

Hiltonia Association General Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with a presentation on attracting tourists to Trenton, made by Michael McCormick, of the Trenton Kiwanis Club. Mr. McCormick said his organization looked at similar cities to Trenton to see what they did to attract tourists. They found that cities that have been successful in developing tourism, “create a physical structure that will command attention, that will draw people and resources into the city,” according to Mr. McCormick.

Some possibilities for a tourist attraction were mentioned, including the area near the train station; the Roebling factory; and the riverfront. Mr. McCormick mentioned two cities, Scranton, PA, and Lowell, MA, that have developed sites that attract between 95,000 and 500,000 tourists annually. In Scranton it’s Steam Town, which has steam engines and a roundhouse. In Lowell, it’s a textile hub, created in a repurposed garment factory.

Mr. McCormick said the Kiwanis Club is partnering with city government, business groups and neighborhoods. The organization plans to launch a competition, Vision Trenton Challenge, geared to Trenton High School students to create a tourist destination that would capitalize on Trenton’s place in the American Revolution or Industrial Revolution (two examples). Jeannie Weakliem mentioned her idea of creating a museum of African American inventions. She said there is nothing similar in the region.

Mr. McCormick said the Trenton Kiwanis Club is working on this and meets the first and third (and fifth, when applicable) Wednesday of each month for lunch at Leonardo’s II, 2021 Brunswick Ave, Lawrenceville, NJ (just north of Trenton on southbound Rt. 1 past the Brunswick Circle, next to the Crystal Diner) at 12:15 PM.

After a short break, the regular meeting was called to order by Dennis Wendell and Terri O’Prey. There were about 20 residents in attendance.

1) Minutes: Minutes from the May 21, 2019, meeting were approved by voice vote.

2) Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Barry Giordano reported a starting balance of \$2,371.67 (as of July 1, 2019). Expenditures totaled \$140.70, leaving an ending balance of \$2,250.47. There is \$2,750.96 in the House Tour account and \$5,304.50 in the certificate of deposit account.

3) Committee Reports (oral reports)

A. Civic: Nothing to report.

B. Publicity: Nothing to report.

C. Membership: Dennis reported on behalf of Donnie Johnson. He said some members were added at our National Night Out block party. Dennis said Dr. Johnson wants to go door to door to recruit new members. Kathi Eckert said that members who wish to vote in the January election for officers must have their 2020 membership dues current.

D. Social: Children's: Kathleen Coughlin said the annual Halloween party and parade (in front of 205 Kensington Avenue) is scheduled for October 27th from 3pm to 4:30 pm. Dennis thanked Kathleen for hosting National Night Out in August.

Adult: Lori Emmerson is creating a survey to determine social events members might like to see in the future.

E. Hospitality: Nothing to report.

F. Worthy Projects: Maureen and Jacques Lebel said the deadline for suggesting recipients for a contribution from the Association is October 15th. Maureen said that once again, individual donations made will be matched by the Association, up to \$250. Past recipients have included Urban Promise, Capital Philharmonic, Children's Chorus and Cadwalader Park Alliance.

G. Communications: Kathi Eckert said the next issue of the *Hilltone* will be later in September.

4) Unfinished Business

a) Update on Neighborhood Signs: Dennis reported that two signs were installed along Hilvista Blvd. There are a total of 10 signs, so more will be installed.

b) Constitution and bylaws review: Ali reported that there were no volunteers to help with this project. He'll redline items that can be discussed in November.

c) Report on TPH meeting: Dennis and about ten Hiltonians met during the summer with TPH officials and discussed the notification system when someone leaves the grounds. He said TPH notifies Ewing and Trenton Police and while Ewing Police send out a message, that does always happen with Trenton Police. He has spoken to West Ward Community Police Officer Jason Woodhead about the gap. Terri said they will continue to try and build a relationship with TPH.

d) Hilltone, Volume 1: Terri said there were not enough preorders to afford a print run. Hilltone, Volume 1 will be put on the website. Access will be free of charge. Timing TBD.

5) New Business

a) Nominating Committee, appointment of chair: Linda Reid has agreed to chair this committee. A slate of officers will be presented at the November meeting.

Upcoming Hiltonia and related events:

Next General Meeting, Wednesday, November 12, 2019, 7 PM.

Additional Information