



**HRA Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**04-07-10**

President Teresa Edgerton-Scott called the meeting to order. Board members, advisors and others present were: James Eakin, James Moore, Barbara Ramsey, Cathy Williamson, Kelly Gay, Liz Swaine and Tina Kendrick. Absent were Julie Payne Johnson, Tom Arceneaux, Marsha Millican, Kenney Koonce, Dan Marcalus, and Advisor Sue Ball.

**Old Business:**

The minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting were approved with a motion from Liz Swaine and seconded by Tina Kendrick, and the Treasurer's Report was approved with a motion from Liz Swaine and seconded by Kelly Gay.

Barbara Ramsey recently did some research on whether HRA has to pay Sales Tax and was told by the State Tax office that we are only exempt from federal income taxes.

**2010 NIP Grant—Teresa Edgerton**

HRA received our signed NIP contract and Teresa Edgerton has written the city requesting our first reimbursement check (which is actually start-up funding) for \$2,166.66.

**New Business:**

**President's Report—Teresa Edgerton**

Update on new office space search— Kenney Koonce and the HAP Board have graciously agreed that HRA can share their office space. Several board members have expressed reservations about this site: e.g., it is not conducive to people, esp. volunteers, actually using the space; it is not centrally located and lacks visibility; it is rather dark and closed in; it has very limited meeting space for board meetings.

These board members are grateful to HAP for their offer, are not closing the door on this possibility, but would prefer to keep looking for a suitable location within HRA's budget.

Liz Swaine said the Caddo Council on Aging is leasing Buckner Square property from Schumpert. They will have some space available for subleasing. Liz will keep us updated on this possibility.

Tina Kendrick said Junior League office on Line may have some space.

A Taste of Highland—Tina Kendrick, Julie Payne Johnson, Kenney Koonce, Matthew Linn and Charles Ashley met and discussed some possibilities regarding the proposed event, A Taste of Highland. Matthew and Charles reacted positively to the idea, but their roles would primarily be providing "technical assistance."

Subsequently Tina, Julie and Teresa have had “virtual meetings” on the topic. At this time, Julie is going to concentrate on HRA membership issues which need immediate attention—preparation of accurate membership list with dates for labels, compilation of email list of members and supporters for email blasts, membership mail-outs, etc.

Teresa and Tina will continue to explore the possibility of the event, A Taste of Highland. Teresa and Tina propose that they, with assistance from other board members, will 1) gauge the support of the Robinson Place neighbors for hosting the event on their street; 2) approach the Junior League to see if they want to partner with HRA in hosting this event; 3) ask the HRA board to agree that if we make money on the event, some of proceeds be directed toward buying items for Highland schools that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford, believing that helping the schools helps Highland attract families into the neighborhood; 4) explore the possibility of a “alcohol” license on a Sunday afternoon in a neighborhood; Matthew and Charles felt this was essential component; 5) prepare a preliminary budget for the event, based on the figures Kenney provided us from the Jazz Festival. If Teresa and Tina receive positive feedback from the neighbors and identify a volunteer base, we will prepare a written description of what we are asking from restaurants and begin to pitch the idea to area restaurants to gauge their support. We will go forward with the event, only if we are able to garner the necessary support from all entities to make it succeed.

#### Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation Convention, April 14-15, Shreveport:

Jean Sayres of the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation has requested that HRA support the state convention being held in Shreveport April 14—16 at the Shreveport Convention Center by attending and especially attending the Thursday evening Progressive Cocktail party and tour of downtown attractions (McNeil Street Pumping Station, Municipal Auditorium, Spring Street Museum). Tickets are \$40 per person for the tour, to include tour and meal. Registration materials can be downloaded from the HRA website.

Teresa Edgerton is requesting that HRA pay the \$75 registration fee for her to attend the sessions all day Thursday, April 15. She has arranged for leave from her job to attend that day. The board might be able to bill this to NIP Grant as a community activity but that is not a certainty. She and Ricky will attend the Thursday night Progressive Cocktail party and tour on Thursday evening at their expense. There was a discussion of additional board members who wanted to attend this state convention. James Moore moved that HRA pay registration fee for Teresa Edgerton, Tina Kendrick and Liz Swaine to attend the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation Convention. The motion was seconded by James Eakin. The motion passed.

#### HRA Strategic Plan

Sue Ball has indicated an interest in HRA's finding an impartial individual who could help the board with development of a strategic plan and identify our focus for the future. She would also like for HRA to start capturing our impact on the community in measurable terms, e.g. recent Community Renewal communiqués are using numbers to recruit support and other community entities, especially funders, like this kind of data. Teresa Edgerton said Dan Marcalus knows someone who does Strategic Planning. Tina Kendrick said Kay Irby did this for non-profits. Teresa feels it will be good for grant writing and to help identify what we have accomplished. Liz Swaine said she would call Kay about this.

Moving HRA Board Meeting Date to Last Wednesday of Month—Tom Arceneaux, suggested that HRA consider this possibility in order to meet before MPC meetings. The board would need to clear availability of the meeting space with Highland Center administration if we want to continue to meet here. Liz Swaine moved that the HRA Board change their meeting day to the last Wednesday of the month beginning in May. James seconded. There was discussion about the need for a meeting earlier in May. Teresa said if she felt there was pressing business she would call a meeting. The motion to change the board's meeting day passed.

### **A Better Shreveport report and Highland Park—Dan Marcalus**

Dan sent his report via email. The Highland Park discussion is progressing.

### **Property Standards—James Moore**

Jim Holt and his staff did meet with a small group of Property Standards Committee members. As a result of the meeting, at least one problem property on Highland at Columbia was boarded up the next day.

There was a discussion of the process for demolishing burned out building. James Moore said you can go the [www.shreveport.la.gov](http://www.shreveport.la.gov) website and click on the property standards link. You can look at the pending action on the property.

### **Zoning— Tom Arceneaux**

Nothing relevant to Highland was on the MPC agenda this month.

Liz Swaine said there may be an illegal halfway house moving in at College and Southern behind the Berry Patch. She is going to call Allen Clark with zoning. It is unoccupied but someone is working on it.

Teresa Edgerton is very pleased about all of the properties being worked on in Highland.

### **Neighborhood Clean-up—James Eakin**

HRA is participating in the Great American Clean-Up this Saturday, April 10. Volunteers are to meet in front Highland Center parking lot at 8:00 am. Ricky and Julie will have a truck with flatbed trailer ready to start picking up tires. Teresa and Ricky Edgerton have identified three sites—400 block of Wyandotte (2 tires); 2400 block of Wheless (8-9 tires) and Holly Street (30 tires). The plan is to get as many as we can and take them to the Fairgrounds where they will accept them until 10:30 or shortly thereafter (definitely before 11:00 per Cassandra Calloway of Shreveport Green.) James Eakin said he would take his camera over and take pictures. Depending upon the number of volunteers and the help needed with the tires, other people will be assigned to pick up litter on targeted streets. "Ground Zero" blocks need some attention (300/400 blocks of Wilkinson; Prospect; Robinson); Herndon, Centenary, i.e., northern parts of Highland Historic District and any other major thoroughfares we can get to. James Eakin has cards for \$10 off of a \$50 purchase at Lowe's.

James Eakin is concerned about the Family Dollar Store on Kings Highway. He is going to take pictures and try to persuade the district manager to clean up side lot as well as parking lot.

Julie Payne Johnson and Kelly Gay emailed Teresa Edgerton a proposal that they wanted t-shirts for this and future clean-ups, but did not want to ask HRA to purchase them. They asked Teresa to help them poll the board to identify persons wanting shirts, which she did. Anyone who wanted a t-shirt ordered one, they developed a simple design and will debut them at the April 10 clean-up. If you ordered a t-shirt, please pay Julie who will pay for them and get reimbursed by individuals.

Also, Teresa Edgerton ordered 8 simple signs from Ridgways, which will be used to publicize our clean-ups. Hopefully they will be ready before Saturday. This was a project previously approved, which will be paid for by NIP funding.

### **Membership—Julie Payne-Johnson**

Julie and Kelly Gay are working to complete an accurate membership list, complete with amount of dues paid and when. Julie will then send out a membership renewal note and reminder of the General Membership meeting on May 18. Julie will also undertake specific membership correspondence in regard to our response to memberships and the concerns noted. Barbara will continue to mail out membership cards and a brief thank you note.

### **Landscaping update—Sue Ball**

Sue and her paid assistant Heath have planted the bed on Jordan Street in front of Goldman Plaza office; they begun work on the bed at Centenary and Kings; they weeded and cleaned the bed on Highland that is dedicated in memory of Dewanna Montgomery; they ordered flowers from Noel Methodist Ministries for the beds; and they had the irrigation system inspected and turned on.

### **Public Relations—**

Teresa Edgerton did issue a verbal statement to one TV station that called the office about the recent Disiere fire, and she appeared on Channel 6 lamenting the loss of a historic home. Kenney Koonce suggested when there is a noteworthy Highland event. HRA should issue a public statement to the media and it was suggested that Liz might be willing to help with that.

We are better utilizing our social networking, website and blog for positive impact and dissemination of information. Regarding putting the minutes on the website for people: Teresa said she can send March minutes after they are approved and edited for appropriateness. People from the neighborhood who now live away from Shreveport seem to appreciate the blog. We need even more photos. Please submit them to Kelly Gay. Teresa thanked Kelly for her awesome work.

Our website is being featured in our next newsletter and on the back of our clean-up t-shirts.

### **Newsletter—Kelly Gay**

The Spring Newsletter is at the printers and features the La. Trust for Historic Preservation Convention, the website article, an article Kenney Koonce submitted about the old Rex Theater (aka Don's Seafood former location), an article about Creswell Elementary submitted by a new HRA member, Sammie Bell, plus James Moore's Property Standards article, and Neighborhood Improvement Award winners. The newsletter is crammed with interesting information about the neighborhood. Thank you, Kelly, for pulling it all together!

### **Neighborhood Improvement Award—Marsha Millican Gill**

Diane Mirvis of 400 block of Merrick and Joey Tarravella's 1529 Creswell apartment building received the Neighborhood Improvement Awards. The plaques are ready and Marsha will deliver them to the recipients.

Dan Marcalus has suggested when we run out of these plaques that we issue a certificate instead and increase the number of signs and recipients to recognize more people who have made improvements. He compiled a list of possible winners. One sign has disappeared. Dan felt the plastic signs would be adequate rather than the sturdy, hand painted signs HRA currently uses. The committee has not had a chance to discuss this suggestion. James Moore said he really liked the wooden signs better and Teresa Edgerton agreed. Several individuals were mentioned that might be interested in painting some signs for HRA.

**Programs Update— Tina Kendrick**

Next General Membership meeting will be May 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Randal T. Moore building. Charles Kirkland or someone from MPC will speak on zoning for about 30 minutes. This will be followed by food to be provided by Charles Ashley and music provided by Buddy Flett and Friends (includes Tim Brogan et al). The food will be light fare. James Eakin suggested that we say nonmembers should pay \$5.00 or join HRA.

There will be another flyer for the membership meeting because the newsletter was so full. Kelly said this would go out the first week in May.

Liz Swaine said Tina Kendrick is doing a great job with programs. She suggested that we come up a free-standing budget for programs. It was suggested the money could possibly come out of the Christmas Tour money and some possibly would come out of NIP. Tina said this would lend itself to a more efficient implementation of programs.

**Fundraising**—None scheduled at this time. A Taste of Highland continues in the planning phase.

**Announcements**

Cathy Williamson announced a family had moved into the Peeks house on Wheelless.

**Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was made by Cathy Williamson and seconded by James Moore.



Submitted by Cathy Williamson, Secretary HRA