



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
6-29-11

President Teresa Edgerton called the meeting to order and welcomed guest Philip Pedro who came before the board to address concerns about Highland Park and to hear about HRA initiatives regarding the park. Board members present included: Teresa Edgerton, Barbara Ramsey, Liz Swaine, Tom Arceneaux, Kelly Gay, Gale Simmons and Tina Kendrick. Board members absent were Andy Shehee, Robin Ramsey and Marsha Millican. HRA advisors Dan Marcalus and Sue Ball were also absent.

The rules were suspended to hear from Philip Pedro who discussed his attempts at erosion control at Highland Park and his frustrations with vandalism. Teresa shared with Philip and the board the follow-up letter that Dan Marcalus had prepared for Shelly Ragle detailing the status of concerns raised in our initial letter. Teresa also shared with those present notes and information from a meeting that Dan and Teresa held with Shelly Ragle and Tim Wechel. Teresa and Dan decided that HRA would concentrate this year on refurbishing the entrance sign to Highland Park using NIP funds matched by SPAR. In addition, Dan, Teresa and SPAR officials hope to coordinate efforts with Matthew Linn and Caddo Parish Commission to see how they might support our efforts at park upgrades. (Supporting documents attached.)

Approval of Mary 25 board meeting minutes was deferred. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Tina, second by Gale. Teresa also reported that she and Barbara were collecting date to submit the request to NIP for the second reimbursement check.

Teresa submitted her report as follows:

- o Kenney Koonce has agreed to chair the task force to inventory and identify historic district signs needing replacement.
- o Beautification—no formal report from Sue other than drought conditions have been hard on plants this year
- o Office—A big thank you to Robin and Barbara Ramsey for their help in the organization of the HRA office! It is very organized and usable as an office. We have some needs—a rug to put down over discolored tile, another book case to replace old computer furniture for better storage, trash can, broom and dust pan, electrical outlet. Liz indicated she might have a rug. She and/or Sue Ball plan to attend the Greenwood Cemetery meeting on July 12
- o Teresa reported on HRA members facing significant challenges: HRA Member Jerry Bond's house on Coty burned to the ground recently. Diane Mirvis, former HRA board member, is scheduled for surgery in July for recurrence of cancer. Teresa sent her a card from board.
- o Dan and Teresa met twice regarding Highland Park and made several trips to the park separately. Dan and Teresa met with Shelly Ragle and Tim Wechel at SPAR. We discussed many items (see attached notes) and decided to focus the \$2500 NIP money

on a finite project, the gateway to the park from Olive Street. SPAR landscape architects will come up with a plan for the improved gateway and get back with us. SPAR will match our money.

- See Dan's follow up on our earlier letter to Shelly Ragle and her response. Dan is following up on issues he raised at that time and determining which needs are still evident.
- Highland Park is not part of the first sale of bonds in recent bond referendum so it will be awhile before the big improvements, e.g. widening of walking trail, are done.
- Teresa had spoken with Matthew Linn who is also interested in Highland Park improvements. The parish might assist. Another meeting will be scheduled with parish and SPAR folks together.
- Matthew also said the alumni of Boy Scout Troop might be interested in getting involved, perhaps in a workday at the park.

Teresa presented the report on the Holiday Home Tour. She, Robin, Tina and Lisa have been identifying homes for the Saturday evening candle light tour and Sunday afternoon tour. We will be staging from the Meadows Museum Saturday night, where tickets will be sold and the mini-buses will pick up guests. There will be an exhibit of portraits showing at the Meadows, so Diane Dufilho hopes to have a photographer taking pictures of any guests who want a memento of the evening. Hot beverage and light refreshments will be served here. The wine and cheese will be served at Pinewald in their carriage house in conjunction with the tour of this home back by popular request; it was on tour 5 years ago. We have 4 homes for Saturday night—would like to have two more.

Sunday's staging location will be C and C Electric where tickets will be sold and the buses/trolley will pick up guests. We have 4 houses for Sunday afternoon. We would like a Highland Historic District bungalow for Sunday afternoon tour, plus one more home.

Ticket prices to be determined depending upon houses and amenities. Tentative price will be \$20 each tour, with reduced rate of \$15 on Sunday for HRA members and a deal offered if one buys two advance tickets. We are working with St. John Berchman's choir who hopefully will provide music/caroling for one tour. We would like to work again with Caddo Career Center on graphics. We plan to reuse the theme "Celebrate Highland" to build on our "Experience Highland" program.

The next Christmas Tour meeting is July 7 at 5:00 at 549 Wilkinson if anyone wants to join the planning committee.

Tina Kendrick presented on upcoming programs. The next general member meeting is set for July 19 at 6:00 pm, Randle T. Moore Center. Erin White has confirmed she will be presenting her PowerPoint presentation on the Beverly Hills subdivision research for the membership that evening. Monjunis will provide food.

HRA received a letter from Brandy Evans with Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau, requesting that she to be allowed to talk to organization about the upcoming meeting, and the board decided to allow her to speak.

There was nothing new to report on Property Standards.

Tom Arceneaux gave the Zoning Report. The Robinson Low Cost Animal Clinic seeks rezoning to move into former Shreveport Eye Clinic building on Line Avenue. HRA has received no calls of concern from near-by neighbors. The board decided to submit a letter in favor of this request.

Neighborhood Clean-up Committee Chair, Kelly Gay, reported that no more clean-ups are to be scheduled until cooler weather.

Robin and Barbara Ramsey will be mailing a letter to new residents, welcoming them to neighborhood and inviting them to become members of HRA.

Kelly and Teresa are working on a newsletter. Feature story will be July 19 meeting; Jeff Everson will write article as our councilman; Highland Park initiative; photos of NIA winners, Line Avenue Pharmacy and 622 Kirby Place. Amy Giglio, 2110 Highland, has expressed an interest in helping with newsletter but Kelly and Teresa have it down to speedy process..

Marsha Millican Gill was not present to give the Neighborhood Improvement Award, but signs are still at Line Avenue Pharmacy and 622 Kirby Place. Teresa asked that people with nominations to notify Marhsa.

There was nothing new to report regarding Public Relations.

Since there is a general membership meeting in July, there will be no July board meeting unless one is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.