



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
8-25-10

Teresa Edgerton called the meeting to order. Board members present were Teresa Edgerton, Kelly Gay, Marsha Millican Gill, Tom Arceneaux, Barbara Ramsey, Liz Swaine, Tina Kendrick, and advisor Dan Marcalus. Board members absent were Julie Johnson and Cathy Williamson.

Old Business:

A motion Tom seconded by Liz approved the minutes of the June 20, 2010 meeting. Treasurer's Report was approved with a motion from Tom and seconded by Liz.

2010 NIP Grant—Teresa Edgerton

Teresa stated that she has been working on the budget and that we will notice the cut in NIP funds this year. Because of this we will not donate money to the Highland Jazz & Blues Fest this year and will instead feature them in our next newsletter.

New Business:

President's Report—Teresa Edgerton

Office Space— Tom motioned and Liz seconded that we move our office to a downstairs room at the Highland Center.

HRA Strategic Plan: Teresa stated that she will talk with Dan's friend about strategic planning and will do fact finding and estimates before we hire someone to do the planning. Tom stated that he knows someone who we could hire.

Teresa informed the board that Kenney Koonce has stepped down from the board. A motion by Tom and seconded by Liz approved Tina to fill the vacancy on the board.

Candidate Forum— Liz Swaine

Liz stated that everything was going well with the planning of the forum and that we just need to publicize as much as possible.

Bond Issue Overview— Liz Swaine

Liz and the bond study committee met with the City Council and Mayor on Aug. 24th and presented their findings. They are recommending a \$165 million bond. Liz stated that she will email the official report out to board members. Liz asked Kelly if she would post it on the website; Kelly agreed.

Programs Update— Tina Kendrick

Tina said that the next General Membership Meeting will be on Oct. 19 at 6pm at the Randle T. Moore Center with speaker Clarissa Brown talking about the Master Plan. Teresa stated that we will promote the meeting at the Candidate Forum.

Taste of Highland— Tina Kendrick

Tina said that she is almost done collecting signatures from the residents of Robinson Place. Scarlett Hendricks has volunteered to be in charge of the “artist’s corner” and C & C Electric will donate electrical work. Liz said that the ABO application is being approved by the city council.

Property Standards— Tom Arceneaux

Tom stated that he has read over the proposed Renter’s Code and that it doesn’t have any requirements of landlords other than registering with the city. He would like to see more required from landlords. Teresa mentioned that tenants can already report property standards violations. Liz said that Calvin Lester will be holding public hearings and meeting with neighborhood associations to discuss renter’s code. Said that the city attorney rejected many previous versions of the renter’s code and this is the first one to pass muster with him.

Zoning— Tom Arceneaux

There are no zoning cases in Highland at this time.

Neighborhood Clean up— Dan Marcalus

Dan said that he met with Community Renewal and spoke to them about there “we care” signs. CR said that the signs have nothing to do with property; Teresa said this is why the signs often are posted in yards that trashed or in front of properties that are not well maintained. CR agreed to talk to their members about cleaning up their properties. Teresa said that HRA will also do a clean-up before the Jazz Fest.

Membership— Julie Payne-Johnson

Teresa said that although recent mail outs have included renewal information we haven’t gotten much response from membership. Tom said that Elizabeth Arceneaux may agree to serve as chair of nominating committee for December/January board elections.

Landscaping update— Sue Ball

No updates on landscaping. Teresa said that Sue is having knee replacement surgery on Sept. 1 and that HRA will do something for her.

Public Relations— Teresa Edgerton

Teresa said that she would like to have the commercial membership decals ready for a Taste of Highland next year. We will be giving a 1-year commercial membership and a decal to restaurants who participate in the event.

Newsletter— Kelly Gay

Teresa stated that the summer newsletter and candidate forum postcards went out and looked great. Kelly said that working with City Printing went smoothly and we will continue to use them for newsletters and mail outs. Liz volunteered to write an article for the next newsletter about the Highland Jazz and Blues Fest.

Neighborhood Improvement Award— Marsha Millican Gill

The Pearsons were awarded with the Neighborhood Improvement Award and were included in the last HRA newsletter. Marsha said that she is currently accepting nominations for NIAs; Liz mentioned a house on College that was deserving.

Fundraising—None scheduled at this time.

Announcements

Dan stated that A Better Shreveport helped to publicize the HRA candidate forum. They now have a radio program on 91.3 FM at 5:00am on Mondays.

Tom asked if anyone knew of a pro-Highland realtor; Teresa and Barbara recommended Robin Ramsey of Platinum Real Estate.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was made by Tom and seconded by Liz.