and would allow the museum to undertake many deferred maintenance projects, including maintenance of the Voigt House, the Calkins Law Office and the Archives building (all in Heritage Hill). A dedicated source of funding would secure that these institutions would continue to be a valuable part of Kent County's history and culture.

HHA Support of the Zoo / Public Millage: The board voted unanimously not to endorse the millage but to include an article in the Herald for information purposes as well as sending the information in an E-Alert closer to the election date.

Increase of Home Tour Ticket Prices: The board did not approve the recommendation of the Home Tour Steering Committee but instead made the motion to raise ticket prices to \$20 Advance and \$25 Day Of sales. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mary R. reported that as of the end of the end of August, 2016 that things look pretty good but that we have to be vigilant about the pledge drive to meet all goals and to make up for the shortcomings of no garden tour and

the decreased potential of Texas Hold 'Em this year. Many options were discussed for the pledge drive including the idea for members to hand deliver pledge letters to 20-50 of their direct neighbors, education of new members, E-asks and the importance of community outreach.

Staff Reports: Tansy H. commented on the Special Events training she attended at the city and that we now qualify for DGRI funds for events that would be held on the lower section of State Street. Tansy also commented that she now has learned all of the required steps to take if the association wanted to have BYOB in our parks, say for National Night Out / Picnic.

Tansy also relayed that the Annual Neighborhood Associations of Michigan conference had been quite fruitful and that she heard many comments about Grand Rapids and the appreciation for all of the community organizing efforts already in place.

Jan E. highlighted the upcoming process for the development at 50 College SE and that a full neighbors meeting will be scheduled after the September 26 meeting of the sub-group.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Fundraising:

Home Tour: Jan E. stressed the need for more houses and Tansy H. stated that she would like to work with Spoke Folks to

offer bike racks, encouraging alternate transit options.

Texas Hold 'Em: Maria Z. made a plea to sign up, sign up, sign up for the multiple events coming at the end of September and in October.

(Continued on page 14)

Remember Heritage Hill Property Owners:

There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and/or additions to Heritage Hill properties. Call the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 456-3451 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City's website.

www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us at the Planning Department section or at the Heritage Hill Association's www.heritagehillweb.org. This ordinance applies to all exterior changes, repairs, and/or additions to your home and property. Items such as doors and windows including storms, yard structures, driveway and sidewalk approaches, and fences do need HPC approvals.



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2nd Ward City Commissioner
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Paid for by The Committee to Elect Ruth Kelly 940 Monroe NW Apt. 219 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Board Notes (Continued from page 13)

Administrative:

Finance: The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in early November to build the 2017 budget and perform the annual fiscal audit.

Institutional Liaisons: Jan E. and Maria Z. met with President Enders of GRCC concerning the use of the DeVos campus for Home Tour and that the cost for maintenance and policing of this campus for the weekend will need to be evaluated.

Nominating: Discussions in the Executive Committee are well underway and an

article will run in the Herald seeking candidates.

Community Engagement:

Night- Out Picnic: Erin S. commented that the committee is excited about the possibility of in 2017 and that plans are underway for the Holiday Party / Annual Meeting.

Land Use:

Zoning/Preservation/Housing:

*341 College SE – The Request for an addition was denied and then tabled. The

owner will come back to HPC with a third design.

*221 John St. – The Planning Commission approved the Special Land Use request to use the home as a residential substance abuse treatment center.

430 Madison SE – No move has been made to purchase this 1.2 million dollar property with adjoining lots.

50 College SE: Some concern was expressed for the loss of townhouses at the street in the design of this development.

* General discussion was held concerning the difficulty in reaching a consensus in the neighborhood of late and the misperception of the limits of the association to affect decisions made by HPC and the Planning and City Commissions. Suggestion was made to create a graphic that would serve as an educational tool representing the structure of the association.

Discussion at the October, 2016 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

GRPS Museum School: Ted Lott of Lott3Metz presented an overview of the first phases for 54 Jefferson Ave. SE transformation into the GRPS Museum High School. Ted stated that over the previous 30 days he has been meeting with the planning advisory committee (Jan and Tansy are members) to determine how the school will be designed. The planning process is to continue through 2016; Ted assured the board that every attention will be paid to Historic Preservation guidelines. Community engagement for the exterior and traffic flow will begin in January; the school will be open in the fall of 2018.

Board Appointment: The board voted unanimously to accept the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint Mark Hutchison to fill the remaining term of Jackie Taylor (2018).

Increase of Home Tour Ticket

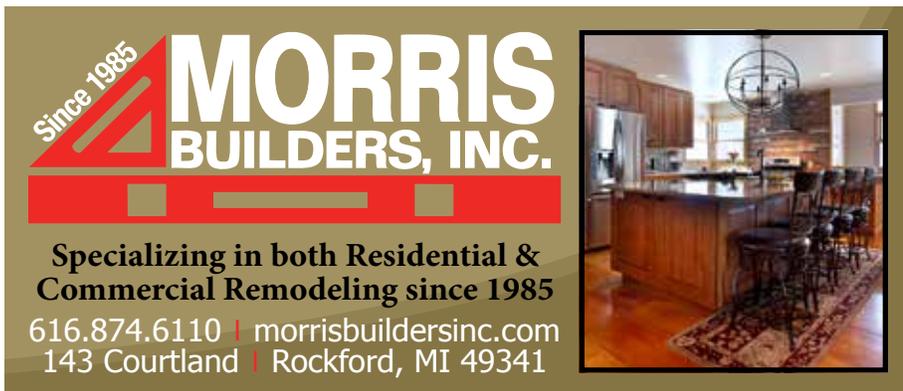
Prices: After discussion, the board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the HH Home Tour Steering Committee to reconsider the pricing for 2017 Home Tour tickets to be set at \$18/advance and \$25 day of Tour. The Steering Committee had serious concerns that the jump from \$15 to \$20 for Advance tickets was too big to take all in one year.

Treasurer’s Report: Mary R. reported that at ¾ of the year many areas are close to budget. We we still need to overcome

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the shortfalls of Garden Tour and Texas Hold 'Em that makes the pledge drive all the more important. An email donation ask will go out toward the end of the year; suggestion was made to add a link to PayPal recurring payments.

Staff Reports:

Both Jan E. and Tansy H. submitted written reports included in the board packet.

Tansy H. reported that crime continues to be low. There are parking issues; police are getting out a couple times a day to deal with these issues. Car break-ins happen and a reminder to remove all items and keep your car locked.

Tansy further reported that a neighbors at Prospect and Cherry and on Crescent Street are currently pursuing permit parking; the new traffic pattern at the roundabout at Wealthy and Jefferson continues to be a problem; the street lights were out again on Prospect NE (she and the neighbors continue to work to get the lights back on). She also participated in a walk-through at Pleasant Park with the Director of Parks and South Hill reps to assess current and future needs and that a similar walk-through is scheduled a Foster Park on Friday, 10/21/16. Brief discussion concerning a tree at Foster Park to honor Barb Lester.

This portion of the meeting was somewhat brief following the somewhat lengthy presentations, action items and many issues being covered in staff reports.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Fundraising:

Pledge: The letter is out; commercial and membership drive letters will go out soon.

Home Tour: Marie K. commented that four houses are committed and that Houses and House Captains are needed. The Steering Committee is meeting regularly.

Texas Hold 'Em: Jan E. commented that there will be two events in 2017, both at Eastbrook, in June and October.

Administrative:

Finance: The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in early November to review the 2017 budget and perform the annual fiscal audit.

After further review by Fair Housing, Heritage Hill will not be offering a Tenants Seeking option on the Apartment List; the issue is too complicated to be cost effective.

Institutional Liaisons: Jan and interested neighbors will be meeting soon with President Bill Manns and Micki Benz of

Mercy Health / Saint Mary's.

Nominating: Nominees are being sought, discussion included diversity on the board and seeking tenants. Deadline for board profiles is November 7th.

Community Engagement:

Annual Meeting / Holiday Party:

Members discussed adding fundraising aspects to this event, including the possibility of pledge envelopes on the tables, a drawing for door prizes and a donation jar at the bar.

Land Use:

Zoning/Preservation/Housing:

50 College SE: The project was before HPC for an advisory opinion during the HH board meeting.

HPC: Teresa D. asked about the "Grand Rapids - Heartside and Heritage Hill Update Report" and Maria Z. stated that she had spoken with Rhonda

Baker at HPC and that this was largely a housekeeping activity. The city was granted funding for updated reports for Heritage Hill and Heartside districts; properties that were not surveyed in 1969-73 will included property by property. Not all that is old is deemed historic, but district income producing properties are eligible for federal tax credits.

If you would like an item placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 4:00 p.m. of the second WEDNESDAY of the month. If you would like to address the Board regarding an agenda item, public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting. For non-agenda items, public comment is taken at the end of each meeting. Typically, Board meetings run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to receive monthly Board agendas via email, please email us your request (heritage@heritagehillweb.org).

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organizing efforts of the Heritage Hill
Association are in part funded by the City
of Grand Rapids' Community Development
Block Grant Programs.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Santa comes; you should too!

Please bring a dish to pass; HHA will supply the rest

GRCC DeVos Campus

Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall

435 East Fulton

*Heritage Hill Association office closed from
December 21, 2016 through January 2, 2017
Happy Holidays to all!!!*

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.

Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room

Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.

Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room

Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Saturday and Sunday, May 20th and 21st, 2017

2017 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

Classifieds

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