



HWEN Minutes 8/07/17

Members Present: Tom Cash, Susan Schipani, Nora Liggett, Mary Crichton, Martha Stinson, Paul Picelli, Jenny Cheng, Wesley Wilson, Tim Douglas, Gill Murrey, Jan Bushing, Phil Ryan, Tom Grooms, Chris Talbott, Miriam Mimms, Ted Davis III, James Moore

1. **Martha** welcomed everyone and said that we received a thank-you letter from Belcourt Theater for our recent donation. She then recommended that we make a donation to the Oasis Center in memory of Max Berry. A motion was made to donate \$250; it was seconded, and then approved.

2. **July minutes** – A motion was made to approve the July, 2017 minutes; it was seconded, and approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report**-Martha presented the current treasurer's report.

4. **Board business** – Martha announced that because Michael Marosi is moving to Spain, there will be an open space in our board of directors. A motion was made to have Jessica Massey fill the open space; it was seconded, and approved. Jenny Cheng will be in California for three months. A motion was made to make an exception to the bylaws saying that a member cannot miss three meetings; it was seconded, and approved.

5. **Guest Councilmember Burkley Allen, District 18**

- **Walking District:** An upcoming News Channel 5 story on the Walking District is planned in the next few weeks. Allen reported that she had a meeting with the Metro Police recently discussing ways that they plan to enforce the Walking District new limits.
- Ashwood and 25th Ave- Allen announced that 25th Ave. South is getting a sidewalk. A community meeting is planned for Aug. 28.
- **Fairfax flats.**-The plan calls for 21 one-bedroom apartments. Fairfax neighbors have appealed the zoning administration interpretation of where setbacks should be. There is a meeting set up for this Saturday with the developers, neighbors, and HWEN reps to discuss concerns. Phil and other members of the board of directors are planning to meet prior to the meeting to decide feasible





issues that can be negotiated such as parking issues and the amount of traffic increase to expect. The development will have 19 parking spaces for 21 units. Where will additional cars park? How can we reduce traffic? Do we want a private gate that keeps cars from using the parking lot at The Continental apartments? There is a possibility that the development could have 2 stories, instead of 3. The developers may prefer to negotiate rather than go before the zoning committee. If there is no compromise, members will be asked to come to a meeting on August 17.

- **Intersection of Portland and 21st Avenue:** Littlejohn Engineers has drawn up recommendations to make this intersection safer and would like HWEN's support in implementing these.
- **Catholic Diocese.**-A new developer is interested in using this space for offices only, which would mean not changing the zoning.
- **Fort Negley-** Based on input from community meetings, the Mayor's office has devised a plan for the space that includes residential, retail, and parks. The city accepted this proposal, but its implementation is being met with objections from those who think it should be used only as a park with historical ties.
- **Short term rentals**-An ad hoc committee has until the end of September to decide how to make it so we can eliminate the negative impact these can have on the community. A sponsor has deferred amendments to Bill 608 until the end of September. Bill 608 calls for no nonowner-occupied short term rentals in residential areas. If we can work out agreements with Airbnb, we may not have to pass the amendments. We now have software that can find out who's renting without a permit.
- **Home recording studios**- Someone has asked to rezone a lot to have a home recording studio in the neighborhood under a SP, specific permit. He had the support of his neighbors. The Metro Council said no, but the question came up as to whether it would make sense to allow such permits for three-year periods.
- **Night Out Against Crime**-Allen asked if HWEN would support moving it to early October, when it might be better supported. After discussion, members said that early June would be better.

6. **Dragon Music Sundays** – Chris reported that we had a low turn-out this summer, whether because of competing events in the city or the weather forecast. She said that this is our 10th year of the event and that some committee members would like to retire. Its future is uncertain.





Some ideas are to move the event to Musicians Corner or the Parks Department. A representative of the Parks Department has shown interest. Chris said that she will be involved in the transition.

7. **Newsletter**- Gill reported that the next deadline is Oct. 14.

8. **Save Our Dragon** – Jan said that progress on the renovation continues in spite of additional problems with Arch 2. Another major crack has been found. The tail doesn't have as much damage. We recently signed a contract with Lynn Driver for additional repairs. We need to get the Parks Department to get the drains fixed. Jan said that we are continuing to look for donors, and to let her know of a possible donor. The first 3 arches comprise about 70% of the work. We have enough money for about 4 and half months.

9. **Zoning & Codes** – Martha reported

- **MHZC's outbuilding** review proposal that HWEN voted to support, per the June minutes, was removed from the MHZC 6/21/2017 agenda and not voted upon by the commissioners. In a follow-up email to CM Burkley Allen and MHZC Administrator Robin Zeigler, Stinson qualified HWEN's support by stating, "HWEN is open to supporting efforts to improve governance as long as implementation would not change or affect the current rights of neighbors, including, but not limited to the level of general design flexibility."
- **Fairfax Flats** – The neighbors won the fight in the BZA on 8/3/17 to have their appeal heard regarding the zoning administrator's ruling that the Fairfax Flats property fronts on 22 inches of Fairfax Avenue. The opponent argued two points, that if either had been successful, would have caused the neighbors' case to be dismissed. Instead, the case will be heard in the BZA on 8/17/17.
- **Convent Place** – Phil said the area has become unkempt. Metro was contacted and has since taken care of it. Two houses have recently been torn down.





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10. Streets – Jenny and Nora

- **Walking District** – Jenny said that we have sign clutter in our neighborhood and may ask Public Works to take down some signs. She asked us to let her know where this is, so she can put together a list of signs to take down.
- **VU shuttle**-Jenny has met with VU representatives who said that the shuttle may be discontinued on smaller streets soon due to upcoming changes in the shuttle route.
- **Hillsboro Village crosswalk**-Allen said that plans are for the crosswalk to be in front of Pangea, which affects the smallest number of parking spaces. It will be a signalized cross walk. At this stage, it should be moving forward.

11. Special Events

- a. **Carriage tours** – Linda sent information that the contract with the carriage company is secured. The event will be on the first weekend in December, Dec. 1-3.
- b. **HWEN's annual meeting** will be Thurs., Nov. 9, at 7 pm.

12. **Beautification Committee** –Miriam thanked all the members who have watered the Triangle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Crichton,

