

Meeting Minutes – January 2013

Hiltonia General Meeting January 15, 2013

The Hiltonia Association General Meeting was held at the home of Phillip Steffani and Jeffrey Van Velsor. There were 20 people in attendance.

Elise Mannella spoke to the group on the concept of a creative economy as a way to revitalize Trenton. She cited studies on the topic that evaluated creative class values: diversity and openness. The things that attract a creative class to an area are location, infrastructure and amenities, such as food, music, sports and the arts. Trenton is ranked sixth nationally for affordable housing stock. The things that attract a creative class generates the need for a service class. Elise added that work is supposed to be starting on a revised master plan. She expressed a hope that these kinds of ideas are part of the discussion going forward.

The business portion of the meeting began at 8 p.m. The 2013 officer slate was approved. Brian Viehland is president; Bobbie Shelingoski is first vice president; Dennis Keenan and Margaret Mason are sharing the position of second vice president; Maria Spillman is treasurer; Karen Lagerquist is the recording secretary, and Marcia Youngs is corresponding secretary.

Brian spoke about some of the things he hopes to accomplish during the upcoming year. He mentioned a few areas of focus: increasing participation in the Association and its activities; keeping the neighborhood and its properties in good condition and having a presence at City Council Meetings, perhaps by having a rotation of volunteers to attend meetings.

Upcoming events include a family bowling night on February 22 at Colonial Lanes; a neighborhood yard sale and clean up day on April 20 and the June Garden Party.

The proposed Hiltonia Association budget for 2013 was approved at the meeting. Jackie Kutch, outgoing treasurer, suggested amending the constitution and bylaws to allow voting by proxy.

The Welcome to Hiltonia sign on Hilvista has broken into pieces and different signage options were discussed. Prices for the options shown ranged from \$1,650 to replace the old sign to \$4,200 for a more elaborate sign. A second, small neighborhood sign would be placed at the corner of Cadwalader Drive and Stuyvesant Avenue. More sign options will be presented at a future meeting. A new sign choice must be voted on by members. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 13.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mason