



**HRA Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**03-03-10**

President Teresa Edgerton-Scott called the meeting to order. Board members, advisors and others present were: James Eakin, Barbara Ramsey, Tom Arceneaux, Kenney Koonce, Marsha Millican, Julie Payne Johnson, Tina Kendrick and Dan Marcalus. Absent were Liz Swaine, Kelly Gay, Cathy Williamson, James Moore and Advisor Sue Ball.

**Old Business:**

The minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting were approved as presented, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The board voted to move \$500 from the Christmas Tour Fund to the Beautification Fund as a way of sustaining that rainy day fund for beautification, since future NIP monies and the amount are often uncertain.

Teresa informed the board that she signed and returned HRA's NIP contract but had not received the contract signed by the mayor back.

**New Business:**

Dan Marcalus volunteered to attend the Master Plan session on March 4 on behalf of HRA. Master Plan implementation strategies and Caddo Parish Schools long-range vision are to be discussed.

Teresa Edgerton presented her executive report.

Update on new office space search: It was determined that \$225 a month rent at Buckner Square was too steep for HRA as Liz and Teresa have explored other office options. The realtor was going to see if Schumpert would come down on the rent, and/or continue to look for other properties. James Eakin suggested that HRA share space with HAP. Kenney said he would check with his board and get back with Teresa. No vote was taken since Liz, the person spearheading the office space search, was out-of-town.

Update on ShreveCentreCoalition—Teresa attended the 2-18-10 Executive Board meeting of the SCC. The board discussed the areas in SE Shreveport that are being force pooled and the boundaries. While the royalty amounts are going up (\$6500, 25% royalty, 3 year with 2 year option), many attending this meeting felt this amount of money does not offset the damage to the roads, the unanswered questions about water use, the dangers of drilling, plus other quality of life issues, e.g., noise. Thus, the SCC leadership expressed the opinion that urban drilling should be approached cautiously. Most gas companies are not rushing to drill in densely populated sections when they have much less populated property under lease that must be drilled soon. That said, a company did approach a woman on River Road wanting to do seismic testing and offered her \$25 to test on her property for one month.

Kenney made a motion, seconded by Tom and approved by the board that HRA donate \$100 to the Yvonne Lee Scholarship Fund at Shreveport Green in memory of the recently slain assistant director who headed up the Shreve Corps initiative for Shreveport Green and partnered with HRA on numerous projects.

Teresa indicated that tires scattered throughout Highland remain a problem, and James Eakin was going to see if they could be included in April's Great American Clean-Up.

James Moore scheduled a Property Standards committee meeting for March 18 to follow up on issues of concern. He asked that individuals report areas of concern to him and the city.

Tom Arceneaux gave his report on MPC hearing and status of zoning concerns. The MPC approved the Taco Bell's request for B-2 zoning for the property on Southern and Kings, with stipulations suggested by HRA. Teresa, Tom, Liz, Sue, Chris Johnson, Bob Marak, members of the Fairfield Historic Association and other Highland residents had met for 1 ½ hours on 2/22/10 and came to an agreement on most aspects of Taco Bell's zoning application. The buyers have to move quickly on this purchase and zoning request because of restrictions placed on them by the buyers.

The survey of group facilities in Highland is still in the planning and organization of existing data phase. Liz, Dan and Tom are to share the data they have and notify Teresa if they can't find what she previously collected.

Tom suggested that HRA consider moving their meeting date to the fourth Wednesday of the month so it would come before the MPC meetings. No further action was taken on this at this meeting.

James Eakin asked if HRA wants to schedule our spring neighborhood clean-up to coincide with the April 10 Great American Clean-Up, and the board decided to do so. James E. is going to find out if they will accept tires at the Fairgrounds that day. Great American Clean-Up flier was enclosed in the board packets. Teresa indicated we would try to get signs made to help publicize the effort, and Dan said he would see if ABS would help publicize it as well.

The membership committee reported that Teresa, Julie, Kelly and Tina met 2-15-10 and discussed need to get firm grasp on accurate and up-to-date list of paid members before we send out membership request letter. We were going to try to weed out those folks who have already paid. We agreed this first year as we seek to get system in place that we will err on side of extending memberships to people who paid in latter half of 2009. Teresa is giving Julie all membership folders. Julie and Kelly will work on reconciling lists with Barbara's list. It is hoped that the next newsletter will have labels on them that give renewal dates if we can get fairly accurate database. Julie and Tina have held additional meeting regarding membership ideas and tie-in to meetings.

Sue Ball sent word that she has started planning the refurbishing of the beautification sites for spring, ordered plants from Noel Methodist Ministries, made arrangements for her yard person to assist her in the manual labor and will begin soon on all the beds.

The Taste of Highland proposal encompassed Public Relations, Membership and Fundraising. A proposal was submitted by Tina and Julie for a fall event, entitled A Taste of Highland. It is envisioned as a culmination of membership efforts to thank our loyal members, as a way to introduce others to Highland and to emphasize the efforts of HRA on behalf of the neighborhood. Discussion centered around getting a better idea of the budget, polling the Robinson Place neighbors to gauge their support of such an endeavor on their street, engaging support of key restaurant vendors in Highland. It was suggested that a committee continue to explore this effort and flesh out details and report back to the board.

Kelly Gay, newsletter editor, indicated she plans to get a spring newsletter published as soon as HRA gets their signed NIP contract back, thus insuring funding.

The Neighborhood Improvement Award has been presented to a very appreciative Diane Mirvis, and Chairperson Marsha Millican Gill will give the sign to the owner of the Creswell Apartment building. Teresa will obtain photos of the homes, owners and their signs for the blog and newsletter. Marsha will get plaques made. HRA has already paid for these plaques from a former NIP grant.

Tina Kendrick gave a brief Programs Update and indicated the Randal T. Moore building has again been retained for the May general membership meeting, scheduled for 6:00—8:00 on May 18. Liz will contact the MPC to reschedule a speaker on zoning, Tina will arrange for heavy appetizers. Tom suggested we have music or something entertaining to engage the crowd and keep the speakers to a minimum.

It was decided not to hold a Garage Sale this spring. It is hoped that A Taste of Highland might develop into a fundraiser.

Dan provided a brief update on A Better Shreveport's multiple initiatives: continued clean-up of the bayou, continued work on the Greenway Project, with support from many groups and government entities, and a new effort to revitalize Texas Street.

Dan also indicated that he has met with artist and welder Eddy Hill who wants to erect a large metal H as a public art piece in Highland Park. Dan, who has an interest in seeking improvements and increasing use and safety of Highland Park for the neighborhood, has been talking to Eddy to ascertain what Eddy plans to do and what he is asking of the neighborhood association. Dan will have Eddy submit a proposal for HRA's consideration, as was requested by SPAR.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes compiled by Teresa Edgerton in absence of Cathy Williamson, Secretary.