



HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION
126 COLLEGE AVE SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503
(616) 459-8950 FAX (616) 459-2409

Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting June 19, 2019 Minutes

In Attendance: Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne DeHaan, Chris Grygiel, Wendy VerHage Falb, Sarah Green, Nikki Hoort, Erin Shupe, James Scozzari, Wayne Norlin, Kate Diedrich, Nathan Slauer, John Walendowski

Absent: Michele Giordano and Heather Hall

Staff: Jan Earl, Amanda Cormier and Maria Zache Starkey

Public: neighbors Michael and Dorothy Dorney, 2 MSW students from GVSU, Milinda Ysasi, 2nd Ward Candidate

1. **Call to Order** – 7:04 p.m.
2. **Ice-Breaker:** What do you do for work?
3. **Call for New Business** – Jan requested to add an Action Item to approve the canceling of the July board meeting.
4. **Minutes** – Minutes of the April, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.
5. **Correspondence Files** - Circulated among board members.
6. **Public Comment:** City Commission Candidates for the 2nd Ward Wendy VerHage Falb and Milinda Ysasi both presented their history, platforms and vision for the city.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. **HHA Personnel: Succession Plan** – The board voted to approve the fluid plan recommended from the Executive Committee for Amanda Cormier to move into the position of Executive Director, for Jan Earl to stay on as a consultant on a limited basis for up to one year and hiring a new Crime Prevention Organizer staff member to start in October, 2019. Board approved unanimously.
8. **Cancel July Board meeting:** The Executive Committee moved to cancel the July Board meeting due to summer vacations. Board approved unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

9. **Treasurers Report** – Erin S. reported that as of the end of April, the budget was on track. The May report was not yet available but Home Tour was very successful. Advance Sales and Friends and Sponsors were down a little but Day Of ticket sales were up considerably compared to last year.

10. **Staff Reports:** *Written reports were submitted.* Discussion of Amanda C.'s report included reported incidents of a person on porches trying doorknobs and also of knocking on doors and panhandling and whether or not these incidents related to the same person.

Jan E. added to her report that she and neighbors had met with the new Mercy Health President as well as with Mary Free Bed and had discussed the Master Plan of Heritage Hill, the State Street Plan and provided an overview of the neighborhood for Dr. Kim (Mercy Health's new President). Chris G. added that Pure Management at Heritage Place, 50 College Se, is offering incentives for Mercy Health employees to live there. Members also discussed the land parcels at Prospect, Lafayette and Wealthy that are owned by ICCF. Development will not be possible until the 20-yr.

lease expires for the large billboard on this property; there are approximately 7 more years on this lease.

11. Committee/Board information groups:

• **Community Engagement:**

Hospitality: Chris G. stated that plans were filling out for National Night Out and reported Sun Rental folks have closed the business. The committee will likely not rent a bounce house this year but perhaps will offer lawn games in addition to the kids' activities offered by Cornerstone Church. The volunteer sign-up sheet for the event was circulated.

• **Land Use:**

Housing, Zoning and Preservation: Wayne N. notified members that Lyon St. Café (part of the Martha's Vineyard complex) is requesting a letter of support for their application to the Planning Commission to add outdoor seating and alcohol sales. Though this address is technically in the Midtown neighborhood, the Zoning Committee will create a draft letter of support (that would include deference to Midtown) for the board to approve.

Jan. E. reported that there are major speeding issues (including running over the traffic circle at College and Pleasant) on College SE from Wealthy to Franklin Streets. Jan and neighbors are working with the city in hopes of instituting a 2-way street if possible and supported by neighbors.

Parks: Jan E. reported that improvements to Foster and Pleasant Parks will likely be pushed out another year as the bidding process with contractors is running slower than in the past. Members questioned how the city would get bids without final plans in place for these two parks.

• **Fundraising and Finance:**

Home Tour: Suzanne D. gave a big Thank You! to everyone for their participation.

Jan E. stated that the tour should come in just over budget and that there were approximately 2,000 tour-goers. The Friends and Sponsors campaign raised \$17,000; John W. said that he intends to solicit 2-3 sponsors for 2020 each month, starting now. Jan gave a specific, big thank you to Steering Committee Chairs Suzanne DeHaan, Kate Diedrich and Don Rietema. There are discussion and various measures that are being considering to streamline the event for next year.

Garden Tour: Kate D. reported that it was a seeming miracle that there was no rain for this event! Although it had been a challenge to find gardens this wet, cold spring, in the end there were 12 and it was a lovely tour. Kate commented that the event made almost \$1,500 though Garden Tour should be thought of also as a fundraiser. Discussion included the possibility of the Garden Club taking over organization of the tour as Kate D. was the only committee member for this event this year.

12. New Business: Thanks were given to Amanda C. for the upcoming Dumpster Day on September 28th.

13. Old Business: None

14. Public Comment: None

15. Meeting Adjourned at 8: 25pm.

Submitted Respectfully by Maria Zache Starkey