



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
12-15-10

President Teresa Edgerton called the meeting to order. Board members present were Tom Arceneaux, Liz Swaine, Barbara Ramsey, James Eakin, Marsha Millican Gill, Julie Johnson, Kelly Gay and Tina Kendrick. Advisor Dan Marcalus was present; advisor Sue Ball was absent.

Old Business:

The minutes of the 11-3-10 were approved with the amendment reflecting board member James Eakin as being present in November. His name was inadvertently omitted. The Treasurer's report was approved as disseminated.

James Eakin reported on the November Neighborhood Clean-up. Fourteen people helped at least part of the time. The group focused on streets around Columbia Park and Creswell and Highland on south ends to improve the appearance for the Highland Jazz Festival. Six volunteers ate lunch afterwards at Lilah's.

New Business:

President Teresa Edgerton presented her report (see attached). It was accepted as presented. Liz Swaine indicated that she had sent Dr. Larissa Brown an emailed thank you, and she thought that it would suffice since she knows Larissa. Advisor Dan Marcalus passed around a neighborhood newsletter that he picked up in Dallas that he thought had ideas that HRA might utilize. He indicated he would make copies for interested board members.

Tina Kendrick reminded people to attend the general membership meeting on January 18 at 6:00. All details have been taken care of. The program will include election of new board members, officers for 2011 and a presentation by the study committee advising the city on the establishment of a Historic Commission. Dinner will be served.

Elizabeth Arceneaux, Pam Kimbrough and Sue Ball comprised the Nominating Committee and solicited nominations for new board members and officers.

Teresa Edgerton announced that the Highland Jazz and Blues will present HRA \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Jazz Festival. They only ask that the Jazz Festival be given credit and publicity for award. The board voted to use the \$1,000 as seed money for the May 1 Highland Experience event since the insurance has proven to be very costly. The Highland Experience will highlight the restaurants and life style of Highland.

Tina Kendrick gave an update on The Highland Experience. She noted that the name of this event has been changed to The Highland Experience to avoid confusion with Taste of Shreveport event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for the benefit of Holy Angels School. Tina has completed a draft of the SPAR application. She will meet with SPAR staff in January to schedule a run through of the proposal and then present the proposal to the oversight committee that must approve HRA's application for the event, street closing, etc. Tina secured a quote on the insurance, which is running about a \$1,000. We

received the city council resolution for beer-wine sale. . Tina secured commitment from Gary Joiner to be a table focusing on Highland and Shreveport history. Tina has begun discussions with several bands. Caddo Career Center is working on the programs and vendor requests. FHDA agreed to assist with Children's area. Tina passed around a draft vendor participation request and corrections were suggested. Tom Arceneaux will help Tina prepare a legal agreement to accompany the request to further clarify vendor roles and protect HRA legally.

Tom Arceneaux reported on Property Standards. He has not yet turned in the site of the former Christian lawn furniture building on the northwest corner of Rutherford and Gilbert to Property Standards though we have received complaints about it. Tom has written city officials about illegal parking of tractor-trailers, front yard parking and requested enforcement of these ordinances. He received a response and some citations have been issued.

Tom also reported on Zoning. The petition for an event center on Youree Drive at Stoner Avenue was turned down by the MPC. On motion by Tom Arceneaux, with second by Liz Swaine, the board voted to oppose the zoning application at 1905 Centenary requesting a zoning change from B2-E to B-3. Tom will write a letter detailing why B-3 is an inappropriate zoning for that area and will represent HRA at the hearing. On motion by Liz Swaine, with second by Tom Arceneaux, the board voted to write a letter of support for the application of the Red River Obedience Training Club at 542 Olive Street, provided no animals are boarded at the site and the hours of operation are as described in the club's application.

Teresa asked the board's opinion of Teen Challenge who pursued a building on Stoner Avenue after meeting with representatives from the HRA board, at which time they stated they wanted to be good neighbors and support the neighborhood. So far all they have done is park two trailers on their lot for their donations. They have made no improvements to the building and have not supported any neighborhood initiatives up to now. Liz, who also attended the meetings with Teen Challenge, stated that HRA should contact Teen Challenge about living up to their verbal agreement.

The architect representing the owner of a Proposed four-plex at corner of Rutherford and Barrett contacted Fairfield Historic District Association (FHDA) at suggestion of MPC about this proposal, which apparently requires a zoning change. Tom and Steve Kemp requested the owner and architect schedule a meeting similar to what we did with Taco Bell. Teresa noted that this is on site of a house that burned down. The four-plex has come up once before at HRA board meeting, and the board opposed a four-plex because of size of lot, parking issues, and fact that single family dwellings comprise rest of the street. Former proposal was targeting med students as potential residents.

Julie Johnson reported that some membership renewals have been received in response to newsletter and general membership meeting. Some people signed up to receive emailed information concerning HRA events at the Jazz and Blues Festival. Julie is writing the proposed bylaw revisions for presentation at the general meeting and will address the membership year changes and present the changes at the general meeting.

There was no landscaping report due to the absence of the Landscaping Chairperson Sue Ball. The irrigation system has been winterized and fall plants are in the beds.

There was no Newsletter Committee report from Kelly Gay. There won't be another until 2011.

Marsha Millican Gill presented the Neighborhood Improvement Award Committee report. Three misspelled signs are being fixed at the sign maker's expense since the submitted proof was correct. Marsha is taking suggestions for new award winners. Last month's suggestions were two commercial members: C and C Electric that is also supporting our Highland Experience event and The

Arc of Caddo-Bossier, a non-profit with long history in Highland. Both companies have made substantial improvements to their exterior property.

No additional fundraising activities are scheduled at this time for HRA. 2011 is the year of the Christmas Tour of Homes, in addition to The Highland Experience in the spring.

The meeting was adjourned. A holiday social at the home of Teresa Edgerton was held after the board meeting.