



## Heritage Hill Association

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2022

Board members in attendance: Richard App, Wes Beck, Suzanne De Haan, Wendy Falb, Carolyn Ferrari, Sarah Green, Abigail Larimer, Wayne Norlin, James Scozzari

Absent: Jeremy Czubko, Amy DeMott, Jeffrey Fawcett, Laura Joyce

Staff in attendance: Barbara Draughon, Amanda Cormier, Maria Zache Starkey

Guests in attendance: Miria Rabideau, Redstone Properties; Adam Erber, The Rapid

1. Call to Order: 7:01 pm
2. April Minutes: Motion to approve (Suzanne), second (Wes), carried unanimously
3. Public Comment: None
4. Guest Q&A with Adam Erber with The Rapid ([aerber@ridetherapid.org](mailto:aerber@ridetherapid.org), 616-293-6429):
  - a. Working on 20-year transit master plan (Not just buses – “micro-transportation”)
  - b. Posted links in the chat for “Active Commute Week”
    - i. <https://www.wmrideshare.org/acwgr/>
    - ii. [https://wmsbf.org/blog/wmsbf\\_events/active-commute-week-2022/](https://wmsbf.org/blog/wmsbf_events/active-commute-week-2022/)
  - c. Adam – Are there three routes through HH?
  - d. Wendy – more culturally diverse ridership now (immigrants, refugees)
    - i. GRPS recommended cultural-diversity training for drivers
    - ii. Fall orientation for high schools
    - iii. Webinars, written curricula suggested for training for riders and drivers
  - e. Maria – how has pandemic affected the Rapid?
    - i. Ridership at 50% of pre-Covid levels
    - ii. Plastic shield for drivers
    - iii. Followed federal guidelines for face masks (now no longer required)
    - iv. RapidConnect pilot program (extends service to in Kentwood and Walker) has been successful

- f. Wayne – what does the term “micro-transportation” mean; is there coordination between the Rapid and MobilGR (rental scooters and bicycles)?
  - i. Adam – currently no coordination but the Rapid does want to work with MobilGR
- g. Richard – Short loop routes serving tourists (hotel district to uptown, west side to the Zoo), smaller buses, marketing towards destigmatizing using public transit
  - i. Adam – this might be taken offline with planning department
- 5. Treasurer’s Report: Home Tour net revenue \$15,244 over goal, home Tour expenses lower than budgeted, so we’re well ahead for overall projected revenue
- 6. Committee Reports – Break-out groups to report to Scott via email. Highlights:
  - a. Executive
    - i. HHA Office location ad hoc committee
      - 1. Voigt House – owners are interested because they would like the exposure
    - ii. Board/Staff vacancies
      - 1. Courtney (February), Scott – We’re open to recommendations for temporary replacements until end of the year
      - 2. Amanda – giving six weeks’ notice is very helpful – to complete CDBG grant program, will be volunteering at 2023 Home Tour
      - 3. Wayne – Designate a permanent seat for a representative from Mercy Health with a meeting venue included?
        - a. Maria – The “Mercy Health seat” is our policy.
        - b. Wendy – start similar arrangement with GRCC?
    - iii. Community survey – CDBG funds will cover expenses, to be used to address staffing requirements to meet community priorities
  - b. Community Engagement
    - i. Public safety (Amanda)
      - 1. Stuyvesant – Richard, Carolyn, and Wendy – or staff – to work with Stuyvesant management to apply for HUD grant to fund on-site full-time social worker?
        - a. Man, who brings cookies is our POC – doesn’t think residents would be willing to engage
        - b. Carolyn
          - i. anonymous tip line, hashtags? (People may be afraid of retaliation from neighbors, etc.)
          - ii. is it safe to go door-to-door to encourage community engagement
        - c. Silent Observer
        - d. Maria – Did Stuyvesant residents attend potluck in Foster Park during past National Night(s) Out? Wendy – No. There has always been a disconnect between Stuyvesant and the neighborhood. There needs to be greater staff involvement to encourage

connection. "Cookie guy" noticed decline since new management company took over.

ii. Committee update

1. Garden Tour
2. Shakespeare in the Park – August 13
3. National Night Out – August 2
4. Maria – Happy Hour on first Wednesday at The Commons has been very successful

c. Fundraising

i. Home Tour

1. Maria – concerned that financial success will allow to gloss over difficulties in recruiting volunteers which has been a national trend over the past several years – personal one-on-one contact still the best method – up to 400 volunteers in past years; 125 this year – viability of this event is at risk
2. Theft at one of the houses – but hasn't had negative effect on the homeowners' willingness to host in the future
3. Barbara - reduce the number of houses after houses have committed if we cannot recruit enough volunteers? Suzanne – this could impact of willingness of current hosts to host in the future
4. Wayne – Eventually learned that house captain responsibility is to recruit volunteers – in past years homeowners would not be present but their presence this year saved the tour – require that homeowners be present
5. Carolyn – to suggest perks for hosts at planning meeting for next year
6. Miria – Have multi-family homes been part of past home tours? Wendy – Yes.
7. Wendy – expressed "huge gratitude" for Suzanne for all the hard work she does in organizing the home tour which is our signature event

d. Land Use & Historic Preservation (Wayne)

- i. First in-person meeting after two years on Tuesday, April 26 –Wes, Suzanne, Jeremy, Jay Fowler, and Barbara attended
- ii. Committee followed with a visit to the site at 300 Wealthy Street to review Indigo Group's proposal for a new mixed-use building at 1:00 pm. This is currently a vacant space. The developer owns the two adjacent properties and plans to move them along Prospect Ave. There was a meeting held with HPC on June 1. Moving structures is only allowed if demolition is the alternative per Rhonda Baker. Some neighbors are already opposed to moving those houses.
  1. Barbara – it's a good idea, but the developer's rationale that the overall project should be accepted "for the sake of progress" may not be sufficient
  2. Wendy – one of the adjacent houses has such a dramatic foundation that won't be maintained if the building is relocated

3. Richard – Ryan Schmidt worked for ICCF for 12 years and may be a good resource for this project (ICCF was interested in developing the same property at one time)
  - iii. Logie Park (northwest corner of College and Fountain) – Would the board like to pursue this? Wendy – working with GRPS in the short term may be a challenge with John Helmholdt leaving
7. Staff Reports: No items in addition to those included with the agenda
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: Suggestions for future on-site meetings?
10. Adjournment: 8:21 pm