



HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION

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Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting August 15, 2018 Minutes

In Attendance: Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne De Haan, Kate Diedrich, Chris Grygiel, Nathan Slauer, Wendy VerHage Falb, Sarah Green, Nikki Hoort, Wayne Norlin, Mark Hutchison

Absent: Todd Hoort, Erin Shupe, Michele Giordano and Mary McCarthy-Fuller

Staff: Jan Earl, Maria Zache Starkey and Tansy Harris

Public: Dennis and Mary Gifford

1. **Call to Order** – 7:00 p.m.
2. **Call for New Business** – None
3. **Minutes** – Minutes of the June, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Correspondence Files** - Circulated among board members.
5. **Public Comment:** The Giffords introduced themselves and stated that they might buy a house in Heritage Hill and were interested in more information about the neighborhood, highlighting the desirability of its beauty and walkability.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6. **Treasurers Report** – Jan commented that as of the end of July, there were no surprises or noteworthy line items.
7. **Staff Reports:** Written Reports were submitted.

Jan E. briefly discussed the ribbon cutting event for the new Museum School at 54 Jefferson SE, stating that the school makes a great entrance to State Street/Heritage Hill. It is wonderful to see the building come alive again and so fun to see it occupied by students. Jan also noted that the Great Hall will be open to opportunities, including for the neighborhood association. Jan provided further comment about the hiring process for Crime Prevention Organizer. Resumes will be taken through the end of August and a candidate who has had training with GRPD is preferred. Jan expressed appreciation that several individuals have applied and that she hopes to have hired someone by October 1st.

Tansy H. noted that she continues to work with GRPD and GRPS concerning a different man on the Innovation Central campus disrobing and drinking on the north end of the school property. Tansy also provided a detailed update concerning the Housing Now proposals and the process for further engagement, facilitated by WMCAT, who is holding 4 engagement meetings. Neighbors who have attended were angered when realizing that they were being presented with the same information as before in a different package. City staff has attended all the meetings and was crucial for answering residents' questions. Tansy stated frustration that in some ways, this recent process is akin to starting all over again and asked residents to talk to their City Commissioners and to go online and fill out the Housing Now survey. The Neighborhood Association Coalition will be staying on top of the issue. Wayne N. added that he will attend the Saturday Housing Now meeting and that he had concerns about the video that was created by WMCAT, not being the best educational tool and presenting the proposals as positive for Grand Rapids.
8. **Committee/Board information groups:**
 - **Community Engagement:** Picnic/National Night Out - Discussion included the success of the event, the high attendance and large number of kids, especially considering the rain. Tansy and Maria relayed the details of "Weinergate '18" and that the Health Department cracked down at the last minute about permitting for the hot dogs that neighbor Tony Davis kindly

cooked on his grill. County Commissioner Carol Hennessey stepped in and eased the requirements for neighborhood associations. Compliance with the Health Department concerning food is very stringent; HHA will have to decide whether or not to take this on next year or to only offer packaged food. Jan commented that that it is great that the new ping pong table at Pleasant Park was installed in time for the Picnic and that it was used during that event. Big thanks to all who volunteered, with special shout-outs to Todd Hoort, Lisa Baars and Suzanne De Haan.

- **Land Use:** Wayne N. and Wes B. provided updates on several issues. GRCC is building a 1 ½ story addition to the Applied Tech Center on Fountain St., in the playground area adjacent to the most westerly house in Heritage Hill on the north side of Fountain. The parking lot at Wealthy and Prospect that used to be Little Jack's Party Store is owned by ICCF and is currently being leased to Mary Free Bed for additional surface parking. A billboard contract on this property will delay any development of this parcel. The owners of 523 Lyon St. (formerly the Jellema House) will be meeting with the Zoning Committee on August 21; an additional neighbors meeting will be held once an application is submitted to the city for any required variances. Sarah G. announced that The Rapid route 19 and the DASH will be free with the DASH having expanded evening and weekend hours starting August 27. The Rapid is also looking to hire more drivers.

- **Administration:** No new report.

- **Fundraising and Finance:**

Home Tour: Suzanne D. and Kate D. are actively recruiting houses for 2019 and ask members to recruit their neighbors as well. A plea will be put on Facebook and in the next newsletter.

Garden Tour: Kate D. relayed that Ottawa Hills had contacted her with the suggestion of alternating years with Heritage Hill. Discussion included questioning the premise if the two events conflict with each other.

Texas Hold 'Em: The next events are back-to-back: Oct. 29-31 & Nov. 9-11. Suzanne D. strongly encouraged members to sign up for a shift.

9. New Business: None

10. Old Business: None

11. Public Comment: None

12. Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm.

Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey