

WELCOME (from David Del Gallo)

We appreciate you coming to the September 11, board meeting of the EHNA.

Reminder that this is a public meeting but in a private setting. Agenda has been published. If anyone wants to speak then please let us know. Blair Stevenson said that she might- no one else responded.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD: (on agenda but was not covered)

Introduction of the current board & officers.

Sammy Bearman – President (not present)

David Del Gallo – Vice President

Michael Ritz - Secretary

Bill Chavis

Sheri Hamilton

Suzanne Lewis (not present)

Greg Miller

Kenita Mitchell: introduced herself as the education liaison with local public schools.

Discussed board impact on local schools.

Steven Shelley

Michael Thomas

Murray Turner

Linda McWilliams

BOARD DISCUSSION FROM TOPICS OF THE PUBLIC FORUM:

The Board may elect to address the issue after each speaker or wait to the end.

Items that we will speak to are:

Vacation of Right-of-way

Process in adopting an Overlay District

Board meetings

Facebook

Website

Vacation of right of way issue:

David Del Gallo stated that the right of way issue regarding the 18th Ave request was voted on and approved by the city council. He further explained the mockup of what 18th Ave could look like which was printed out and made available to all attendees. The mockup was rendered to show what a 5 foot right of way would look like if all properties were allowed the same vacation with a privacy fence. The background of the letter written by the board was that the board was made aware of the issue on the Tuesday before the 2nd reading of the request (at city council) and at that point the letter was written. An explanation from Steven Shelley and David Del Gallo was given as to why the board was opposed to the vacation as to the precedent it would set. Brian Spencer also spoke on the issue and stated that he met with the individuals involved before the vote. He stated that this issue was a wakeup call to the neighborhood. He also said that this request had served as a catalyst to the association to consider guidelines for new buildings. He discussed an overlay district to maintain a historic neighborhood. He explained that after the first reading of the vacation issue that he reconsidered his vote and changed it because of the precedent that was being set. He is proposing a new right of way recommendation at the next planning board meeting (Thursday) that would guarantee a 10 foot minimum. The goal is remove the ambiguity that is currently in place regarding the lack of code. He also talked about introducing a moratorium on demolishing historical structures. He included his thoughts on introducing a moratorium on all vacation of right of way's. David added that this would prevent a developer from tearing down a house and using the vacation of right of way to place two houses on a single lot.

Steven Shelley made a comment regarding the safety of having a buffer between the sidewalk and street.

Bill Weeks asked why guidelines on the CRA were changed to standards. Brian responded that DPZ has a reputation of international caliber. Because of the charrette, modifications were made including making provisions for hardship. Bill then asked why there was a division line between the neighborhood at Cervantes. Brian responded that the CRA used a legal boundary to define the overlay issue, and that for long term health, investments and historical reasons that this was the best decision. Steven Shelley noted that this discussion has been going for over 10 years. Helen Gibson was invited to a past board meeting to explain the CRA and its impact and will be invited to the next quarterly EHNA meeting. He also noted that the CRA information from the city is available to all residents.

CRA overlay district: Mike Thomas asked the city about the CRA overlay on his own and the possibility that a modified version that could be applied. David showed a picture of the RV garage located on Lee St. and 18th. He is going to ask Helen to come back to a future meeting to discuss a scaled down version of an overlay regarding new construction. Steven Shelley encouraged all participants to ask any questions at city or planning board meetings.

Board meetings and history: David: The board was formed approximately 14 years ago and is made up entirely of volunteers. Question from an attendee was asked about the website and issues with updates such as minutes were not always posted in a timely manner. Response: the board is working on getting all of the website updated and because it is run by volunteers a request for additional volunteers was made. Another attendee requested that more information be placed on Facebook.

Facebook: Greg Miller stated that there are 3 moderators who are now replacing Janet Sallis. In the future, events will all be placed on Facebook. He stated that the moderators have learned that announcements can be pinned to the top (like missing persons, community center, etc.) He said that most posts will not be deleted in the future but personal attacks will not be tolerated. Question from Jaren Overstreet: Can events be sent to all members of the group. Greg responded yes and thanked Jaren for his contribution and asked for a meeting later to discuss how Jaren could contribute. Kenita offered her assistance in moderating Facebook as well.

Based on attendee response to question posed: most attendees did not get the email announcing tonight's meeting. Mike Thomas is working on the issue.

Another attendee requested that we Facebook live the quarterly meeting. Kenita offered to work on it. (Note that Teresa Hill was set up to record this meeting on Facebook live)

Janet was paid for a limited time to moderate the Facebook page. After that, she volunteered her time.

Website: Mike Thomas stated that the website is still a work in progress. Go to Discover area for meeting minutes, reports, etc. Requested help from attendees regarding memberships, website update, and treasury. David stated that we do have funds and may be able to pay someone to help with the website.

Fundraisers: Looking for houses for the home tour as this is one of the biggest fundraisers.

Next meeting: October 1st with candidates for city council.

PUBLIC FORUM:

If you emailed your speaking form to the EHNA Email then we will call on you to step up and speak.:

INTRODUCTION OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FROM THE BOARD:

The Slate of officers proposed by the current board to serve for the next year are:

David Del Gallo – President, you must serve 1 year as vice-president to serve as the next president.

Greg Miller – Vice President (President Elect)

Suzanne Lewis – Treasurer (not present)

Michael Ritz – Secretary

TAKE ANY NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR POSITIONS ON THE BOARD:

We will take nominations for any of these 3 positions from those attending the meeting.

To be an officer or to serve on the board you must be a paid member of the EHNA.

Question was asked as to why someone doesn't have to live in the East Hill area to be on the Board. Bill Chavis answered that he does still own property in East Hill, pays a business membership and that's why he is on the board. Mike Thomas also reminded attendees that the EHNA is an advocacy group. Jonathan Wiggins asked why have a group if there are elected officials. Mike responded that when the group was formed, it was advertised, voted on and the Board was formed. Many neighborhood associations were formed at the request of the City of Pensacola.

Discussion between Mike Thomas, David Del Gallo, Steven Shelley, Jonathan Wiggins, Greg Miller, Kenita Mitchell and Jaren Overstreet. (Audio available for this portion as well as video taken by Teresa Hill) Re: Transparency, communication and how board represents the neighborhood. Request was made by Kenita for volunteers.

Richard Christine made comments regarding membership drives and request for new board members.

Blaire Stevenson: Made a comment regarding following by-laws and communication to the association. She asked that we follow the rules in our by-laws.

David handed out the 12 questions and answers that were asked via email.

HOLD THE ELECTION: No other officers were nominated. Officers were elected by a majority of paid EHNA members in attendance using a show of hands.

Vote for each of the 3 positions.

DISMISSAL:

Thanks to each and every one who showed up for this meeting. We appreciate and ask you all to continue to help make East Hill a great place to live.

Meeting adjourned.