



HWEN Minutes, March 5, 2018

Members Present: Mary Crichton, Susan Schipani, Wesley Wilson, Ann Toplovich, Paul Picelli, Jan Bushing, Ted Davis III, Bonnie Smith Whitehouse, John Wilson, Greg Asadourian Margaret Phillips, Andrew Lange, Chris Carpenter, Tom Cash, Mickey, Jim Redwine, Mary Skinner, Jessica McDuffie Massey

These **guests** introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their candidacies: Tillman Payne, running for General Sessions Division 10 Judge, and Lonnell Matthews, Jr., running for Juvenile Court Clerk

1. **February minutes** were read and approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report** was distributed and read.

3. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Save Our Dragon**-Phase I is completed, and mosaic restoration is currently underway in Phase 2. The project is expected to be completed in May. Two recent pledges have been from Vanderbilt University for \$5,000, and from VU Medical Center for \$2,500.
- b. **Beautification**-Wesley reported that the Plant Swap is tentatively planned for late April or early May. Miriam is going to pass out a sign-up sheet for maintenance work at the Triangle. The committee plans to set up three Mutt Mitts in the neighborhood.
- c. **Communications**-Mary Skinner reported that we always need help distributing the newsletter. She asked members to send dates of upcoming events for the online calendar. The deadline for the next newsletter is April 14. Mary said that changes are being made to the website. Bonnie Smith Whitehouse reported an update about Eakin School. She said that Eakin may lose money due to cuts in the new budget for next year.

- d. **Streets**-Jessica said that we've requested more signage for our streets. The city is using traffic strips to evaluate the Walking District, based on whether there is an overall reduction in speed. We'll have a meeting once they finish their evaluation. It will have an effect on whether other districts are allowed to implement a walking district. There has been a discussion about the need to slow down traffic on Westwood Avenue. This street may be used as a test case for speed humps. We had a meeting with representative from VUMC about improving connectivity between them and us. Spillover parking is expected to get worse, increasing the need to implement permit parking. It would be a good idea to run an article about permit parking in next newsletter. Permit parking will be implemented block by block. The City Council has appointed someone to enforce permit parking. Nora is still talking with Vanderbilt about the use of the shuttle in our neighborhood.
 - e. **Zoning and Codes**-Chris reported new construction on 27th Avenue South, Fairfax Avenue, and Blair. There has been interest in developing the Catholic Diocese, but no buyers now. First Tennessee Bank is closing this spring. Mickey said that three houses are going to be torn down on Hillside and Overlook. Tom reported that the work on I440 will take 2 and half years to complete. Work probably won't start before summer and is expected to be finished by 2021. TDOT will post the schedule on their website. It will be closed down, section at a time. The median will be torn down and replaced with concrete barrier walls, primarily for safety. Some of the exits will be expanded. Entrance lanes will not have to merge but will be stand-alone lanes.
4. **Council Report:** Burkley reported that the Belmont Institutional Overlay will be going before the City Council May 1. She reported that she met with Mary Pat Teague about incentives Vanderbilt is implementing to help out the Walking District. There is discussion about implementing commercial permit parking in Hillsboro Village to provide parking for its employees.

5. **Short term rentals-** A bill, which will preempt our local bill phasing out nonowner-occupied short term rentals, will be coming up soon in the state legislature. We need to contact our state representatives and let them know where we stand on this. The Parks Board has a meeting scheduled to hear a report about maintenance of art in the city parks. A transit forum is scheduled for March 27 at 6:30 at Belmont United Methodist Church's community center. Both sides of the issue will have speakers. A motion was made for HWEN to cosponsor this, and it was seconded, and approved.

6. **Dragon Music Sunday-**We may have more input from Metro Parks in continuing this. We committed to one, and they may try to find ways to have more. We would help publicize it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Crichton.