

Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting
June 16, 2021 Minutes

In Attendance via Zoom: Richard App, Wes Beck, Suzanne De Haan, Amy DeMott, Kate Diedrich, Wendy VerHage Falb, Jeffrey Fawcett, Carolyn Ferrari, Sarah Green, Laura Joyce, James Scozzari and John Walendowski

Absent: Jeff Martin, Wayne Norlin, Scott Opperman

Staff: Amanda Cormier, Barbara Draughon

Other/Minutes Recorder: Tom Truesdale

Public: None

1. Call to Order: 7:05 pm
2. Motion to accept May 2021 Minutes: minutes approved.
3. Public Comment – none
4. Treasurers Report:
Association currently in midst of assessment by financial committee and staff regarding bookkeeping and audit procedures. Question to board: monthly report they are viewing is one of the products of change. Request for feedback – most seemed to like the cash flow/basis feel of revamped form. Everything in report is on target. Garden Tour may put association ahead in revenue for the year.
June is last month of annual Community Development Block Grant monies from city. New CDBG allocations begin July 1. Some board members ask if we should align Heritage Hill Association fiscal year with city's fiscal year and allocation of CDBG. No discussion, no answers. Will discuss at a future board meeting when ramifications of such a change is available.
5. Staff Reports:
No questions regarding Barbara's report.
Amanda has been exploring ways to address speeding and littering problems in the neighborhood. Since GRPD really doesn't have staff to enforce on regular basis, Amanda is looking at signage ("Drive Like Your Children Live Here," etc.). Seeking thought from the board on creating a Public Safety Committee (joining Land Use Committee, Fundraising Committee, etc.) under the board's purview. Per board request, she will check if other neighborhood associations have such a group and how they institute/monitor recommendations. Amanda feels neighborhood has opportunity to move with city as Grand Rapids addresses mobility issues (i.e., pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, speed enforcement, etc.). Rich App volunteered to work on ideas with Amanda.
6. Committee Reports:
Land Use: In Wayne's absence, Barbara reported on front lawn meeting with WOOD-TV regarding their perimeter fencing plan. WOOD-TV is proposing a gated fence deterring unauthorized entry to their (and Heritage Hill Association office) property. Brief discussion ensued about how keyed access impacts our work as a neighborhood association accessible to the public and the perception of being behind a locked gate. The board suggested to wait and see what the design plans are and then determine how it will affect entry to the office.

Administration: As it relates to WOOD-TV fencing proposal, decisions as to an office move – if necessary - will be discussed at a later date.

July's HHA board meeting will be the board's final long-term planning session. Plans as to location of this meeting are being explored and will be communicated prior to meeting.

Garden Tour: Kate reports everything going great. Reports of possibly 15 – 20 vendor/artisan booths at the park. Food truck(s) will use nearby resident driveways. Already over \$15,000 raised in sponsorship monies. Ticket sales have been good. Karen Coy has been handling multi promotional/PSA spots in support of the event. Neighborhood newcomer, Denise Cook, has been managing the Pleasant Park Marketplace portion of the event.

Community Engagement: National Night Out will take place on August 3.

7. New Business:

Rich App reveals his tardiness to tonight's meeting was due to his attending the signing of a new proclamation by Mayor Bliss. She announced this day as the celebration of "616 Day" (June 16 = 6/16) in Grand Rapids.

8. Old Business: None

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.

Submitted by Tom Truesdale