

HPWNA Board Meeting – Feb. 11, 2015  
Minutes

1. Call to Order -- 7:34 p.m.

In attendance: Jonathan Sweeney; Gretchen Helmreich; Mark Jones; Libby Karier; Erin Engstrom

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Jan. 14, 2015, meeting approved as submitted

3. Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Jan . 31: \$1,018.32

Outstanding deposits: none

Outstanding payments: none

4. Meetings Attended

a. CAPS – Beat 1724

i. This was the first meeting under the new sector format. Gretchen attended. She said it seemed very disorganized; the police were not prepared to talk about any issues from our beat. Apparently under the new format, if you want to discuss something, you need to submit it four days in advance of the CAPS meeting. But Gretchen said she had heard from other sectors that their meetings were different, so we'll see if this month's meeting is any different.

**ii. Next CAPS meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the 17<sup>th</sup> District Station.**

b. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ward TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee)

i. There was a TAC meeting in January; Erin was unable to attend because the meetings have been moved to the alderman's office. But she said the minutes are posted, so she will keep up to date through reviewing them.

**ii. The next meeting is Feb. 26**

c. HPAC (Horner Park Advisory Council)

i. no HPWNA rep attended this month's meeting

d. Bateman LSC

The 'state of the school' address was Feb. 11. Things are looking up. The school is now a Level 2+, an improvement from where it was a few years back; hope is that it will be a Level 1 school within a year or two. There is a new assistant principal to replace Georgia Davos-Vetas (who is the new principal). The new assistant principal was an internal hire.

e. NRC (North River Commission)

i. This was the membership meeting. Both Gretchen and Mark attended. There was a discussion of how civics are affecting their neighborhoods in different ways – environmental, economic, etc. Gretchen said it was a good discussion and she found it interesting to hear what other civics are doing. The big spring meeting's focus will be on the environment.

f.33<sup>rd</sup> Ward Aldermanic Candidate Forum NRC

i. The forum was a huge success. Estimates put the attendance at 350 people; standing room only. Dan Ponce did a great job moderating; and it was very informative.

g. Other neighborhood meetings

i. Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association. Gretchen attended to see how their meetings work and to see if they wanted to join in our spring meeting. (*See item below*)

ii. SSA – Façade Improvement Meeting. Mark attended one session that was held to introduce the program to small-business owners. He said about 8 businesses were represented at the session he attended. (There were 2 sessions; one in the morning, one in the evening.) He said there is confusion within the program as to whether façade improvement projects have to be new, or if they could be for work already done or already underway.

5. Committees

a. Social

i. Gretchen was contacted by the roller derby. It is offering a group rate of \$12 per person (kids under 17 are free) if we get a group of at least 20 together. They provide transportation (another \$10) to and from Brisku's Bistro, and also provide a \$5 drinks ticket. If we don't get at least 20 people, the ticket rate rises to \$15. Gretchen is going to put a notice out via Wiggio; the date would be Feb. 28. It's an early event – 6 or 6:30 p.m.

b. Beautification

First cleanup in 2015 will be April 11. Street and direction of work still to be decided.

c. Forward Progress/Economic Development

i. Breakroom is getting closer to opening; we eagerly await the news.

ii. No update on the rumors of Fountainhead announcing plans for the Montrose Saloon property.

d. Communication

i. Posting has been going well on FB and the website.

ii. Neighbors are making good use of the Wiggio site

#### e. Spring Meeting

- i. Probable date is May 20 (still need to check with park staff on date availability)
- ii. We are sticking with the topic of economic development. Will have one panel discussion. Potential participants are: someone from the alderman's office (whoever is elected) on what they can do to help economic development; Angelo's; Breakroom; Dovetail; the new vet; Ravenswood Manor Child Care Center; Fountainhead; Templestowe; Windy City Theater. We also felt there should be some representation of realtors. Noah Properties was suggested because they not only sell, but also chose to locate in our area. Gretchen also was going to reach out to her realtor, who is still selling houses in the area.
- iii. Tentative agenda would be: Opening remarks/president's annual review; treasurer's report; election (slate still to be decided); show and discuss the vision boards; and then start the panel discussion. We will come up with a series of questions that will be asked, as well as open it up to the floor. We will end with 'how can we help'; what else can we do. We also need to make sure people in the neighborhood realize how much of an impact they can have.
- iv. Gretchen had reached out to RMIA to see if they wanted to partner with us on this, but the committee chairmen dealing with real estate and economic development were not at the RMIA meeting she attended. Now that we have a little more substance on the agenda, she will reach out directly to them.
- v. Erin said she would reach out to Breakroom, the vet, Noah Properties and the child care center. Gretchen will reach out to Dovetail, Fountainhead, Windy City and Templestowe. Mark will reach out to Angelo's.

#### 6. Old Business

- i. Gretchen followed up on the meeting between the developers and residents about the 2940 W. Irving Park site. She said it appears the developers' proposal to the neighbors was rejected. She has not heard anything regarding any efforts to file for the zoning change. Given the resistance, it is unlikely.
- ii. No update on the Sacramento/Montrose strip mall

#### 7. New Business

- i. Jonathan mentioned a scam that has been happening in our neighborhood. A well-dressed, well-spoken man with a badge on his belt and holding a clipboard is going door to door and claiming to be with Horner Park. He is soliciting cash, claiming it will be used to buy boots that then will be distributed to kids at Horner Park. This is a scam; not a legitimate enterprise.

#### 8. Adjourn -- 8:22 p.m.

Next meeting: March 11, 2015, at the field house