



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
6-30-10

The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Edgerton, with the following board members present: Tom Arceneaux, Liz Swaine, Kelly Gay, Julie Payne, Marsha Millican Gill, Program Chair Tina Kendrick. Absent were Kenney Koonce, James Eakin, Cathy Williamson and Barbara Ramsey. There were no visitors present. The 5-26-10 minutes were approved with motion by Tina and seconded by Tom. The Treasurer's Report was approved with motion by Tom and seconded by Tina. Teresa said the request for reimbursement for the second NIP grant installment would be completed within the upcoming week, and HRA should receive the second check for \$2,166.66 after the report is submitted. Teresa stated that we may be able to hire more crews for landscaping; Tina said that the sites look good despite the heat.

Teresa gave the President's Report:

Office Space—HRA office contents still in storage, have heard nothing from Robin at Highland Center about availability of new space at Highland Center after this phase of renovations are completed. Teresa stated that she would follow up with Robin about this. HRA is still interested in any other space that might be available, and Liz reminded the board that space at Buckner Square is still available if HRA can assume the increase in rent.

A Taste of Highland—Tina and Teresa met June 9 and decided to move the date of TOH to early May 2011 to take advantage of beauty of Highland in spring and have more time to get event together. Tina has identified a core group of volunteers to work on the project, and she will host a meeting at her home next month to start the planning process and task force assignments.

HRA Strategic Plan: Nothing new to add since last month. Teresa will speak with Dan about the fee his friend might charge to facilitate a planning session and development of plan.

General Membership Meeting: We have the money for another meeting since we postponed Taste of Highland. It was decided to put together a candidate forum for the upcoming District B Council race. It was suggested HRA contact Noel Methodist Church about using their Fellowship Hall and schedule it for a Thursday in August after all candidates had announced. Teresa will follow up on this. Liz and Tom will work out a procedure for addressing issues of concern to Highland, and Liz will get a neutral person to moderate the event.

ShreveCentre Coalition: Nothing new to report

Other Activities by President:

- Wrote 9 personal notes to people who renewed 2010 memberships recently and received two responses (a thank you note and email) to thank you's.

- Tried to follow-up on each concern listed on renewal forms—drove by to view elder members’ concerns, then sent emails to appropriate persons to try to resolve them— e.g. drainage, tree trimming. Sent emails to Ernie Negreet and Mike Wood but didn’t get a response. Only person who responded was Kenney from SWEPCO!
 - One woman on Merrick wrote a letter about her continuing concerns with sex offenders at Lighthouse; the latest notification I received from Lighthouse was a Tier 2 offender, “Molestation of a Juvenile.” The board decided to find out who owns/manages this facility and schedule a meeting with them to voice our concerns.
 - Talked to and faxed information on preservation tax credits to woman who called and emailed office. A link to the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development and their Division of Historic Preservation with its tax credit information is on the HRA website. This link has multiple additional links to assist property owners interested in preservation.
 - Reported and got trash cleaned up in front of duplex near Lila’s, which presented unappetizing approach to the café.
 - Followed up on zoning question from member on duplexes in Highland Conservation District, spoke to realtor, board members then emailed her our answer to inquiry (refer to your email on issue.)
 - Spoke with Kelly about listing fixer-uppers on blog, in addition to move-in ready Highland dwellings, which she has done
 - Listed former half-way houses currently for sale on Facebook pages from blog.
 - HRA Advisor Dan Marcalis retired from the Air Force, and I attended his retirement ceremony. The officer handling the retirement mentioned that Dan had always found time to be actively involved in his community despite transfers and deployments in many locations. We appreciate Dan’s service to our nation and to our neighborhood.
 - Sent James Eakin a card from the board. I spoke with James on the phone last weekend, and he is steadily recovering from the fall from his roof when he suffered a broken back (L-2 compress fracture), broken pelvis, front and back, on one side and shattered heel. He fell from back porch roof onto concrete sidewalk behind his house. He cannot bear weight on his legs for about 4 months but expects to make full recovery.
 - Sent out inquiries to Highlanders on behalf of two people looking for nice rental properties in Highland.
- **Property Standards and Zoning—**
 - The board discussed the problem of property owners dumping the entire contents of a household in their common area rather than hauling it off or renting a dumpster. Mike Wood says the large items curbed weekly greatly diminish the life of a garbage truck, so city may be addressing large items left on the curb. There may be special monthly pick-up, which might exacerbate problems in Highland. Tom was going to investigate current ordinance and see how we might address this issue. Another issue of concern are the blue recycling cans—how can HRA address misuse of blue cans? Abuse of blue cans insures that full trashcans remain on the curb for weeks at a time. Teresa stated that there have been lots of complaints about trash/recycling issues. Liz agreed to help Teresa draft proposal to the city about people leaving trash out.
 - Tom Arceneaux attended a zoning hearing concerning 532 Jordan and provided an update. The property owner was given 30 days for the property to be repaired or demolished. Tom stated that administrative variances are being granted to allow buildings to be used as duplexes or multiplexes that do not have adequate parking for the number of tenants. Liz stated that administrative variances will

continue to be granted but that HRA can ask for notification when this happens so that we can appeal it.

- Liz stated that a house near the corner of College and Southern is being used as a half-way house and that the permit was applied for in the 1970s. Liz said that Allen Clark is following up on this.
- **Neighborhood Clean-up**—remains one of the most mentioned complaints about Highland on membership forms.
 - Ricky picked up two blocks of Gilbert because it looked so horrible. I know other board members do this, too.
 - Teresa asked for any ideas on getting other people to pick up trash in between scheduled clean-up events and to reduce littering in Highland.
 - James Eakin did participate in the annual Shreveport Green Litter Survey and said the results indicated that Shreveport looked a little bit better than last year, according to this survey which has a set protocol and looks at same streets each year. They do look at Highland streets, and he said he thought it was about the same as last year.
- **Membership—Julie Payne-Johnson**

Julie and Teresa will schedule a meeting to address membership issues and plan strategies. After we insure our membership files are accurate, we will begin adding membership expiration information to labels. Kelly will assist them in this effort.
- **Landscaping update—Sue Ball**

All beds with one exception (Rutherford raised bed in park) have been planted. Several sprinkler heads have been replaced, gateway site at Centenary and Kings bed has recently been weeded. There is a need for an automatic irrigation valve turn-on at Columbia Park and this was done. The park Rutherford Street site also needs automatic turn-on installed. The city pays the water bill but HRA maintains the beds. It would be nice to have irrigation of common area bed at location across from Highland Center on Highland side.
- **Public Relations**—the meetings, web presence, events and newsletter all add to our PR efforts in neighborhood.
- **Newsletter—Kelly Gay**

Kelly and Teresa announced they are beginning work on summer newsletter, we are soliciting help and articles! Teresa stated that the candidate forum can be the front page article this time.
- **Neighborhood Improvement Award—Marsha Millican Gill**

Marsha requested that Teresa give her the NIA signs stored at her house. Marsha will award an award for now, and take other sign to see about getting additional signs made. Tina mentioned that the owners of C & C Electric are fixing up a property on the 800 block of Prospect and that it looks great.
- **Programs Update—Tina Kendrick**

Tina will be assisting with candidate forum as needed, planning Taste of Highland and determining what other programs we might want to have in 2010.
- **Fundraising**—None scheduled at this time.

It was decided that the next board meeting would be held July 21 since Teresa will be out-of-town on July 28.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom and seconded by Liz.