



HRA Board Meeting
Minutes
01-06-10

Teresa Edgerton Scott called the meeting to order. Board members present were Teresa Edgerton Scott, James Eakin, James Moore, Kelly Gay, Tom Arceneaux, Barbara Ramsey, Marsha Millican Gill, Ginger Broussard, and Liz Swaine; program chair Tina Kendrick and guest April Dahm were also present. Board members Cathy Williamson and Kenney Koonce were absent, as were advisors Dan Marcalus and Sue Ball.

The minutes for December 2, 2009 were read and a motion was made by James Moore to accept them as read. Tina seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's Report for November was provided. Tom moved the treasurer's report be accepted. Liz seconded this motion. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Old Business:

Christmas Tour of Homes—

Tina asked if we had sent thank you notes to the Christmas tour sponsors; Teresa reported that she had done so. Liz stated that she also sent a thank you letter to Twin Cities. Tina stated that we have gotten a lot of positive feedback about the tour this year, especially from the visitors from Dallas, and several people have joined HRA based on their experiences at the tour. Teresa mentioned that we had a lot of great volunteers this year who helped make the tour a success.

2009 NIP Grant—

Teresa said that she is submitting the final report for the NIP grant, which is due Jan. 15.

New Business:

2010 NIP and other funding—Teresa Edgerton

Teresa said that we will be receiving \$6500, which is less than last year because more people are applying for grants in our district. Liz stated that we should take a look at the budget for the home improvement award; we may need to decrease it due to budget cuts.

Property Standards—James Moore

James Moore stated that the small house at Stephens and Wichita behind the Highland center is scheduled for demolition and has been moved to a higher place on the list. Teresa mentioned that it does not seem to be in very bad shape; James said that it is worse than it looks, is adjudicated, and has a bad title. James also stated that at the city standards meeting a two story apartment building at Dillingham

and Merrick was cited for “care of premise”, which means that they have to clean up the premises. James stated that it should have been reported for rotting wood and that he will talk to Jim Holt about this. James mentioned that graffiti can also be cited; Liz said that this should be in the newsletter. April reported that a house on the 700 block of Rutherford was falling down and had broken windows; James said that this house had been reported but needed to be reported again. He stated that the city does not have general requirements for structures and that some people need to be given more than 10 days to fix problems before a demolition notice is issued. James said that he would email the template for property violation reports to the board members.

Zoning—Tom Arceneaux and Liz Swaine

Liz said that we have become “agitators” in the community by sending emails and letters to council persons and getting petitions out about zoning issues. We are opposed to the zoning change from B-2 to B-3 on Hoadley. Liz stated that she attended the MPC meeting and that the potential had a good plan for the property with nice landscaping; the goal will be to have a B-2 exception for this particular use that will require the owner to follow through with landscaping and other requirements.

Tom stated that he will be representing HRA at the next MPC meeting, which will discuss the 513 zoning appeal. Tom said that HRA is opposed to this zoning appeal so we need people to write, text, email, call, and go to the meeting to express our concerns. April mentioned that having too many social services in Highland is also a negative for the clients of these services. Teresa said that that part of Jordan is particularly saturated, with 56 people in 2 8-plexes at the VOA center down the street. Teresa stated that we need to define what facilities we are concerned about and do a survey. April asked if these facilities have licenses; Teresa and Liz said they often do not. James Eakin added that we should create a map of the facilities. Tom said to notify the zoning board of any potential violations and they will investigate it. Tina nominated Dan to investigate this; April said that she will help as well.

Membership—Teresa Edgerton

Teresa said that we need a vice president this year to take over membership duties and assist the president. Pam Kimbrough will head the nominating committee; the election will take place at the General Membership Meeting on Jan. 19th at the Randle T. Moore center. Liz said that she will do a press release to the Times. Kelly said that she will send out a notice in the mail. Teresa asked everyone to make personal invites to lapsed members. April mentioned that we should have electronic and Facebook membership drives. Tina said that she would like more of the younger members to become involved. Teresa stated that we need to have people who are dedicated to working for HRA without a board position. James added that the vice president position was too ambitious before and needed to be scaled back. Tina stated that she would contact people about filling the VP position.

Highland Park Update—Dan Marcalus

Teresa mentioned that Dan is going to send a letter to Shelly Ragle at SPAR about upgrades to Highland Park.

Landscaping—Sue Ball

Teresa stated that all the water has been turned off at the beds, and that Sue would like \$500 from the Xmas tour fund due to the reduction in NIP funds. Tina said that we should wait until we find out how much will need for other purposes. Teresa agreed and said that the decision would be postponed.

Public Relations—Kelly Gay and Dan Marcalus

Teresa said that Sue mailed copies of a Southern Living article about Comeback Neighborhoods to board members and asked if anyone could send them information about Highland. Liz volunteered to do this. Kelly stated that she and her husband had created a sample for a new HRA website and were playing with different functions that she and Dan had talked about for the new website. Tom mentioned that he is on Facebook often and would like to be a moderator for the HRA Facebook group.

Newsletter—Kelly Gay

Kelly stated that the Winter 2009 newsletter went out at the end of November, and as the newsletter is quarterly the next newsletter will go out at the end of February or the beginning of March.

Neighborhood Improvement Award—Marsha Millican Gill

Teresa said that she would like to nominate Diane Mirvis and her house at Merrick and Creswell for the home improvement award; other options include 1529 Creswell, 323 Washington, and 2222 Fairfield. Teresa mentioned that sometimes the awards can encourage homeowners to continue improving their homes and that the signs are also good PR.

Programs—Tina Kendrick

Tina discussed a proposed literacy project with the Robinson Film Center; the idea would be to engage both public and private schools using graphics, power points, photos, video, and other media with a jury from Centenary.

Fundraising—

Teresa stated that HRA will hold a garage sale in the spring. Charles Ashley offered to hold a preview sale on that Friday at his property along with plate suppers; HRA would get a percentage of the plate supper sales. Teresa said she would hold the actual garage sale at her house on that Saturday.

A Better Shreveport—

April stated that A Better Shreveport voted unanimously at their last meeting to work on revitalizing Texas Ave from Common St to Murphy St. She mentioned that revitalizing downtown will be important to the revitalization of Highland, and vice versa. April said that they would like to have an HRA member join their Texas Avenue Community Association to improve communication between the groups. James Moore said that the city should be able to get titles for the adjudicated properties. April mentioned that Jason Brown had purchased the Calanthean Temple on the 1000 Block of Texas Ave and was working to restore it.

Announcements:

Teresa stated that HRA is still looking for a new office space. Tina mentioned her husband's old office at 909 Olive as a possibility.

Teresa said that Monty Walford told her that we could apply for a Community Foundation Grant but we must register online. Liz volunteered to do this.

Adjournment

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

