**Hillcrest Residents Association Minutes**

March 13, 2023

**Attending:**

Antoinette Johnson, Laurel Lawrence, Ka, Marian Boyd, Janet Flegal, Beth Person, Barbara Miles, Jan Hollenberg, Pittman Ware, Luke Kramer, Karen Ryall, Caroline Reddman

**Absent:** Ross Noland, Karen Konarski-Hart

Luke Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion made by Antoinette Johnson to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Jan Hollenberg and passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Hollenberg reviewed the treasurer’s report and reported that we have about $18,000 but otherwise business as usual.

**Motion was made by Marian Boyd to approve the Treasurer’s report Antoinette Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Public Officials:**

**Tippi McCullough:** We are still in session. The LEARNS education bill passed and we are waiting on the public safety bills. We go into spring break next week. Doubtful that we will meet the scheduled deadline for close of session.

**Kathy Webb:** “First of all, this Wednesday night is the Ward 3 meeting on infrastructure. This will be at Christ Little Rock Church on South Hughes, at 6:00 p.m. We have over a $110 million in requests for Ward 3. The second meeting is the quarterly police meeting on April 13, at 6:00 p.m. will be at 12th Street station. The real-time crime center, which got $1.5 million for update. We have people who are staffing it 24/7. It allows the police to connect to cameras all over the city in real time so that they know what is going on. Check this out at Connectlittlerock.org to see if you would like to participate in getting included in the watch through your ring device. Register if you would like to be a part of this. The city does not constantly monitor your ring equipment but is able to pull it up if a crime has been reported.

The mayor presented his state of the city report a week ago and talked about a sales tax increase for parks. Right now, I do not have a lot of answers. We do need more money for infrastructure. You can watch his speech on the city’s youtube channel. Please send me an email if you have input on that.

I am watching state legislature to look at bills that take power away from city, things like dog control, short term rentals, etc. All of these are separate bills. You can look at any bill by searching the subject at <https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Bills/Search>.

**President’s comments:** Much has been said out on social media regarding our recommendations on the DOD guidelines. If you would like to know more about the DOD recommendations I encourage you to stay behind and ask questions. There are several members of the committee here tonight to talk with you after the meeting. You can also go to [www.hillcrestresidents.com](http://www.hillcrestresidents.com). On the DOD page you can find the letter to the city, the original DOD guidelines, the changes we made to it, the changes we made after compromises were made with oppositions, etc. I apologize to the board for the personal attacks that have been made against them. If there is anyone who gives a damn about this neighborhood, it is the people that are on the board, who have shown up for this and given so much of your time and energy on this.

The city planning public meeting to discuss the DOD recommendations will be at 6:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. on April 23, at Pulaski Heights Methodist Church. The planning commission has asked all who have comments to send them in writing to the planning commission, or to go to the City of Little Rock website to the section on Design Ordinance District and enter comments there.

**New Business:**

**Nominating Committee:** Johnson reported that the nominating committee worked hard to find a slate of candidates and leadership who will help HRA continue to grow!

We have two incredible new candidates: April Panian and Jessica Bartnik. We have one other possible candidate interested in joining the board.

The Nomination Committee has also identified a slate of candidates for the HRA leadership. We are very excited to announce Pittman Ware has graciously agreed to be considered for President of the Hillcrest Residents Association, Johnson and Hollenberg have also committed to remain in the Vice-President and Treasurer positions respectively. Our new candidate, April Panian, has offered to become HRA Secretary. This is an exciting group and have so much to offer the neighborhood. Again, the Nomination Committee offers the following for leadership consideration:

Beth Person, Boyd and Kramer have served their time and will roll off the board: Luke has promised to remain active on needed committees and to be a resource for the next president during the transition. Beth has agreed to continue to help with events like the Pancake Breakfast and Boyd plans to stay engaged with the Arts Committee.

Janet Flegal, Hollenberg and Ware were eligible to roll off but requested to be reinstated on the board.

One possible candidate, Tommy Jameson, is interested in joining next year. He is currently co-chair of the Arts Committee and will continue to stay active.

**UAMS:** Maddie Thacker from UAMS reported on things going on at UAMS. We at UAMS are our neighbors. We need volunteers, and we are three minutes away. Many patients are in the hospital completely alone. We need volunteers to show people some love and compassion. We have shifts almost 24/7. Way finders help people find their way and get to appointments. We need volunteers to help at the resource center during business hours. Baby holder positions are very popular, but sometimes available. . If you don’t have the time, we have a friends organization that helps people with transportation, clothing at discharge and other issues. They are always raising money. We also have an “adopt a unit” program to show some love to the staff and patients. Google “UAMS Volunteers,” for more information.

**Preservation and Planning and DOD Committee:** Our committee has been working with DOD and Communication committees. If anyone has any suggestions on information pieces that might help people understand the guidelines, we will welcome it.

Our annual meeting will be April 13 at 6:00 p.m. We get together and according to our bylaws will vote on new board members and will submit a new slate of officers.

~~The nominating committee worked hard to find new board members. April Par and Jessica~~

**Arts and Aesthetics Committee:** Boyd reported that they have started paving Kavanaugh, so we are ready to go with the crosswalks project. The total budget is about $6,500. Luke reached out to Steve Shuler about HarvestFest funds to sponsor a portion. I have sent information to him with a summary of the budget, the top three designs and a timeline. Kramer will reach out to him again. HRA committed to funding the initial $2,100 for initial costs. I am going to consider a Gofundme to pay the balance of $2000 or $4,500 depending on HMA. I am looking for some input from any board members who have developed a gofundme. Caroline Reddmann agreed to assist.

**Membership Committee:** Boyd reported that Karen Ryall has taken over as chair of membership and has done a great deal of work with the membership roster and has tackled some of the issues with the new system. She will be a great chair!

**Communications Committee.** We are interested in getting the blog posts up, and encourage businesses or committees to talk about projects or programs.

**Parks Committee:** Daniel Bryant thanked people for their work at the City wide clean up. Kim Abbott and Carolyn Newbern have been handling the mutt mitts and they have just received the new, less expensive products. Hounds Lounge has graciously agreed donate the mitts if we agree to have their logo printed on them. We have worked with Quail Forever on the monarch waystation and have a game plan, we have moved/gotten rid of some of the offensive plants. April 20 CADA trails alliance in Allsopp Park, to hear the areas of opportunity.

Jim Metzger reported that they have planted 12 of 12 trees, and residents have agreed to adopt them. The prices were more this year than last.

**Other business:** Kramer reminded the board that the total eclipse is less than a year away. In some areas it has drawn a tremendous amount of people. Some other people are already planning and for the event and HRA needs to do so as well.

**As there was no other business, Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Reddmann. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.