Hillcrest Residents Association Minutes

February 8, 2022

**Attending:** Laurel Lawrence, Karen Konarski-Hart, Beth Person, Marian Boyd, Katherine Barnett Jones, Antoinette Johnson, Janet Flegal, Pittman Ware, Jan Hollenberg, Tommie Kelley, Barbara Miles, Ross Noland, Karen Ryall

**Absent:** Caroline Reddman

Chair Luke Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion made by Karen Konarski Hart to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Laurel Lawrence and passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jan Hollenberg reported $660 in memberships this month. We have paid the $1,500 Mutt Mitt bill as well as $266 for our annual website fee. The letter to request a waiver from the IRS has been submitted and we are waiting for a result and do not know a time frame. (There was mention of researching alternatives for dog waste that might be cheaper and better for the environment.)

**Motion was made by Karen Konarski-Hart to approve the Treasurer’s report. Antoinette Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Public Officials:**

Tippi McCullough: It is a really busy time at the capitol right now. Started financial session and are beginning filing session. We have had budget meetings and have been going through that process. We are going to be doing appropriation bills only during this session unless there is a 2/3 vote to keep others in. Same happens with the senate. Last fiscal session lasted only three days. Hoping to be short instead of 30-45 days. About 8 other bills coming through including EBD bills to fix issues for state employees for years to come. False information is being sent to teachers, please send anyone with questions her way.

More money for education. Health care, public safety, crime victims’ reparation funding, more money to state troopers and local officials. County jails—talk is to add beds to prison at Calico Rock. Could build five prisons and fill them right now. Cases involving crime are up and they are looking for more resources. Director Kathy Webb has been appointed to the Womens’ Commission to work on womens’ issues.

Kathy Webb: There was a four hour board meeting last week, and in general, meetings have been much longer lately. We will next discuss an extension of the bond issue and the 3/8 cent tax. Important to HRA because of all the infrastructure issues in Hillcrest. Webb has sent the report and will send it out again as there are changes. Our feedback is important, especially our support of specific issues. The crime statistics are not good. We have been discussing programs that will have a long-term impact on crime. We have discussed several options for addressing crime. Wee encouraged everyone to read a book called “Bleeding Out”, which was written by Thomas Abt, who has spoken at the Clinton School.

Webb reported that there have been a few complaints from folks about homelessness in Hillcrest. Will be having a conversation with Bruce Moore about it. Have also had complaints about increased parking in the yard and increased things in yards. In my opinion we could have better assistance from the courts. Often judge gives them 30 days and they will clean up one thing and they will do that and then get another citation, etc.

Tommie Kelly has had several calls about vacant houses that are nearly falling down and homeless people are living in there near Palm Street. Webb has asked Kelly for specific addresses.

Mayor Frank Scott:

Kavanaugh Bike Lanes Update: Dr. John Landosky gave an update on the bike lanes, noting that several changes have been made from feedback from various groups. (A copy of his presentation is attached.) Resurfacing project on Kavanaugh from Markham to Van Buren, and the City wants to make bicycles a more viable transportation solution for Hillcrest. The corridor is also a part of the Master Bicycle Plan. Protected bike lanes have been recommended for Kavanaugh. A travel lane between the traffic and cars parked. Resident are concerned about their parking opportunities. The City has taken a look all concerns and made changes. The City has received funding from People for Bikes.

Answers to Questions on Bike Lanes:

Will the bike lanes continue up the hill to the Heights” Thisi program ends Ends at Van Buren, so at this time it will not continue up the hill to the Heights, but will connect to the bike lanes on Van Buren south to other bike lanes.

There is a city owned lot between the Baptist church and Allsopp park. Could we have signage that identifies this lot as public and free? We do not have a commitment to do that as of yet.

Where is the city on the Markham Street Diet? It is proposed to go from Kavanaugh to Pine. Will widen sidewalks and will not have bike lanes. Also includes moving utility poles. Contracted w McClellan Engineering to do desin work. Will seek funds once that is done.

Are they going to do anything on Cedar Hill regarding bikes? Dangerous. No shoulders. There is no push to get those share lanes changed right now. Write to John Honeywell.

Did you ever discuss that when Markham would go from four lanes to three lanes doing the bike lanes on Markham instead? This isn’t just a N-S corridor. It is a connection to other bike lanes. So it is vital to entire bike network.

What will the change be in bike traffic from now to when this is done? We have done this piece meal so don’t really have these numbers. This is a necessary part of the whole.

My kid and I use this as a form of transportation. Full time bike commuters soon. People pass me even at a light. People want to go fast.

The process has to be completed by July 2022.

Origianllly this project was postponed waiting for after HarvestFest 2021, now when is it going to happen?

Johnson asked that we write a letter to ask for free parking sign on Kavanaugh to indicate free parking at the lot behind PH Baptist Church.

**Johnson made a motion to contact the church and to write a letter to the City stressing our concerns over the bike lanes. Karen Ryall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**President’s Comments**: Kramer reported that the Panther Prowl has asked for $500 support.

**A motion was made by Johnson to support this program. Ryall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Jim Metzger reported on tree planting. We have locations lined up for tree planting on March 5. Several on Kavanaugh and some on A street and lower ash. Need to replace some that did not do well. A total of 12 trees to cost approximately $800 to be split between HMA and HRA. Generally, we plant in the right of way, but occasionally we run into place where it messes with power lines. There is a place at 317 Ash. Start at Bossa Nova parking lot.

**Konarski-Hart made a motion to partner with HMA and fund half of the 12 trees at $400. Katherine Barnett-Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

New business.

**Communications Committee:**

New web site launch. Send your notes. Is it already generating renewal notices? Yes. Short answer

**Preservation Awards**. Johnson Bob movie, Doug Martin Jim Pfeifer Hill Station for infill in a historic district.

Konarski-Hart reported on World Naked Gardner Day. 7th of May.

**Hillcrest’s part in City Clean Up on March 12**

Boyd reported that HMA has asked for our help with the Clean Up and wants to focus on Kavanaugh between Van Buren and Woodrow plus Kavanaugh to Woodlawn on Ash and Beechwood. We need someone to be the coordinator for this. Also, they would like us to consider partnering with them on monthly clean-up before the First Thursday Shop and Sip. This partnership could fulfil our existing Adopt-A-Street role. We could continue cleaning every other month, we would just do it before the first Thursday. Boyd asked for a volunteer to coordinator. There were no volunteers for that, but Kramer, Miles, Jones, Kelley and Ryalls volunteered to help with the event.

Carol Young reported on the pollination garden. Bob Callans and others want to put a pollinator garden in Allsopp Park. They will send a rough sketch to Kramer. Parks and recreation is okay with this, but would like HRA to write a letter of support. Callans can come present to the next meeting.

**Membership Committee:** Marian Boyd reported that she will send out membership renewal requests on Thursday of this week. Those will go to all members who have expired recently as well as the targeted people we are recruiting. The letters will refer people to our new website. Boyd said that she is very pleased with the new site and will need training on the process asap so that she can proceed appropriately with new members. She sent changes that she would like on the website to the communications committee today.

**Arts & Aesthetics:** Boyd reported that the mural on Canyon Grill at the Kroger entrance is on hold indefinitely. HRA had committed to $3k, Daniel Bryant had committed to $2k, we had requested $3k from HMA and Boyd said membership would raise $2k dedicated funds for the mural. The HMA has said they will need to hold off until after the 2022 HarvestFest to make a commitment, which would mean

We would like to proceed with work on the Crosswalks project and would like to request the HMA to help with that project as well. Tommy Jameson has completed a rough estimate, and it is quite a bit more expensive than we had anticipated. But, I think it will be an important, visible project that will help with pedestrian safety in our neighborhood. The two crosswalks could be as much as $7k, which includes paint, barricades, tools and design.

Although there was no official vote, Boyd asked for indication from board members that they were supportive of this project before she and the committee, chaired by Tommy Jameson, did more work on this. The board agreed that all were supportive.

**Travel Club:** The Hillcrest Travel Bugs trip to Spain and Portugal didn’t make. Katherine Lu has suggested that we try again for a trip in September. This isn’t an official HRA program, but we would like help in promoting it fairly soon.

**As there was no other business, Konarski Hart made a motion to adjourn. Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:06.**

Janet Flegal made a motion that we proceed with the crosswalks project. Toni seconded.

Waiting for the DOD. webite. Additions

As there was no other business. Adjourned. At 7:47

March 12 pulaski heights Picasso. Tickets at phe .com