Hillcrest Residents Association Minutes

October 11, 2021

**Attending:** Luke Kramer, Jan Hollenberg, Laurel Lawrence, Karen Konarski-Hart, Janet Flegal, , Pittman Ware, Beth Person, Marian Boyd, Ross Noland, Tommie Kelley, Barbara Miles, Katherine Barnett Jones Antoinette Johnson and Tannen Hollenberg

**Absent:** Caroline Reddmann

Luke Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion made by Karen to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Pittman and passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jan Hollenbergpresented the attached Treasurer’s report and commented that we have consistently stayed above $20,000 this year.

**Motion made by Beth Person to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Karen Konarski Hart. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Public Officials:**

Tippi McCullough reported that the legislature reconvened for 8 days to work on redistricting but the discussion was hijacked by folks wanting to pass Covid bills. Pulaski County did not fare well and was divided into three districts. A decent bill turned into a horrible map for Pulaski County and split into three congressional districts. The Governor has the bills and will be able to veto or not sign. They will reconvene October 25 to talk about taxes.

Kathy Webb acknowledged McCullough and the work she has done with the Legislature. She gave a report on Quarterly Crime for the district: Violence is up 15% and property crime is up 9%. There are a number of vacancies on the police force which doesn’t help this matter. The telephone reporting unit will be available via email in the next two weeks. This will make it easy to report non-violent crimes by email. Due to the untimely death of Irma Hendrix, interviews will commence with the 8 top candidates for the position. That process is covered by state law.

Webb reported on the possible new city policy for short term rentals. The City checked with Fayetteville and Hot Springs to compare their policies, and they were quite different. Still nothing has been decided. There is also no new news on the bike lanes on Kavanaugh.

The School Board will ask for a Milage extension, which will be on the ballot in November. It does not raise anyone’s taxes. They would like our support. The coalition of neighborhoods and downtown partnership have endorsed.

Michael Poore, Superintendent gave a summary of the milage extension. He reported that the last time this community voted for any increase for education was ## years ago. There are many buildings in bad shape. They plan to tear down old McClellan and combine with Cloverdale, which is considered the worst campus. Parkview is fine arts, but the auditorium doesn’t represent that emphasis. Central will benefit from the removable of portables. The are proposing an annual 3% raise for faculty in the coming year.?

There is a fact sheet attached to these minutes.

Ali Noland made the ask. Ali.Noland@lr??.org The only criticism of these requests in the past have been that they did not have an elected board. The other criticism was that it is not a good time to raise taxes, but this does not raise taxes.

Nate Coulter talked about the Central Arkansas Library’s request for a tax increase. They handed out a flyer with details. These two elections will not be on the same day because of a law. The schools have tried to cut costs in many ways, including a staff cut of 8%. But, escalating costs of digital content and long wait lists for audio books necessitate more funding. The cost of digital is higher for libraries. The district needs the ½ mil because of this need. the need it desperately. CALS is being very specific on how the monies will be spent, particularly content, raising salaries and upgrade of equipment and building maintenance. Ncoulter@cals.org

Wendy Wood running for judge on Arkansas Court of Appeals introduced herself and asked for support on May 22, 2022. If you have any questions check the website, [www.votewood.com](http://www.votewood.com)

Judge Barry Hyde is running for reelection. pulaskicounty.net ??

**HarvestFest. Kar**en Konarski-Harat reported that HarvestFest will be October 30 in business district of Hillcrest. For safety reasons, there will not be childrens’ activities or the gumbo contest. HRA will do the pancake breakfast at Baptist from 9:00 to 11:00. HRA will also have a booth for membership, t-shirt and bumper sticker sales. The Arkansas Rep will sponsor a costume contest. HMA has swag to sell that will help to eliminate plastic.

The board discussed prices for T-shirts and bumper stickers. They determined that the t-shirts would sale for $25 and the bumper stickers would be free to members, but otherwise $3.

Pittman Ware talked about Covid rules for HarvestFest and read a note from Pulaski Heights Elementary for an exception to the rules. He asked that HRA endorse this request to allow children to attend if they wear masks.

Eric McDaniel, Chair of Hillcrest Merchants Association, reported from the HMA meeting. It was never their intent to make children go through all of this. The decision was not made lightly. It was only two or three weeks ago they decided to carry on with HarvestFest. Meeting again this week to discuss other alternatives. Ericmcdaniel.hma@gmail.com

Kids will have to wear masks to work on the dog show, but otherwise there is no requirement for kids. NO requirements for anyone to walk down the street—just to participate.

Scaled back childrens’ activities, but hope the masks will work. Our intent has always been to put out strong outreach on the Vax requirements. This is an extremely difficult decision.

**Holiday Decorating Contest** encouraging everyone to participate. Voting will be from xxx to xx with 12 categories. Yard sign and trophy. Prize Patrol will show up at your house.

Tannen Hollenberg, CPA, who has been assisting us with our tax situation. We are going to have a $5,000 fine. Late filing of the 8976. Tannen will write a letter and complete a form to ask for a waiver. One thing to do is try and show that you are doing better. We might want to consider an amendment to the by-laws. We need to file 990 annually Hillenberg will charge us $50.00.

Marian Boyd makes motion to pay the motion, Second Janet Flegal, letter form and ask for waiver. And consider a change in bylaws regarding adding an accountant. Motion passed unanimously.

**DOD Committee:** We got the final recommendations from the DOD committee. We did meet as a board last Monday and Hank Bates talked to the group about some of the concerns they had. We wanted to make sure that the board is informed. No dates, no deadlines. There has even been talk about a historic district ordinance**.**

Mark Robertson has concerns with the dramatic changes that are being talked about by the committee. We are not POA we should not have to live with those restrictions.

**Membership:**

Marian Boyd reported that she has sent the current list of members back out with last names alphabetized and asked all to please review the lists and make note of friends and neighbors who ought to be there who are not and send those names and contact info to her.

**Arts & Aesthetics:**

Tommy Jamison has met with the city, and they have not approved of the 3D crosswalks. But they have asked us to consider presenting a simpler design. Will get with him to design something else and would love other input if someone wants to be involved.

Boyd also had questions regarding the RFP for the mural. The board voted last week to proceed. But, in light of the $5k tax penalty, just want to make sure. Also, there is a bit of a Catch 22 on the fund raising.

**Antoinette Johnson made a Motion to proceed with the RFP process. Jan Hollenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Harvestfest:**

Konarski-Hart reported that the HarvestFest executive committee would make a decision by September 15 on whether or not to hold the festival because of Covid considerations. There was also discussion about the HRA booth and pancake breakfast.

**Communications:**

Pittman will have a beta plan on the new website October 31. They will send it out by email.

Education:

**Schools**

Clean up at 10 on Saturday for PHE campus. There was discussion regarding the Arts and Aesthetics Committee’s participation in the creation of murals on the PHE campus.

**Make a motion to support the LRSD mileage request. Marian Boyd seconded. Motion passed**

**Karen didn’t vote for this, only because of the process, not the project.**

**Eclipse There was a quarterly meeting last week.**

Carolyn Newbern spoke regarding Knoop Park since there is currently no parks rep. Knoop Group has worked off and on for a number of years getting rid of invasive plants. After removal of this, sun has come in and there is new growth. UALR extension authorizes people to go out to work with groups. Localized application. $750. Requests HRA funding for it or a proposal to parks department to share the costs. Ideal for now, but spring is possible.

Luke pointed out that we are still looking for a new Parks Committee chair. That person would not have to be a board member. Luke asked for all to consider candidates for the job and to give him names.

**As there was no other business, Marian Boyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pittman Ware seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**