

**Highlands Douglass Neighborhood Association
Minutes of April 6, 2016**

Board Members Present

Valarie DeSalvo	Jay Douds	Malinda Durbin
Brandt Ford	Barbara Ford	Ed Flynn
Anne Glosky	Muriel Handmaker	Bob Harlow
Shelley Piquard	Joshua White	

Board Members Absent:

Sherry Cornell	Barbara Berman	D.G. Mawn
Erik Siegel	Angus McLachlan	Debbie McLachlan

Guests: Benjamin Moore and J.T. Johnson

Guest speaker: Chris Kolb, candidate for Metro Council District 8.

Eighth District Metro Council Report: Tom Owen

- Tom is requesting curb cuts to be closed that open onto Bardstown Road at the new liquor store (previously a convenience market) on the corner of Bardstown Road and Speed Avenue. Customers would then enter and exit off of Speed Avenue.
- Sidewalk repairs continue. If you notice a dangerous sidewalk, report it to 311 and an inspector will check it against code enforcement for repairs.
- Next “Talk with Tom” is Saturday, April 30th at Day’s Coffee from 9:00 until 11:00 am.
- **Joshua White** voiced a concern: on Bardstown Road heading South, the location and synchronization of lights at Douglass Boulevard and Harvard cause a lot of accidents. Drivers cannot see the second light and when the car in front of them stops, they are not expecting it. Tom will look into.

Fifth Division Police Liaison Report: Officer Kevin Mumphrey

- On 3/20 a burglary attempt on Weber between 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- Also on 3/20, tires cut on Speed Avenue between 3:00 and 9:00 pm
- Reports of unlocked vehicles broken into on Spring and Village Drive.

Approval of March Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from March 2, 2016.

Vote: Motion carried.

Resolved: Minutes from March 2, 2016 Board Meeting approved.

Approval of March Treasurer's Report

Motion: To approve the treasurer's report from March 2, 2016.

Vote: Motion carried.

Resolved: Minutes from March 2, 2016 Board Meeting approved.

Bob Harlow recognized **Joshua White** and **Shelley Piquard**.

Because of Josh's work with reforestation, and Shelley's grant writing, HDNA received a check this past month for \$3,633 from MSD.

Old Business

Malinda Durbin reminded board members of the upcoming Metro Council Candidate Roundtable scheduled for April 17th at 2:00 at Adath Jeshurun. All volunteers should arrive at 1:00 pm. HDNA is donating \$50 and soft drinks to this event. HDNA will have a table hosted by **Ed and Maggie Flynn**, where membership and SOC information will be displayed as well as past newsletters. **Shelley Piquard and Jordan Davis** volunteered, and Sherry Cornell and Malinda will be timers. The Roundtable will be advertised on Facebook, the HDNA web page, and Twitter.

Bob Harlow posed the question as to whom we should make our \$50 check to for this event. The consensus was that we would wait until further instruction, as HDNA does not want to be involved in paying expenses directly to individuals or services.

Joshua White brought to the board's attention that he was copied on the email that contained HDNA's list of questions for the Candidate Roundtable. He requested as a fairness issue, a copy be sent to all candidates. **Jay Douds** indicated our questions might not be asked. Josh said if any of them were asked, he did not want his name attached to them in an email trail. Malinda thanked Josh for bringing that issue to the board's attention.

Committee Reports

- **Beautification – Shelley Piquard, Chair**
Shelley recognized **Ed Fallon** of Park Community Federal for mulching and taking care of the rose garden on Bardstown Road. All board members are asked to thank Ed for his hard work and Shelley is sending a formal thank you note.

The tree planting initiative at Atherton and Assumption High Schools on March 25 was a huge success.

The garden on the corner of Douglass and Ellerbee has been weeded, mulched and plantings divided.

Shelley and **Barbara Berman** will participate in the Beargrass Creek cleanup on Saturday, April 9th.

On March 2nd, Shelley, **Barbara Berman** and **Josh White**, attended a class at the University of Louisville on urban reforestation and tree selection.

Saturday, April 16th, volunteers are needed to pick up litter/trash for the Operation Brightside - Passport Health Plan clean up for the Mayor's Week of Service. An email with additional information will be forthcoming with a request for RSVP if you plan to participate.

Josh White reported the joint neighborhood effort for reforesting the Highlands took a trip to Woody's Warehouse, where they tagged 188 trees for fall plantings. Not only have other neighborhoods learned about tree selection, but also about trees that do not lose leaves during winter months, which some people do not like. Tagging trees guarantees that we receive trees that lose leaves in winter. More trees were tagged than needed, which will be distributed to other organizations.

- **Communications: Erik Siegel, Chair**
Erik was not present, but Malinda reminded everyone that articles are due for the newsletter.
- **Events: Debbie McLachlan, Chair**
Josh White announced that Debbie and Angus have a beautiful baby girl.

Malinda reported the Events Committee was in the process of planning a "meet and greet" with other 8th District neighborhood associations toward the end of May. Although nothing had been confirmed, plans were to hold the event at the DCC. However, with the change of hours and staffing that was now up in the air. **Brandt Ford** indicated he spoke to DCC management regarding not only this event, but also the Movie on the Lawn and they were going to confirm with Metro Parks.

- **Membership: Muriel Handmaker, Chair.**
Muriel reported that details surrounding Business Memberships are still being worked out, but the committee hopes to finalize those this month.

The committee has called on new residents who have moved into the neighborhood as of January 1, and distributed information packets consisting of the green HDNA bag, a trifold, newsletter and membership envelope.

- **Safety Committee: Josh White, Chair**

Josh reported the Graffiti Abatement Coalition is holding their annual census on April 16th, the same day as the litter/trash clean up. He will make sure they do litter/trash clean up as well. He has 200 volunteers, but would like to have a couple from this neighborhood.

Josh stated there would be a safety committee meeting on May 21st at 6:00 pm, at a location to be determined. Malinda reminded him to have minutes taken at each meeting.

- **SOC Sub-Committee: Sherry Cornell, Chair**

Brandt Ford reported in Sherry's absence. Brandt reported he spoke with Jason Canuel, Assistant Director of Metro Parks regarding the mold and structural analysis reports for the DCC. Parks said the mold analysis still had 6 areas in the basement and on the second floor that were retested, but local Parks personnel did not feel readings were sufficient and are now questioning reliability of city equipment. Retesting will be done. Ceilings have also fallen in, which had occurred numerous times in the past, possibly due to leaks not being repaired properly. The structural analysis, which allegedly cost \$50K, came in a couple of weeks ago and included 10 pages of diagrams, figures, etc. Metro Parks sent it back to the company who performed the work requesting an executive summary be included. Brandt requested copies of all documentation from Jason and copied Councilman Tom Owen's office on all correspondence. Brandt recognized Tom Owen for keeping Parks on task. Both Brandt and Sherry will be attending presentations put on by Metro Parks and Seve Ghose regarding community centers.

- Malinda reminded committee chairs that budgets need to be turned in to Bob Harlow if they have not already done so

New Business

- Malinda thanked **Jay Douds** for forwarding notice from the Kentucky Secretary of State regarding an annual report due from HDNA by June 30th. Jay indicated this report is necessary for insurance and other legal purposes and is required so that HDNA avoids administrative dissolution or revocation of our certificate

of authority. Cost is \$15. **Brandt Ford** agreed to complete and turn in to the state prior to the due date.

- **Josh White** reported that he was informed by a third party about inappropriate use of funds regarding at least one neighborhood organizations use of MSD reimbursement funds for trees. He was told they were creating false invoices to turn a profit, amounting to \$6,000. Josh made it clear these were only allegations, but asked for an investigation that triggered an audit of that particular neighborhood and at least one other. This could result in an accounting from all neighborhoods, including HDNA as to how MSD reimbursement funds were used and whether appropriate documentation was in place. **Bob Harlow** questioned how this all came about, and Josh indicated MSD had no contracts in place and asked for no accounting of how funds were spent. Nor did they have anyone on site the day of tree plantings, but would check after the fact to see if trees were in place. MSD provided \$240 per tree but were not diligent in checking to see how neighborhoods spent the money. The neighborhood in question was charging people \$150 per tree, and then getting a reimbursement of \$240 from MSD. An outside company planted the trees for \$300 each and the profit came back into the pockets of certain individuals in the neighborhood organization. HDNA's cost per tree is \$90, which includes the bag, staking, digging the hole, etc. Trees are purchased at market price, with no outside expenses. Josh and **Shelley Piquard** indicated HDNA had receipts and other documentation for any tree work and MSD reimbursement checks were placed into the HDNA savings account. Josh met with MSD officials and pointed out they needed a system of checks and balances, which he now felt would be put in place.

The meeting was adjourned. Next board meeting: May 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Malinda Durbin