

Hiltonia Association General Meeting MINUTES

Date: May 21, 2019, 7:00 PM
Home of: Georgia Wallar
2 Buckingham Avenue

Before the meeting was officially called to order Pat Flores presented the Urban Promise quilt, which will soon be on display at its next area school. Urban Promise was in recent years a recipient of our Worthy Projects initiative, and this was a wonderful opportunity to display the culmination of its Australia project. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey. Eighteen Hiltonians were in attendance. Terri O'Prey recorded the minutes on Margaret Mason's behalf.

1) **Minutes:** Previously distributed minutes from the March 12, 2019, meeting were approved by voice votes.

2) **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Barry Giordano reported the following:

- Checking account starting balance \$3307.78, deposits of \$75.00, expenditures of \$1071.11, outstanding checks totalling \$140.70, and \$60.00 in dues to be deposited.
- House tour account balance is \$2749.93
- CD account balance is \$5304.67

3) **Committee Reports** (oral reports)

a) **Civic:** Paulette Ayres summarized the news from CPAC (Coffee with a Cop events have been popular; foot patrols have begun in City hotspots; the message about the ATV ordinance is getting out, and activity seems to be lessening) and TCCA (Taste Trenton is back; the weekly farmer's market is returning; Library programs are going strong, including those for students, children, and adults).

b) **Publicity:** Linda Reid was absent and there was nothing to report on her behalf.

c) **Membership:** Donnie Johnson was absent and there was nothing to report on her behalf. Lily Knezevich suggested the Association consider offering multi-year memberships, perhaps a 5-year option beginning in 2020.

d) **Social:** Children's: Kathleen Coughlin reported the Easter egg hunt was a success and confirmed hosting details for National Night Out.

Adult: Lori Emmerson reported that hosts are confirmed through summer. She also shared ideas for alternating occasional "first" Fridays to "fourth" Fridays to avoid conflicts with other City social events in spring and summer.

e) **Hospitality:** Georgia Wallar reported that she is turning over the paper products supply to Lori.

f) **Worthy Projects:** Jacques and Maureen Lebel were absent but reported in advance that they are on track to submit a call for Worthy Projects to Kathi for the next *Hilltone*.

g) **Communications:** Kathi Eckert was absent but reported remotely on the status of the next *Hilltone* (mid-June). She has some content and urged committee chairs to write and submit articles ASAP.

h) **Beautification:** Mike Ranallo was absent and there was nothing to report on his behalf.

4) **Unfinished Business**

a) Update on neighborhood signs: Jeannie Weaklim proposed installation at Hiltonia borders, keeping extra signs in reserve for replacement or adding to hotspots going forward. Lily Knezevich has not heard back from the City about help with installation, so we will pull together a group to get things moving. (Dennis Wendell will coordinate.)

b) Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee: Dennis Wendell announced that Ali Wilson is leading this effort and will recruit a diverse representation of Hiltonians to undertake the review.

c) Update on efforts to set up meeting with TPH: Dennis Wendell reported that scheduling has been tricky. TPH now prefers to lead a discussion on hospital grounds and suggested that perhaps Hiltonians would be interested in attending a board meeting instead. He will persist in setting up an information session, probably on TPH grounds.

d) Hiltonia History Project: Terri O'Prey reported that while the originally conceived history book

project is on hold, if there is interest in a first volume consisting of our Hilltone archives (400+ pages), a brief introduction/Association history, and index we could pull that together this calendar year. Printing and binding would require a substantial number of preorders. Terri will prepare content for a *Hilltone* order form with a deadline of September 1.

- e) Update on speed bumps and Hilvista cleanup: Dennis Wendell reported that the City does seem to intend to install speed bumps. Several attendees expressed concerns about fire truck passage and suggested “your speed” detector signs instead. Lily Knezevich reminded all that at CPAC meetings those have been discussed as a very limited resource and not a permanent solution for speed control. Dennis will get more information from the City. He also reported on the RFP for cleanup along the wooded area of Hilvista. With the estimate at more than \$100K, the City is looking for creative solutions. Meanwhile, Terri O’Prey recommended that we continue to report dead standing trees via GovAlert.

5) New Business

- a) Who is responsible for maintaining the side of Route 1 entering and leaving the City (raised by Ellen Wry)? Consensus was that the State is responsible, and with that area in the East Ward it was suggested that we contact Councilman Joseph Harrison to bring forward our concern to the correct party. Terri O’Prey will handle.
- b) Clarify the distinction between the neighborhood Google group and official HA communication from Co-Presidents email address. This could tie in nicely with revitalization of the Welcome Wagon and a new neighbor information pack (raised by Becky Taylor). We discussed the complexities of the current system for official communications (email via BCC). Mark Emmerson suggested that our current website host might offer better options. He and Dennis Wendell will follow up and coordinate with Kathi Eckert on possible solutions. We also clarified that the Google group is for general neighborhood chatter, and it is not owned or moderated by the Association. Rana Tewari mentioned the benefits of Nextdoor, which functions similarly to our Google group.

6. New, New Business

1. Barry Giordano updated the group on the Hiltonia Civic Association Little League team (t-ball), which takes the field Wednesdays at 6 PM and Saturdays at noon.
2. Becky Taylor will email Maria Richardson about overdue meadow mowing in the park. The group spoke in general about the April cleanup, tradition among youth of tossing trash cans into the pond, and potential for re-engagement with the Cadwalader Park Alliance (in cleanup efforts and social events at the park). Terri O’Prey will try to get Randy Baum to attend an upcoming Association meeting.
3. Barry Giordano announced his involvement with RideProvide, a nonprofit that provides low-cost rides to medical appointments and errands for those in need.

Upcoming Hiltonia events and related events:

May 23: CPAC meeting, 6 PM, Hermitage Police Station

June 7: First Friday Flamingo Social (location TBA)

June 7, 8, 9: Taste Trenton, various locations

June 8: Mill Hill Garden Tour

June 13: TCCA meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison College, 111 West State St.

June 23: Book club, *The Traveling Cat Chronicles*, 5 PM, location TBA

June 27: CPAC meeting, 6 PM, Hermitage Police Station

Next Meeting:

September 11, 2019, 6:30 PM, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (home of John and Jeannie Weakliem)