**Hillcrest Residents Association Minutes**

March 9, 2022

**Attending:** Laurel Lawrence, Luke Kramer, Karen Konarski-Hart, Beth Person, Marian Boyd, Antoinette Johnson, Janet Flegal, Caroline Reddman, Katherine Barnett Jones, Karen Ryall, Barbara Miles, Pittman Ware, Ross Noland,

**Absent:** Jan Hollenberg,

Chair Luke Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion made by Karen Konarski Hart to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Marian Boyd and passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jan Hollenberg reviewed the treasurer’s report and noted a bump in membership of about $1800.

**Motion was made by Konarski-Hart, to approve the Treasurer’s report. Janet Flegal. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Public Officials:**

Kathy Webb reported on increases in the city budget. She was disappointed that some of the increases were not as much as she would have liked but reminded us that many line items will be on the ballot. The American Rescue Plan monies are being discussed and they have determined how they will spend the first phase, but the rules have changed on the second phase. Kathy reported that she would like $1million set aside for fire stations. If we can’t take care of our first responders. We don’t have to spend this money as quickly as the first part. She will send the slide from the discussion regarding things that are eligible. Many people are interested in bulky item pick up. And they have changed back from one free pick up a year to four. If you see things beside the road, you can take a photo and send it in to 311. Early voting has voted. Many races have an impact on the city. Particularly judicial races and prosecuting positions.

Webb also reported that crime continues trending upwards.

Kramer spoke for Tippi McCullough, citing that there are rumors of a special session and that the national effects of Roe v. Wade can trickle down. McCullough is trying to work with the governor on our state policy, and noted that Governor Hutchinson is not in favor of how things are currently, and would like exceptions for rape, etc.

Nate Coulter encouraged a vote on the CALS Library tax. Coulter said if we raise taxes, we can ask for less money from the bonds/milage. This is the easiest endoresment that we can make. Increase got almost 90% of the vote. $20-25 million generated by this. Public agencies have to operate through bonded debt. On primary ballot and we hope you will vote for it.

**President’s Comments**:

Kramer noted that John Coulter passed away recently. Please reach out to his wife, Laura.

Kramer reported that he, Ross Noland and Tannen Hollenbergwill get to work on the 501©3 status soon.

Karen Konarski Hart reported on the Hillcrest Merchants Association’s Ice Cream Social which will be Thursday the 7th of July and centered in Crest Park. She asked if the HRA wants to participate. Montessori kids will sing at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brass quartet. Antoinette Johnson and Noland did this last year. They sold a few tshirts and half a dozen memberships. Luke agreed to head that up this year, and to think about what we want to do and set a budget.

**Bike Lanes.** Luke sent in a letter to some of the city folks regarding our group’s opposition to the bike lanes. Asked Kathy Webb if there has been any movement on that. Will meet with Jon Honeywell this week.

**Janet Flegal made a motion to send the letter to the City, stating the HRA’s opposition to the bike lanes. Laurel Lawrence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Budgets.** All committee chairs were asked to submit budgets to form an organizational budget for the coming year.

**DOD Committee.** Final recommendations of the DOD Committee were sent to all involved. Kramer sent them to the planning committee and to Bruce Moore and Kathy Webb. Kramer said he will copy all board members and then forward to the DOD Committee. Johnson reported that the DOD committee is still going back and forth with the City. We just want to make sure whatever goes to the city can move on. Janie Collins

**Preservation and Planning Committee**. Bob Keltner reported that the Preservation and Planning Committee are working on the budget and the DOD guidelines. Talking about improving content on website. Will be in charge of follow up to DOD recommendations once the board has approved and the committee will shepherd through the city.

**Arts and Aesthetics Committee**. Boyd reported that she and Tommy Jameson, new co-chair of the committee, have been working on the crosswalks RFP, and have a rough time-line. That information was sent to all board members by email prior to the meeting. Boyd said she would like to ask HMA to pay for half of this, and would like to get a commitment from them before proceeding with the RFP. Boyd asked the board to commit to funding $3,000, and to ask the HMA to partner with us and contribute $3,000 as well. Boyd and Jameson explained the process of publicizing an RFP and agreeing for artists’ designs, and paying the top three artists a $200 honorarium. A committee combined of HRA and HMA (should they decide to partner) would choose the winning design and proceed with a contract and design plan.

**Communications Committee.** Barbara Miles reported that the committee members continue to work on the Website, Wix, Go Daddy, Google workspace She stated that the Communications and Membership will likely submit a budget together.

**Parks Committee.** Miles reported that Daniel Bryant will head up parks committee.

**Membership Committee:** Boyd reported that the committee will begin a membership drive as data is developed and ready. She will do an immediate push for renewals to people who have expired in the last few months.

**Safety committee.** Need to be more proactive in dealing with issues. Chris Piazza. Do an ad asking if anyone would like to head up this committee.

Jim Metzger, make a presentation on tree planting and mentioned that they needed to have a better plan than before so that trees were going into areas where people wanted the trees and for planning purposes.

**Eclipse.** Mena to Memphis. The largest influx of visitors into this state in its history. Small group together. Astronomy clubs, etc. shutting down the street do a big festival. STR places.

**As there was no other business, Konarski Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Johnson . The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:25**