

Meeting Minutes – March 2011

Hiltonia Association General Minutes Tuesday, March 22, 2011

The general meeting was held at the home of Jim Brownlee. Approximately 35 people were in attendance. Guest speakers for the evening were Christina Seix, founder of the Christina Seix Academy, a private residential school due to open in September 2012. Joining Ms. Seix were Rob Connor, headmaster and Nigel Furlonge, director of admissions for the new academy, which is being built on 64 wooded acres on Stuyvesant Avenue (across from Trenton Psychiatric Hospital).

Rob said when the new school opens next year there will be 55 students in pre-K and kindergarten. Grades will be added each year. The school will go to eighth grade and be limited to 230 students. Boarding at the school will be offered to students beginning at fourth grade. The school's students will be chosen from Trenton families where the children are being raised by a grandparent. Scholarships will be available to all students. The campus will have no building taller than two stories and is going to be "cottage in feeling," according to Ms. Seix. The school day will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In response to concerns raised about increased traffic on Stuyvesant Ave., Ms. Seix said every effort will be made to have little impact on traffic, adding that the length of the school day should not adversely affect rush hour.

The meeting was called to order at 8:45.

New Business

Hiltonia resident Gil V. spoke to the group about the possibility of purchasing security cameras in bulk to keep the costs down. He has a 16 camera system operating at his property. Gil is hoping to host a casino night within the next two to three months to raise funds to offset the costs of security lights for neighbors who are interested in purchasing systems. A number of neighbors expressed some concerns about such things as installing an unnecessary sense of fear in the neighborhood, discouraging potential homebuyers and potential problems with privacy. Gil told the group that with cuts in services, including police, security cameras help discourage crime. Gil said he would like to put a committee together to ascertain how many people might be willing to buy cameras in bulk.

Elise mentioned other upcoming dates of interest:

- Town meeting with Rush Holt, 7:30 p.m., 3/24, Lighthouse Church, Bellevue Ave.
- City Council meetings – Tues. and Thurs. @5:30
- Passport Day – 4/2, 10 a.m.
- TCCA – 4/14 @ 7:30 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Communications

Website and Egroup: Michael said the E-group is up and running; members can adjust how fully they want to utilize the site; Elise is looking for a volunteer to keep the Hiltonia website's calendar up to date.

Signage: Elise said that plans to add two signs on the Stuyvesant Avenue side of Hiltonia (at Cadwalader and Cornwall Avenues) similar to the Welcome to Hiltonia sign on Hilvista Blvd. would have to be tabled because of cost (about \$800 per sign). After some discussion, Bea said she'd check with some sign makers in Trenton and Lambertville to see if a less expensive option is possible. Linda mentioned that the previously requested repairs to some neighborhood signs (MPH, Welcome to Our Neighborhood) have not been addressed by Sean, at City Hall. When she talked to Sean he told her that all the sign makers had been laid off. Linda said she'd send him another reminder, reiterating what had originally had been asked for by Marc.

Treasurer's Report

Jackie distributed and presented the budget for 2011. There are 122 members as of March 22, 2011. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted.

Committee Reports

Children's Committee

Michael reported the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 16 at 103 Buckingham Ave., the home of Rochelle Ellis and Lucy Strauli. .

Civic

1. Police: Don said there is unofficial word that the local commander is retiring. 2. Budget Priorities: Ellen said she attended a meeting run by Fix Trenton's Budget and Beautiful Trenton. The two organizations are surveying Trenton residents in order to make 2012 budget suggestions based on the priorities of Trenton residents. Linda suggested a smaller committee might want to work together on budget priorities. People might want to discuss this through the Google Group. Elise said she would look into inviting FTB/BT to a future meeting. 3. Bea spoke about whether city personnel is following the ordinance concerning use of city owned vehicles. She suggested allowing the new business administrator some time before bringing up the issue.

Events/Social Activities

1. A neighborhood dinner at El Mariachi (at the former La Gondola) is being planned for April. Details forthcoming. 2. West Ward Yard Sale – April 30 3. New Neighbors Open House – coffee and pastries, early June 4. Looking for a host for the Garden Party; date TBD

Hiltonia House Tour

Elise is looking into getting 501 (c) 3 status, possibly via the TCCA; tour is scheduled for May 2012

Investors Committee

Don said the committee will be meeting about what to do going forward. He said after that meeting he'll be better able to report to the Association.

A host is needed for the May meeting. The meeting ended at 9:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mason