

Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association (PHNA) Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6 p.m. at Howson Branch Public Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd., Austin, TX 78703, with the President presiding over the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Frank Hartmann
Betty Trent
Beverly Sutton
Jane Hayman
Tina Weinberg
Don Simkins
Eric Venditti

Non-Board Members present:

Erin Shanley
Jim Shanley

- I. Call to Order: 6:10 p.m.
- II. Reviewed and Approved Minutes from January 7th Board Meeting
- III. President's Report
 - a. Discussion of media and Peel newsletter, which Erin Shanley has volunteered to lead. Erin provided introduction and thoughts on where she sees opportunities for building up the newsletter (regular columns, opportunities for high schoolers to get printed). Frank Hartmann brought up the importance of using it as a recruitment tool for the neighborhood. Frank Hartmann also suggested sending out an email to the neighborhood introducing Erin Shanley and having people contact her for newsletter content. Eric Venditti to set up email account, so that Erin Shanley will receive the emails. Jane Hayman will follow up with her separately to discuss some ideas she has for columns.
- IV. Updates & Initiatives
 - a. Pemberton Heights Streets & Sanitation:
 - i. Curbside (Tiled) Signage Damage: Frank Hartmann raised the point of speaking with the forman of the project. Frank Hartmann will follow up to find that contact.
 - b. Triangle Initiatives: Frank Hartmann circulated updates on the Triangle water initiative. Plan is to meter four of the five locations circled on map distributed by Frank Hartmann. Plan is in place to enhance the scape of the triangles, according to Sabrina Brown. Sabrina Brown is planning on having another fundraiser.

- c. Other infrastructure updates: All utility work to be done by May 9; final street paving by May 31; replacement of water service on Westover Road before March 31. Tina Weinberger asked to have updates printed in the newsletter.
 - i. Current Status
 - ii. Estimated Costs to maintain
- d. Hartford Park Initiative – Creation of a Neighborhood 501c3: Parks staffer, Brian Block, put together a Master Plan, which puts us on the agenda (step 1), and they did recommend us to move forward (step 2). Third step is to come to an agreement on the MoU. We have one, which Carey drew up. Eric Venditti conveyed Carey’s comments about the maintenance/funding for the park, but most importantly what the board’s relationship with the park should be (total board involvement vs. committee). Carey would need to have the board sign a document outlining the relationship with the park. She has offered to do this work pro bono. Betty Trent still doesn’t have a number on the insurance. Frank Hartmann conveyed Dalton Young’s impression that the board doesn’t want to assume liability, and that a 501c3 should be established. It would be a separate entity, but have involvement from the board. Motion to have PHNA endorse the Hartford Park Committee’s establishment of a 501c3, and have it move forward independently of the board, so that the board does not assume liability from the park. Ally Kirk seconded the motion (unanimous – 9 votes).
- e. Other items: Jane Hayman raised the issue of the “No Trespassing” sign on Green Lane and asked whether that was a private street. Frank Hartmann followed up with Molly Dougherty and confirmed that they are City signs and the street is private.

V. Officers and Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report
- b. Vice President’s Report
 - i. Membership Update: Jane Hayman has suggestions on membership outreach by communicating minutes of the meetings in the newsletter. Frank Hartmann will send a summary of the meeting for posting on the blog as well as through NextDoor. Jane Hayman also recommended having the neighborhood membership form go into the newsletter as well as Life in the Heights. Tina Weinberger will communicate with the necessary people to have that happen. Jane Hayman also suggested contacting former members. Jane Hayman also suggested having more benefits for membership, such as a free event, such as Stark After Dark.
 - ii. 2015-2016 Nominating Committee: Four people will be leaving the board and six terms will be up. Jane Hayman has found two, maybe three people to be on the board. She recommends all those leaving to find one person to replace them, so that there are not more people running than spots available.
 - iii. Traffic & Safety Update
 - iv. Security: Security Committee researched five different companies and received bids; Tina Weinberger found another company that will offer more than the current company at the same price, but the financials make it difficult to maintain without a dedicated fundraiser throughout the year. Tina Weinberger proposed to send out an announcement/ mailing before switching to a new company that lays out the financial requirements, asking members for either a one-time donation or a recurring monthly payment. Betty Trent suggested asking the security

company about scaling back number of nights to stretch the current funding out. Frank Hartmann will work with Tina Weinberger to put together a mailing for distribution as well as on NextDoor. Eric Venditti suggested acting in the next two weeks to survey whether the security patrol will continue. Security committee will convene to work on next steps.

- c. Treasurer's Report
 - i. 2015 Budget / Forecast: Jane Hayman will meet with Kimberly Comstock to go over details. Kimberly Comstock will add "Other Triangles" entry. Eric Venditti also recommended including water meters/KAB fund.
 - ii. Income discussion: PHNA will alert and refund members who have overpaid. Eric Venditti suggested having a single PayPal form that has options for paying dues, security, etc. Betty Trent moved, Ally Kirk seconded, to approve finance report (8 votes in favor, 1 opposed (Jane Hayman)).
- VI. Committee Reports / Agendas
 - a. Policies & Procedures: Beverly Sutton put forward the request for people to review proposed amendments to Policies & Procedures, so that a quick vote can be taken in the next meeting.
 - b. Social Activities: Stark After Dark to be taking place on May 16; Eric Venditti has suggested we discuss an alternate date (May 9); problem with legality needs to be reviewed, but suggested switching to BYOB to avoid liability.
 - c. Communications
 - i. Website, Listserv & NextDoor: Eric Venditti noted that there was a link sent that compromised one member's email. He has removed the link. Jane Hayman brought up her concerns over the idea of having a non-resident access the listserv (noted privacy issues, setting precedent). Ally Kirk motioned to remove Amanda Koziel (non-resident) from the listserv, but to have the board designate a liaison from the board to communicate Amanda Koziel's planned events through the listserv. Kimberly Comstock volunteered to be the liaison (9 votes in favor—unanimous). Frank Hartmann moved to eliminate the listserv and transition to only using NextDoor. Erin Shanley to put something in the newsletter about the freeze/transition to let neighbors know.
- VII. Member Questions / Forum
 - a. Richard Craig – Updates related to Shoal Creek and Pease Park: Richard Craig came to speak about the Pease Park Conservancy, and, more specifically, the retaining wall, which is in need of repair. PPC received a bid to repair it and they have two more bids coming. They are able to move forward in the next month and have encouragement from the City. They are applying for additional funding from the Parks Foundation, and it would be helpful to have the PHNA draft/provide a letter supporting this effort. Betty Trent moved to support the PPC in this effort; motion was seconded and had unanimous support (9 votes). Betty Trent will draft a letter on behalf of the board.
- VIII. Confirm Next Board Meeting: May 6, 6-8 p.m.
- IX. Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.