

**Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting
October 21, 2020 Minutes**

Board members in attendance via Zoom: Wes Beck, Suzanne DeHaan, Amy DeMott, Kate Diedrich, Wendy VerHage Falb, Sarah Green, Jeff Martin, Wayne Norlin, Scott Opperman, James Scozzari and John Walendowski

Absent: Michele Giordano

Staff: Amanda Cormier, Barbara Draughon, Maria Zache Starkey

Other/Minutes Recorder: Tom Truesdale

Public: Emily Kosnik

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

1. Public Comment – One present: Emily Kosnik, 535 East Fulton, no comments.
2. Motion to accept September 2020 Minutes as recorded – Minutes were approved.
3. Motion to give Barbara Draughon signature authority to execute and deliver to the city of GR contractual agreements and any other documents as may be required by city – Approved.
4. Motion and discussion to move 2021 Home Tour from Spring to Fall. The Home Tour committee met and recommends that since it appears ArtPrize is disengaging from its annual event, and in lieu of current coronavirus situation, a return to Fall dates (first full weekend of October) might be in order. Also, this further separation in dates would allow for a more “elaborate” garden tour in late Spring. Also looking at the possibility of better sponsor results by spacing events – possibly presenting a package sponsorship opportunity for both events. Some members felt a switch to Fall may be accepted by many tour goers right away. Studies have shown a sometimes 3-year period following a date change before that new date is fully accepted. Question was asked if Tour is not held at all in 2021, is that economically feasible? Zero revenue is currently allocated in the fiscal year 2021 for Home Tour. Any money raised for Home Tour would be a plus.

Motion was made to cancel Spring Home Tour and move forward with planning a Fall Home Tour. Approved.

Information Items:

5. Treasurers Report – Discussed three budget proposals from the financial committee for the upcoming fiscal year. Only the 3rd proposal was a balanced budget with approximately \$34,500 in cuts and revenue changes in order to balance. More emphasis was placed on pledges and donations to meet needs. A 100% board member donation participation was emphasized. It was noted that a vote to accept a budget was not necessary at this meeting. After a status report from the ensuing month, a vote could be held in November.

7. Staff Reports:

No questions were posed regarding staff notes. A Ward 2 commissioners meeting was talked about. Met with other neighborhoods in the Ward to prepare for upcoming

election: disinformation, transportation, violence, among the subjects discussed.

8. Committee/Liaison Reports:

Land Use Issues:

Excavation work at apartment project on Madison and Cherry to start early November and continue throughout the month. A lane closure on Cherry may occur. The bus stop may be moved.

The Cornerstone Church project is complete and the new space is in use by congregation.

Some of the updates to Pleasant Park may be delayed until Spring.

Concepts for park at Paris and Logan to be released soon.

Craig Nobbelin is in the loop as far as Master Plan is involved.

Administration:

There are three solid candidates as of now for board membership.

A plan was put forth regarding long-range planning, master plan and board vision: Rather than a retreat, use every other board meeting in 2021 to plan the future direction of the neighborhood. Maybe use the next two meetings of 2020 for level setting and determine mission, followed by 6 meetings in 2021 to identify goals and develop methods to achieve those goals. These goals could be “the meat” of the neighborhood master plan. Some on board feel the neighborhood’s past work and preservation efforts are not the compelling story they once were for many newer and younger residents. Other concerns related to the changing times and changing audience must be addressed. Measurable goals are needed to show the neighborhood the relevance of the association.

A question arose as to office/board communications and cohesiveness if office business is only discussed every other month. Urgent issues are usually handled via e-mail anyway and the monthly meeting of executive committee would maintain the additional cohesiveness necessary. Some agreed the cancelling of the Spring Home Tour would provide a good time to start this planning process and wonder if a neighborhood survey might be the best way to start.

Fundraising:

Home owners of 2020 Home Tour are still a go for 2021.

A tentative date for a “beefed-up” garden tour is set for the second Saturday of June.

Community Engagement:

The Caroline Cook Walking Home Tour on October 6 and the presale of the Fulton Street Cemetery tour on October 28 were very successful. After her fee, the Heritage Hill Association made \$1295 from the events. Still formulating/planning a Zoom/virtual annual meeting event. More information to come.

9. New Business: none.

10. Unfinished Business:

Crime Data is now available for neighborhood dating back to 2016.

Community police officer for HH is still the same. No word yet on the GRPD strategic plan with regards to community officers. The “artistic” painting of city-owned utility boxes to deter tagging was discussed.

11. Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm.

Submitted by Tom Truesdale