

**Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting
October, 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, Jim Payne

Absent: Todd Hoort, Charles Roelofs, Peter Albertini

Staff: Jan Earl, Tansy Harris, Maria Zache Starkey

Public: Stacey Workman, neighbor of Mary McCarthy-Fuller.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:03 p.m.
2. **Call for New Business:** None
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously as written.
4. **Correspondence Files:** Circulated among board members.
5. **Public Comment:** Stacey W. expressed interest in the association and was present to "check it out."

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6. **Treasurers Report:** Erin S. reported that the Exec. and Finance Committees met to refine the responsibilities of the two task force that were formed to address Individual and Corporate Fund Raising and Home Tour. Task force members will be recruited based on specific skill sets and have short-term commitments and clear objectives. Erin stated that it could take 3-5 years for implementation. Discussion included capacity, accountability, analyzing Home Tour data and generating a list of specific event best planning practices. Jan noted that nearly \$3,000 had been raised at Texas Hold 'Em and that Pledge Drive was off to a very good start – neighbors seem to be taking the message of the Pledge letter seriously. Suggestion was made to reach out to property owners who don't live in the neighborhood and also a suggestion for selling bricks as a part of the 50-year anniversary celebration in 2018.

7. **Staff Reports:** Written reports were supplied. Jan E. added to her report that there were seeds of effort for a possible area of permit parking in the neighborhood but nothing concrete to date. Construction at 50 College SE proceeds apace and there is very good communication from Orion Construction; only one complaint has been received at the office and the situation was resolved very quickly.

Tansy H. commented that crime overall has been low but that there was an accidental overdose of medication. The stolen car in the south end was recovered with some damage. Tansy also reported that she had been elected as Co-Chair for the Neighborhood Association Coalition (which has been newly reformed) and that she had reached her 3rd anniversary for working at the HHA office and for its residents.

8. Committee/Liaison Reports:

1. Community Engagement:

Mooney Pumpkin Patch (Griffin Properties): The details were discussed and Wayne N. offered to bring HHA brochures to the event.

Hospitality: Michele Giordano stated that the committee would start working on the Holiday Potluck; Tansy offered to contact Santa.

2. Administration:

Finance: Jim P. noted that the Finance Committee will meet in November to complete the annual audit and to approve the 2018 draft budget.

Nominating: Jim P. reported that there are 7 people running for the 5 positions.

Institutional Liaisons: Jan E. noted that there is a meeting scheduled with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and that it is time to meet with Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

3. Fundraising:

Home Tour: Kate D. reported that 4 houses have committed to Home Tour 2018 and that the committee was scheduled to meet the following Monday. Several members of the committee have feelers out for more homes.

Texas Hold 'Em: Almost \$3,000 was raised at the early October event.

Garden Tour: Kate informed members that the Garden Tour will always be the third Saturday of June for consistency (akin to Home Tour).

4. Land Use:

Zoning and Preservation: Wes B. reported that two issues were to be discussed in a Community Zoning Code Discussion with the city. The first, accessory dwelling units by right would allow an owner-occupied homeowner to create an additional (income) unit whether by dividing or adding on to a home or by creating a separate, small structure on the property without any public input. Discussion included the Affordable Housing Initiative and deed restrictions. The second issue is that the state wants to eliminate local regulations for Short Term Rentals (Air Bnbs). Jan E. noted that she had contacted state house reps David LaGrand and Winnie Brinks for their input and information. Both would oppose bill but both bills are languishing in committee TD. Jan also noted that ability of cities to regulate these operations are very important (maintaining owner occupancy, number of rooms etc.) and that this change would be one more example of cities being stripped of local control. In addition, many licenses for STR are available in Grand Rapids.

Wes B. also reported being very shocked by the size of the sign on the new Dollar General store on State Street; Jan commented that she had inquired about the sign and that it was confirmed that the Historic Preservation Commission had approved it.

523 Lyon: Jan. E. relayed that HHA worked to have the parking proposal pulled from the HPC agenda as the parking plan violated traffic safety and zoning code. Discussion included whether there is a viable development plan for this property considering the 21 bedrooms and zero parking.

State Street / Dollar General: Several board members reported being very happy with the new, clean, well-stocked store and were very pleasantly surprised that so far, no alcohol is available for sale. Suggestion was made to add a trash container and a cigarette butt recycling container. Members were encouraged to visit the store and to reiterate pleasure with the no alcohol policy.

9. New Business: None.

10. Old Business: Jan E. relayed that Tom E. was willing to create a new logo gratis and that it would likely have an overlay for the 50th anniversary. Members were encouraged to share logos that they like via email.

11. Public Comment: None.

12. Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey