

**HWEN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES-2/6/2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nora Liggett, Mickey Panucci, Lois Fleming, Linda Bengson, Tom Cash, Martha Stinson, Tom Grooms, Gill Murrey, Phil Ryan, Tim Douglas, Paul Panucci, Chris Talbott, Jan Bushing, Susan Schipani, Jim Redwine, James Moore, Greg Asadourian, Wesley Wilson, Jenny Cheng, Paul Picelli, Tim Douglas

GUESTS: Council member Burkley Allen, State Rep. John Ray Clemmons

- I. Martha called **the meeting to order** at 7 p.m., welcoming guests Burkley Allen and John Ray Clemmons.
- II. **December minutes** unavailable at this date and will be approved at the next meeting.
- III. **Representative John Ray Clemmons** reported the current legislative Session began this past week with transportation as one of the major issues. Clemmons said that he has drafted a proposal for alternative transportation. Another major issue is outsourcing services at state parks and health care, which is uncertain now.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Lois Fleming reported that we have a balanced budget for 2017 of \$180,000. The material difference from previous years is a goal of \$150,000 in revenues and expenses for Save our Dragon. With Save our Dragon, it is an historical budget of \$30,000.

Motion was made and seconded to vote on the 2017 budget. Members voted to approve the 2017 budget.

- V. **Council member Burkley Allen** reported that the Catholic Diocese property is getting more interest. Discussing the WalkNbike plan, she said that we need to provide input about the gaps in our sidewalks in order to have them included in the citywide sidewalk plan. She reported that there are no plans for a bike lane on 21st Ave. now. On the subject of short term rentals, she said that there are 5 new bills coming through now. Allen sponsored one of these which clarifies the definition of short term rental housing. Other bills address nonowner occupied short term rentals and funding better enforcement of the rules. Some people argue that money should be funded toward better enforcement of existing rules. She said that there is an upcoming community meeting planned to discuss the construction at Chesterfield and Orleans.
- VI. **Committee Plans and goals:** Using visual summaries of HWEN's committee reports, Martha Stinson went through the highlights and needs of the following committees:

- a. Save Our Dragon:

The restoration work is planned to start soon. Immediate needs are to complete the prospectus and finetune the list of major donors.

b. Zoning and Codes

Hillsboro Village is in the process of becoming a Business Improvement District to receive funds to augment services from the city. The process of monitoring legal developments concerning short term rentals in the city is currently underway.

c. Streets:

Efforts continue in the designation of HWEN as a Walking District. One issue affecting walkability in the neighborhood is concern over the need for a crosswalk designation on 21st Avenue South near Belcourt. Another issue is concern over the Vanderbilt University Shuttle on side streets in the neighborhood. Emails are needed concerning these issues.

d. Communications

The deadline for turning in material for the newsletter is Feb. 12, and it is expected to be printed at the end of February or beginning of March.

E. Institutional

A list of contacts and institutions was presented.

F. Beautification

The committee continues work on the Triangle Park and its upkeep. Also discussed was the upkeep throughout the neighborhood of the strip of grass between sidewalks and street. Plans currently are uncertain about a Plant Swap. Earth day is April 22.

G. Special events

The Dragon Parade is May 21. Dragon Music Sundays are from May 21 to June 11. Holiday Lights on Dec. 2 and 3. We need help with publicity and volunteers for all events.

H. Membership -Thank you letters have been sent for tax deductible dues and donations.

VII. **New Business**

A. Discussion of adding a **Crosswalk at 21st and Belcourt** due to concerns about pedestrian safety. Motion was made to vote in favor of a crosswalk. It was seconded and unanimously approved. Details will be worked out later. Martha will write a letter of support to Burkley.

B. **Shortterm rentals:** Tom Cash reported 2 bills currently up for approval:

Bill 492 is written to clarify the definition of short term rentals in terms of its rules and enforcement. Bill 608 phases out nonowner occupied short term rentals over a period of 3 years. Discussion followed, with input from both short term rental owners and members opposing commercial use of residential property. Motion was made to approve Bill 608; it was seconded and passed with 2 people abstaining and one opposed. Motion was made to support Bill 492 and passed unanimously. Martha will write a letter of support for both measures to the Metro Council.

VIII. **Save our dragon**

Jan reported that 51 people donated a total of \$5100 in memory of Irish Park. She said that we have a first draft of the prospectus for the dragon and hope to have it completed by March. Work on the dragon will involve one arch at a time. We are currently writing a grant to pay interns to help with the project. We need to find a place for them to use as a classroom. Citing the need to encourage donors for the project, she passed around a sheet of paper for information about possible donors. The prospectus, personal visits, and a letter will be used to approach major donors.

IX. Motion was made to vote on Mary Crichton as secretary. It was seconded and approved.

X. **Zoning and codes:**

Elmington Capital communicated that Belcourt Village has been approved.

XI. **Streets (Jenny, Nora) –**

Concerning the Walking District proposal, Nora said it is on the agenda of the Metro Traffic and Parking Commission next week. This will mean lower speed limits, branded signs and speed limits painted on the street pavement. Martha and other board members are requested to write letters of support to the Traffic and Parking Commission prior to the meeting.

VU shuttle bus issues-Neighbors on Belcourt and Acklen are concerned with the frequency of the shuttle. We need to gather information this next couple of months.

Please contact Jenny and Nora to share your thoughts about it.

A bollard has been put up at the crosswalk on Blair and 25th.

XII. **Unfinished business**

Newsletter will include a list Carriage Tour sponsors; Motion was made and seconded to vote to plant tree in honor of Betty Nixon on Tree Day and was approved. It will be covered in the newsletter.

XIII. **Martin soccer field-**

Burkley Allen said that Metro has decided to improve the field for neighborhood use as stipulated in the Martin Center SP. The city will take care of its maintenance. If it is not used, Metro will reevaluate its use, including for overflow parking.

XIV. **Holiday Lights Carriage tours-**Linda reported that the event raised a net amount of \$14,700 and gross amount of \$22,500. About 60% of homes in the neighborhood were decorated. Note: The net amount was subsequently revised to \$12,500.

XV. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Crichton.