



**HRA General Membership Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**01-19-10**

Teresa Edgerton called the meeting to order and introduced guest speakers. Teresa stated that a representative from the MPC was unable to attend, but that Liz Swaine and Tom Arceneaux would speak about zoning issues.

**Zoning Issues- Liz Swaine and Tom Arceneaux**

Liz stated that we have a strong neighborhood association and that we have been successful in speaking out about zoning issues. We have many helping agencies in Highland, and although we don't know exactly how many we have but we know that we have more per capita here than in any other Shreveport neighborhood. This affects people's desire to move into Highland. Tom stated that we need people to send us information about known Highland facilities so that we know how many we have. Our goal is to preserve houses and keep Highland residential. Liz stated that our councilman Monty Walford is leaving at the end of the year and introduced him as the next speaker.

**Monty Walford, District B Councilman- "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Highland"**

Monty Walford stated that there is so much good in Highland, like the people and the history. The city council and the mayor talk about the successful revitalization of Highland and there is a good perception of Highland. Highland also has good property values now and people from out of town are especially thrilled by Highland. People like Dan Marcalus are doing good things in the neighborhood by preventing properties from being demolished unnecessarily, and we have nice parks. But there are problems, such as with property standards. We do have good inspectors, such as Jim Holt, who will be leaving soon. But we need to stop decline and demolition before it starts. Parking is also a problem on some streets. James Eakin mentioned that cars parked on the street block the trash cans and the cans are not picked up; Monty said that they are supposed to get out and pick them up regardless. Monty said that one solution to this problem is to only allow parking on one side of the street. The "ugly" part of Highland is the infrastructure. There are places in Highland with no sewerage because the pipes have decayed. Highland streets need over \$1.3 million in concrete and asphalt replacement. At some point there will need to be a bond issue to pay for these repairs. Highland also does not have a representative on the MPC; we must speak out and ask to be included.

**Matthew Linn, Parish Commissioner-**

Matthew stated that as far as the parish commission's involvement within the city limits of Shreveport, his jurisdiction extends only to juvenile justice and animal services. They are working to reduce recidivism for children and to keep children who don't belong in juvenile detention out of detention because it makes them worse. He also stated that Robinson Rescue is maxed out on spaying and neutering and needs a bigger facility.

**Mary Ellen Hoffman, Community Oriented Policing-**

Mary Ellen stated that her parents lived in Highland so her roots here go deep. She stated that the neighborhood assistance team has batteries, door locks, and other crime prevention supplies for residents. They are also having a neighborhood networking event, "Hats Off to Our Neighbors," to honor neighbors who are doing good things for the neighborhood.

**Amy Bowman, Community Liaison Officer-**

Amy discussed the parking ordinance which outlines the rules that residents must follow in order to park in their yards; they must park on a hard surface or in an area that is clearly defined by borders, the parking space must not exceed 50% of the yard, and there cannot be more than 4 cars in the yard. James Moore stated that the part about the borders should be removed from the ordinance and asked if boots could be used to enforce parking violations. Amy responded that boots are only used downtown. Marsha Millican Gill asked if crime was up in the area; Amy responded that there had been some reports of theft and that people should contact Mary Ellen if they want to start a neighborhood watch group.

**Jennifer Pate, Student Director, Big Event 3-**

Jennifer stated that she is coordinating the Big Event at Centenary this year and that they are looking for job sites in Highland in which people need landscaping, cleaning, or exterior painting done.

**Teresa Edgerton Scott, HRA President-**

Teresa asked that people please take this opportunity to renew their dues. She asked people to take a look at the budget reports and the 2009 highlights attached to the agenda; the Christmas Tour was particularly successful this year. Teresa stated that it was time to elect a new vice president and reinstate several board members; the nominating committee consisted of Pam Kimbrough, Tina Kendrick, and Matt Werner. Ballots were passed out to the membership. Teresa asked if there were any other nominations; no one spoke up. Sue Ball motioned that the ballots be accepted as written and Marsha Millican Gill seconded the motion. Thus Julie Payne Johnson was elected vice president, Teresa Edgerton was re-elected president, Cathy Williamson was re-elected secretary, and James Moore was re-elected to the board. Teresa stated that there were many opportunities to be involved in HRA and recognized board members who were in charge of particular HRA programs and initiatives.

**Kelly Gay, HRA Webmaster-**

Kelly stated that she, her husband Jason Gay, and Dan Marcalus had created a new HRA website at [restorehighland.com](http://restorehighland.com). She stated that the website was available for members to view during the meal and networking portion of the meeting.

**Teresa Edgerton Scott, HRA President-**

Teresa stated that the business portion of the meeting was over and that it was time for the meal and networking portion of the evening. Sue Ball motioned for the meeting to be adjourned; Liz Swaine seconded.