



HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION

126 COLLEGE AVE SE

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503

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Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting October 17, 2018 Minutes

In Attendance: Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne De Haan, Kate Diedrich, Sarah Green, Wayne Norlin, Erin Shupe, Wendy VerHage Falb and Nikki Hoort

Absent: Todd Hoort, Nathan Slauer, Mary McCarthy-Fuller, Chris Grygiel, Mark Hutchison and Michele Giordano

Staff: Jan Earl, Maria Zache Starkey and Tansy Harris

Public: Annamarie Buller, DGRI (Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.)

1. **Call to Order** – 7:02 p.m.
2. **Call for New Business** – Jan E. took the opportunity to welcome new Community Crime Organizer Amanda Cormier. Congratulations, Amanda!
3. **Minutes** – Minutes of the September, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Correspondence Files** - Circulated among board members.
5. **Downtown Neighbors Network** – Annamarie Buller, DGRI: Annamarie, Manager for (Downtown) Resident Experience, outlined the process of creating a Resident Network of downtown neighbors (that reflects the significant growth in number of downtown residents) and eventually a Steering Committee who worked over several months to create the bones for an Advisory to all of the Goal Alliances at DRGI which will “live within” DGRI for a minimum of two years, starting in January 2019. Annamarie noted that the boundaries of the new “DNN” are somewhat fluid and that if a resident feels that they love downtown, they do. Annamarie also stressed that a main goal of the DNN is to collaborate on many levels with all near neighborhood associations.
6. **Public Comment:** None.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. **Texas Hold ‘Em:** Erin S. asked members to sign up for a shift. If all 15 members plus 3 staff members sign up, virtually all shifts would be filled and that is an expectation for board members.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

9. **Treasurers Report** – Erin S. reported that the pledge letter and the Herald are producing results for the Pledge Drive and that there would also be a big push at the end of the year.
10. **Staff Reports:** *Written Reports were submitted.*

Jan E. welcomed Amanda Cormier again to the HHA staff and explained that she is in a 3-week training period with Tansy and then she will have training at the police department after her background check has been completed. After 10 months of meetings, 523 Lyon St. NE has zoning: a total of 5 residential units will be allowed and there is a total waiver of parking requirements. Parking does not seem to be a valid argument anymore according to the ZBA and Planning Commission. It is not clear whether the owners will redevelop the property or sell. Jan added to her report about Housing Now that the initiatives are currently being dissected to determine which measures will be moved forward and which will go back to Planning to be a part of the Master Planning process. WMCAT’s engagement results very much mirrored the results from the Neighborhood Association Coalition.

Tansy H. reported that the person responsible for the rash of burglaries in the neighborhood has been arrested. Several members thanked Tansy for her work in coordination with GRPD. Tansy also noted that there was a spike in crime during ArtPrize that seems to be related to the Community Officers being pulled out of neighborhoods to police ArtPrize. Tansy helped to

implement a speed sign on College SE between Logan and Pleasant which has become a bit of a drag strip. The block captain on Union SE and other neighbors have informed HHA that the roundabout in that area is not a speed deterrent. Possibly a stop sign or 4-way flasher could be installed at College and Logan; this is a tricky problem to solve. There have been no further reports of a flasher at the Central Campus; the current landscape designs near the school's western border and Lyon St. promote bad behavior.

11. Committee/Board information groups:

- **Community Engagement:**

- Hospitality – Holiday Potluck: The committee is scheduled to meet next week. Interest expressed in bringing back the food donations from restaurants.

- **Land Use:**

- Parks: Mooney Park: Kate D. reported that the recent ribbon cutting was a quick event as it was very cold but that the city did a nice job on the re-do of the concrete and lighting, etc. Neighbors are now using the park and doing things in it; the lights add a lot to the street. Foster Park: Jan E. reported that a re-do of this park is coming up in 2019 and that the time frame is still TBD. She will be meeting with the parks department soon.
- Housing: Kate D. reported that there is an illegal AirBnB being run out of a house on Prospect SE. The house is not owner-occupied and there is already a legal AirBnB next-door. One steady tenant seems to be there. The neighbors have been calling and feel that it is not a good situation. Tansy H. explained that the city has to set up a sting to try and rent from the owner; enforcement actually comes from the City Clerk's office as that is where the permitting is generated.

- **Administration:**

- Institutional Liaisons: Wes. B. is still trying to coordinate a meeting with near neighbors and Wayne N. concerning the planned addition to GRCC.

- **Fundraising and Finance:**

Home Tour: Kate D. reported that 4 homes have committed for the 2019 tour and that one is from the 1969 tour which creates a full circle in celebration of Home Tour's 50th anniversary. Heritage Place and Fountain Street church are both excited to be on Tour; the latter is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Pledge Drive: The residential letter is out; membership and commercial are soon to follow.

12. New Business: Wendy F. remarked that Kameel's new Middle Eastern restaurant on Lyon St. NE is open, the food is wonderful and they have many vegetarian options. Lisa B. mentioned that the new restaurant "The Common" at the Oakwood is opening soon and will serve comfort food.

13. Old Business: None

14. Public Comment: None

15. Meeting Adjourned at 8:19pm.

Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey