



HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION

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## Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting September 19, 2018 Minutes

**In Attendance:** Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne De Haan, Kate Diedrich, Chris Grygiel, Sarah Green, Wayne Norlin, Mark Hutchison, Erin Shupe, Michele Giordano and Mary McCarthy-Fuller

**Absent:** Todd Hoort, Nathan Slauer, Wendy VerHage Falb and Nikki Hoort

**Staff:** Jan Earl, Maria Zache Starkey and Tansy Harris

**Public:** Emily Helder – Voters Not Politicians

1. **Call to Order** – 6:59 p.m.
2. **Call for New Business** – None
3. **Minutes** – Minutes of the August, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Correspondence Files** - Circulated among board members.
5. **Voters Not Politicians:** Emily Helder presented an overview of non-partisan Proposal 2 that will be on the November 6 ballot. Proposal 2 would end gerrymandering in Michigan, taking the process of drawing district lines in the state away from the politicians. A commission would be created of voters, with an even mix of those who identify as Republican, Democrat and Independent. Garfield Park and Easthills neighborhood associations have endorsed the proposal. Board members voted unanimously to also endorse the non-partisan proposal and will share the information via the Herald, website and Facebook page.
6. **Public Comment:** None.

### ACTION ITEMS:

7. **Crime Prevention Organizer Hire:** Jan E. provided an overview and background of candidate Amanda Cormier and needs of this position which will include many hours of training with the police department. Amanda will have 3 weeks working with Tansy before Tansy finishes her tenure at the end of October. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion from the Executive Committee to hire Amanda Cormier as the new Crime Prevention Organizer. Congratulations to Amanda.
8. **November Board Meeting:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the Executive Committee's motion to move the November board meeting to the 14<sup>th</sup> due to the third Wednesday of the month falling on the day before Thanksgiving.

### INFORMATION ITEMS:

9. **Treasurers Report** – The August Report was not yet available from the bookkeeper.
10. **Staff Reports:** *Written Reports were submitted.*

Jan E. reported that there has been a new issue with Google blocking a significant percentage of messages when sending E-Alerts. The office may have to upgrade to Google Work for a fee. Jan also provided updates for 2 land use issues at 523 Lyon St. NE and 141 Wealthy St. SE. The owners of 523 Lyon go before the Board of Zoning appeals on 9/20/18 and before the Planning Commission on 9/27/2018 to request several variances required for the use of 6 commercial uses and 6 residential units. The association has received approximately 20 letters of opposition, mostly strong opposition due to the parking issues.

141 Wealthy St. SE: Heritage Hill and several neighbors sent letters of opposition to the Planning Commission concerning Mary Free Bed's request to demolish the former McGraw tire for a surface parking lot. The Planning Commission unanimously denied demolition; perhaps HHA could use this issue to further a better working relationship with Mary Free Bed going forward. Jan also mentioned the ribbon cutting event at 50 College SE, the new Heritage Place, stating that Orion Construction has been great to work with, that Wayne N. did a great job speaking, the

building is beautiful and that the carriage houses are darling now, receiving that care and maintenance necessary. Possibly the building could be open for Home Tour 2019.

Tansy H. noted that the Hillmount Condominiums had a community meeting scheduled in the next week to address a few crime issues and that Community Officer Craig Glowney would attend. There has been a weird string of car B&Es in the neighborhood, sometimes with smashed windows and in a variety of parking situations. The Third Ward neighborhood associations will be meeting with new City Commissioner Nathaniel Moody to bring him up to speed concerning the Housing Now issues. All wards are disappointed with the WMCAT engagement process and the fact that this process does seem to be well suited to (complicated) zoning issues. Neighborhoods plan to meet with Planning Director Suzanne Schulz to dissect the proposals (to determine what could be approved now and what should be a part of the update of the Master Planning process) and also will set up a meeting with Jeremy LaRue of LINC to bring in the non-profit developer perspective.

**11. Committee/Board information groups:**

- **Community Engagement:**

- Hospitality – Holiday Potluck: Jan noted that there will be a Powerpoint presentation of the “50 Greatest Hits” and that past Presidents will be invited and recognized. The committee will meet at Linear for further planning. Discussion included the possibility of using the Great Hall of the Museum School for a future event.

- **Land Use:** Wes B. noted that a meeting is in the works with GRCC to discuss expansion plans (for the Applied Technology Center) with neighbors. Jan E. also mentioned that GRCC would like to set up a meeting about the Lettinga and Mabel Ingle houses on the DeVos campus. Wayne N. reported on the meeting that he had attended for the Housing Now with WMCAT and felt that it was too big of a task for WMCAT to handle though they did a good job of controlling the room and allowing for many questions. Wayne expressed disappointment that discussion did not include identifying which initiatives residents could accept.

- **Administration:** No new report.

- **Fundraising and Finance:**

- Home Tour: Suzanne D. and Kate D. are actively recruiting houses for 2019 but not much progress so far on finding houses for 2019

- Pledge Drive: Jan E. noted that the pledge letter will go out in October and a plea will be in the Sept./Oct. issue of the Herald.

- Texas Hold ‘Em: The next events are back-to-back: Oct. 29-31 & Nov. 9-11. Maria Z.S. noted that Halloween will be particularly difficult to staff.

**12. New Business:** None

**13. Old Business:** None

**14. Public Comment:** None

**15. Meeting Adjourned** at 8:22pm.

Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey