



HWEN Minutes, April 2, 2018

Members Present: Mary Crichton, Susan Schipani, Wesley Wilson, Ann Toplovich, Paul Picelli, Jan Bushing, Bonnie Smith Whitehouse, Greg Asadourian, Margaret Phillips, Andrew Lange, Chris Carpenter, Tom Cash, Mickey Panucci, Jessica McDuffie Massey, Tom Grooms, Phil Ryan, Martha Stinson

Guests: Sheila Lachs, who was present to promote Anna Escobar, a candidate for judge, and Councilmember Burkley Allen

1. The **March minutes** were read and approved.
2. The **Treasurer's Report**, along with a statement of financial position, was distributed. Most of the recent expenditures have been for the dragon renovation. The **Treasurer's Report** was approved.
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Save Our Dragon**-Jan reported that Phase I isn't completed because of major cracks that have been discovered. The project is close to being completed now with enough funds, taking in the amount pledged. Once the renovation is completed, other issues may surface so ongoing maintenance is an issue. We discussed when to have a grand opening in May. We could have it on May 20 along with the Dragon Music Sunday. The placement of the storage unit may be a problem. We decided to form a separate committee to deal with this issue and any others. Phil, Tom, and Martha volunteered to be on this committee.
 - b. **Dragon Parade**- Phil passed around a sign-up sheet for the event on May 20. We have \$1000 in the budget. We need volunteers.
 - c. **Beautification**-Nothing is planned for Earth Day. On Cinco de Mayo we're having the Plant Swap from 1:30-4:00, at 407 Chesterfield. We have signs for people to put in their yards for this event. Susan asked members to mention the Plant Swap to 5 friends who like to garden. Miriam would like suggestions about where to put the 4 mutt mitts. We need to place them in places in the neighborhood where people take their dogs.
 - d. **Communications**- The newsletter deadline is April 14.

- e. **Streets-** Jenny said that we're in a holding pattern on the Walking District as we wait on the results of a recent evaluation. She encouraged members to fill out the survey online concerning the Walking District. She has been contacted by other neighborhoods who are interested in setting up Walking Districts. There has been discussion of putting in sidewalks on Westwood Avenue. More likely, speed humps will be used to slow down traffic on Westwood, based on the response of the street's neighbors. There has been an ongoing discussion about Hillside and Overlook, where neighbors have complained about the condition of their triangle and people parking on it. The transit referendum was brought up with the question of whether our group wants to officially support it. A motion was made; it was seconded, and we voted to officially support the traffic referendum.

- f. **Zoning and Codes-**Two recent items were both approved by the Historic commission with conditions. One of these involved an owner on Hillside who wants to tear down a house and rebuild. He will either build a sidewalk or contribute to the sidewalk fund.

- g. Short term rentals-**Allen reported about a bill proposed in the state legislature that grandfathers in existing strs, with and without permits. It also makes it difficult to remove permits. It applies state-wide. She suggested that we write our state representatives about this.

- 5. Council Report-**Allen reported about the transit forum, coming up this week to answer questions about the traffic plan. She also said that a mixed-use development is being discussed for the corner of Murphy Road and West End Avenue, behind Dairy Queen. Interest in the Catholic Diocese property continues but with no certain offer. Two lots are for sale now on 27th Street at Woodlawn.

- 6. New Business-**Tom discussed results of the recent survey about our neighborhood and encouraged all members to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Crichton.

