



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
10-26-11

Teresa Edgerton called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Board members present were Teresa, Marsha Millican, Barbara Ramsey, Liz Swaine, Tom Arceneaux, Kelly Gay and Robin Ramsey. Absent were Tina Kendrick, Andy Shehee and Gale Simmons.

Old Business:

The minutes of the 8-31-11& 9-28-11 meetings were approved as distributed with a motion by Tom and a second by Liz.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion by Tom and second by Liz.

A budget page was distributed to the board members on the 2012 NIP Grant. The Grant was turned in on 10-20-11.

New Business:

President's Report:

Highland Park Initiative—Teresa reported that she hasn't been able to get a response from SPAR about current status of the Highland Park improvements, i.e., refurbishing gateway to park from Olive Street and increased shade structure and landscaping in vicinity of tennis courts and playground. There is a meeting at 7:30 (10-26) at Columbia Café during which the Boy Scout Troop 215 (or their alumni) that meets in the hut in the park will discuss private funds they want to use in park improvements. Teresa will attend the meeting to explain HRA partnership with SPAR and funds dedicated to Highland Park from next bond issue. In 2012 NIP Grant, after completion of Gateway improvements, any funds remaining would be used in Columbia Park for improvements, possibly to preschool play area. It was mentioned that the slide is broken at the Highland Park.

Highland Cultural District—Liz reported that The board of the newly approved Highland Cultural District met October 24. Information on the inaugural event is as follows:

When: November 29

11:00 am—Press conference with Gay Hamilton, manager of the department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in Baton Rouge, announcing Highland Cultural District at First Presbyterian.

Music and a complimentary lunch will be from noon—1:00 pm. The Shreveport SOX (Opera) will provide the musical program. Lunch reservations through First Presbyterian are required for the complimentary luncheon. Interested artists will have their works on display at First Presbyterian throughout this day for the public to view and purchase. They can also meet with Gay Hamilton to address questions or concerns. Art Sale will continue until about 6:00 pm. Interested artists should contact Liz Swaine or Joy Young via email. See flyer if interested in more information.

The Highland Cultural District Board is interested in finding an entity that will spearhead and monitor their activities and submit required end-of-the-year report. Liz proposed that the Fairfield Historic District be asked to spearhead this and a discussion followed.

Christmas Tour of Homes—Teresa asked board members to help distribute rack cards and generate publicity, inviting friends and family. Rack cards and Posters were distributed. She also needs volunteers at selected houses and paragraph descriptions for the homes on the tour ASAP!!

Programs— Teresa presented on behalf of Tina

The Highland's Heroes Potluck and National Night-Out Event, Tuesday, October 4, 6:00 pm at Fire Station #7 was sparsely attended but those who did attend enjoyed the gathering, and the fire fighters appreciated HRA's efforts. We would probably not schedule it during National Night Out and the Revel again.

Property Standards—Teresa reported that Ricky Edgerton has been reporting misuse of blue trash cans to city, especially those that are overflowing and overturned. Teresa urges others to do the same. Tom led a discussion about this concern.

Zoning— Tom reported that there are no Highland cases on the MPC or ZBA agendas for November. The 1062 Dalzell case (involving an erected garage) was deferred until the December ZBA meeting. The applicant is to meet with neighborhood representatives, including Tom, during that time to resolve issues. Although Tom gave him his card at the hearing, he had not heard from him.

Neighborhood Clean-up Committee—Kelly reported the Clean-up scheduled for November 5 will be from 8am -11am. Volunteers are to meet at Columbia Park to concentrate on streets in area of park or southern parts of Highland for this clean-up. Volunteers needed. People will finish in plenty of time to attend TACA's Maker's Fair. It was decided by the board to not provide lunch to the volunteers at this event.

Membership—Robin and Barbara reported that 16 welcome letters were mailed out in October to new home owners. It is expected that this will be done once a quarter.

Landscaping—Teresa reported on Sue's behalf that Sue and landscape assistant Heath will begin fall planting soon. We have had no more vandalism at Jordan Street monument.

Newsletter—Kelly reported because of computer problems, we will only publish one more newsletter in November, hopefully plugging Highland Cultural District event, the Christmas caroling activity in conjunction with Community Renewal and HRA's Holiday Tour of Homes. This is planned to distribute before Thanksgiving.

Neighborhood Improvement Award—Marsha reported five homes and businesses have been nominated and signs are currently on display. The properties are 911 Wilkinson, 1021 College, 857 College, 456 Dalzell and 2601 Centenary.

Public Relations—publicity in conjunction with Holiday Tour of Homes

Announcements--- Status of street bond issue—vote deferred in council meeting. Teresa briefly attended Oct. 20 meeting at Randle T. Moore Center. Teresa looked at posters and maps in the back to confirm that Highland streets are not addressed by this initiative and left. The board agreed to donate \$50.00 to Paint your Heart Out. Tom motioned and Liz seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm.