

Harrison West Society Meeting ~ May 20, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM **Quorum** present **Presiding:** Kristen Easterday, President

Minutes: Motion to approve April minutes, D. Curry, seconded, N. Zingale. **PASSED.**

President's Report: K. Easterday. D. Carey works for law firm in town (Thompson Hine). We asked him for legal advice, looking over contract. When firm does pro bono work, this letter is an engagement letter. Looks legit to me. Any thoughts or concerns? C. Ruder: Executive Committee has reviewed this. K. Easterday: If there are no concerns, motion? **MOTION to sign D. Carey pro bono engagement letter, T. Price. B. Mangia second. PASSED.** Short North planning process is ongoing. Asked all neighborhoods to put forth names for a focus group they're doing: Society member, homeowner, renter, business owner; we also suggested a *potential* business owner as well, i.e. someone looking to start a business. Goal is to develop RFP for a planning process. Came about because the composition of High Street is becoming lopsided into restaurant and bar side. Along Michigan between Goodale and 1st, we're starting to see development. Our design standards are not as well respected by City as we would like. Those are our concerns. This will address some of that – mixed use, affordability. Asked us to put forth names: D. Carey (Society), N. Edelmeyer (homeowner), N. Zingale (renter), Tina Parsley (IBS) (business), Dara Schwartz (potential business owner). Probably also T. Price, and Mike Brown will be there representing downtown commission. July 9 meeting. Final note: thank you!

Treasurer's Report: T. Price. \$3,595.44 in checking. I owe the postal service \$42 for the P.O. Box, so \$3553.44. No other outstanding bills. C. Ruder: Secretary of State filing is due. It's \$25 every 10 years. If we don't file, inactive.

MOTION to spend \$25 for filing fee and re-file, C. Ruder. D. Carey second. C. Ruder: the letter has a link to a form you fill out and mail in. D. Curry: Would be nice to change the address to a P.O. Box instead of having Rob have to handle it. C. Ruder: Has to go to Rob, because he's our registered agent. A. Ruenzi: Can change the agent when you re-file.

MOTION PASSED.

Development: J. Sukosd absent. No updates. M. Williams: Wagenbrenner is going to be vacating office condos in the community center, and selling. Now is the time to contact people and tell them that if we have businesses in mind – Jeni's. Don't know what the rent is. C. Ruder: complicated ownership structure in this building. Thanks Matthew for letting us know.

Parks: B. Mangia. Side-by-Side is looking good, will be cleaned up Wednesday 5/27 (cleanup and cocktails). Saturday 6/30 is a riverbank cleanup 9-11 AM with donuts. M. Williams: Harrison, not Side-by-Side. B. Mangia: check calendar for details. B. Mangia: Wheeler Park, working with turf guru from OSU, watering/seeding, need to wait for the grass. Once it's open, will be in good shape until winter. Harrison West Park: bonds from the UIRF funds won't be happening until this fall, so we can work on design but can't bid out the project until this fall. Will reach out to Jeff Anderson, project manager, see if he wants to meet with Executive Committee on design for that project. Then maybe have him present to the Society this summer. Boat portage wrapping up soon, bidding out by the end of this month. Will follow up with details on that as soon as we know something. That's the boat portage at the end of 2nd Avenue. Status of bike trail is unclear at the moment; some changes at Rec & Parks, may have to wait to see who is going to be the new director. K. Easterday: they just named one. B. Mangia: we planted for Earth Day 250 trees along the river bank. Shout out to Dan Burke for making that happen, along with the 10 or so volunteers on Saturday morning. Planted from Side-by-Side all the way down to Harrison Park. Planted saplings. K. Easterday: applause for people who did that. D. Curry: it's like a 25% survival rate, so need to keep planting. B. Mangia: we always need help with parks. Email me at parks@harrisonwest.org. Also, please clean up after your dogs. **Motion, B. Mangia: send a thank you letter to the City retiring Rec & Parks Director, Alan McKnight, for all his help over the years. M. Williams second. PASSED.** M. Williams will write in the next few days. B. Mangia will remind. D. Curry: welcome letter to Tony Collins. **Motion, D. Curry: welcome letter to new Director, Tony Collins. B. Mangia second. PASSED.** M. Williams: on Saturday, July 25, will be having an artist reception in this building for 3 finalists for the large piece of art in the park. Short presentations, potluck reception from 6-9 PM. Vote on which piece you like that night. Presentations will be available online for about 2 weeks. Will know by around the end of August. Bring your favorite dish to share. K. Tarantino: what about if we allocate some money for pizza and salad instead of potluck? K. Easterday: think that S. Dougherty will be requesting a vote for the Society to spend up to \$150 for the party. That will go towards drinks, pizza. That's in addition to people still bringing stuff. K. Easterday: maybe we could do more pizza, we could allocate more at the next meeting? K. Tarantino: sounds good. Will bring it up at our next meeting before July 25. M. Williams: note that we have better turnout for potlucks than where we are just providing food. C. Ruder: never had a problem with potlucks. K. Easterday: suggest we move on the \$150 for now, and we can increase later. **Motion, M. Williams: spend up to \$150 at potluck art selection party, K. Tarantino second. PASSED.** K. Easterday: thanks to M. Williams for making this happen. M. Williams: unlikely that we'll get this opportunity again, to choose our own art.

Membership: D. Curry. Holding firm with membership. K. Tarantino and I agreed to go out and encourage businesses to support the Society. K. Tarantino: know some will want to participate. D. Curry: also want to come up with additional ideas. Will do postcards. 75 members. Look forward to new ideas from the new board to increase membership.

Communications: M. Subel. We are online at harrisonwest.org, Facebook, Nextdoor. A couple of races coming up in June – 10K coming up on June 7, then another run on June 19. Posted on website, Neighborhood Races section. Recycling and yard waste tomorrow. Please see me or email communications@harrisonwest.org, looking for help.

Social: S. Dougherty absent.

Short North Foundation: D. Carey. 6/6 Short North Yard Sale, register online. White Castle building expansion proposal currently under review by Victorian Village Commission. Short North Foundation accepting applications for grants – support art and music projects. Have applications if anyone wants them. **D. Carey motion, M. Williams second.** K. Easterday: questions, thoughts? A. Ruenzi: Short North is concerned about bars/restaurants overtaking the district, but this says 23% are bars. K. Easterday: it's a number that's steadily increased, also it's more of the commercial franchises. A. Ruenzi: accurate number? K. Easterday, D. Carey: confident that it's accurate. K. Easterday: let's review the letter. [LETTER READ ALOUD.] K. Tarantino: suggest tightening language of last paragraph. K. Easterday: currently the law does not say that High Street/Short North is an open area. This letter is just confirming that. K. Wightman: include Goodale Park? D. Carey: think the law already excludes. C. Ruder: it's because of a limited permit. T. Price: we are relinquishing the opportunity to ever have flexibility in our area. K. Easterday: Short North Alliance is basically a special improvement district for businesses on High Street. B. Mangia: adding alcohol into a pedestrian area is an accident waiting to happen. K. Easterday: questions? **PASSED.** One opposed (B. Justice). K. Tarantino: when will the letter be sent? D. Carey: When we gather all the signatures.

Block Watch: N. Edelmeyer. No announcements. K. Easterday: National Night Out coming up, work with S. Dougherty.

Police Report: None. C. Ruder: suggest emailing Officer Smith to get updates when he can't make it.

Open Forum: K. Easterday: Open the floor to nominations for officer positions for 2015-2016. President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer are the officers. They appoint committee chair. Nominations: Tim Price (President), David Carey (VP), Mary MacDonald (Secretary), Treasurer (A. Ruenzi). Any other nominations? None. **Motion: C. Ruder: close nominations. K. Wightman second. PASSED.** C. Ruder: technical motion, that the secretary cast a ballot for each candidate. Rather than having to write it on a slip of paper, vote orally. **C. Ruder motion for oral vote for the full slate, B. Mangia second. PASSED.** K. Easterday: Motion to approve slate by oral vote. **B. Mangia: motion to elect new slate of officers. N. Edelmeyer second. PASSED.** New officers elected.

T. Price. M. Subel: looking for sponsors for Harrison West Jazz Series. We are actively looking for sponsors. See me or email me, at communications@harrisonwest.org. D. Curry: Do you have a media packet? M. Subel: yes, can send. K. Tarantino: would it be too overwhelming to sign up businesses and engage them for that as well? D. Curry: sign them up first. K. Tarantino: numbers for donations? M. Subel: different levels, \$200, 250. N. Edelmeyer: spoke with contacts at my job about this. Possibly may have something. D. Curry: thank Kristen for her service. [Applause. Flowers from Bob!] D. Curry: on 2nd and Oregon, there is a permanent "for rent" sign. Is that common? Think it cheapens the look of the neighborhood. K. Wightman: it's not illegal to put it as long as it's on your building. That's what campus landlords do, and they're slipping into this neighborhood. Incidentally, they're starting to buy in this area too. Going to be seeing more of that, but it is legal. Condominium can restrict, but a homeowner or landlord can do what they want. D. Curry: don't see that in every neighborhood. K. Wightman: there are specific regulations on size, placement. But when it's on your building you can do pretty much whatever you want. What we need to do is exert some neighborhood pressure. Communicate with them as a group. K. Easterday: suggest a personal communication would be best. C. Ruder: suggest the immediate neighbors talk to owner, then the organization communicates with him. M. Williams: maybe contact 311 regarding code issues. K. Wightman: agree with Chris. Escalate if the initial communication doesn't work. C. Ruder: the artist's house on 1st that was abandoned – brick house, porch taken off. Walking down the street, saw 2 people walking down the street who complained that the door is left open. D. Curry: For anyone who doesn't know, City of Columbus has an app, you can make 311 notes, take pictures with it, it's a pretty robust app. Good way to report things.

Meeting adjourned: T. Price Motion, K. Easterday second, PASSED. 8:15 PM.

Attendance: Kristen Easterday, Dean Curry, Nicci Edelmeyer, Adrienne Ruenzi, Tim Price, Chris Ruder, Ken Wightman, Sandy Allen, Mark Subel, Matthew Williams, Katherine Tarantino, Ben Justice, Jennifer Wilkens, Adam Wilkens, Bob Mangia, Nick Zingale, David Carey, Nick Hentris