

Haw Creek Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2020, 7 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attending Board Members

- Holly Arghiere
- Wyndy Bonesteel
- Patrick Gilbert
- Torin Kexel
- Barber Melton
- Susan Michael
- Georgena Millar
- Chris Pelly
- Renate Ridders
- Wayne Robbins

Absent

- Elizabeth Matthews

Resigned:

- Jason Monstrola

1) Welcome -- President Pelly

President Chris Pelly declared a quorum and welcomed the board members to the Haw Creek Community Association's first virtual board meeting via Zoom Meeting Room.

2) Approval of minutes of March 9th board meeting (Jason's minutes attached)

Chris asked for approval to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Wayne Robbins moved approval; Torin Kexel seconded the motion. Chris called for the question. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

3) Secretary position replacement

Chris said he and Vice President Susan Michael discussed a replacement for HCCA Secretary Jason Monstrola, who submitted his resignation last month. Pelly and Michael recommended Patrick Gilbert for the office of association secretary, and called for a motion.

Barber **moved** that the board appoint Patrick as association secretary; Georgina Millar seconded the motion. Chris called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

3) Treasurer's Report -- Torin Kexel

Torin submitted the report as follows:

Haw Creek Community Association Treasurer's Report 5/4/2020

Narrative Report:

We have added 15 new member households since the last meeting totaling \$180 in dues received.

Financial Report:

The SunTrust bank account started with a balance of \$7,634.06 (3/9/20). The current balance is \$7105.22 (5/4/20)

Three total transactions happened since our last meeting on 3/9/20

Two payments went out for the Community Association Mailer:
\$382.84 on 3/31 and \$732 on 4/3

Checks and cash received since the board election totaling \$586 were deposited on 4/30.

Chris said that the 15 new memberships came in after the publication of the most recent association newsletter.

Torin also noted that he did not find any transactions related to the Zoom account. Susan said she paid for the account, and that she is only asking that the association reimburse her for half of the Zoon account cost.

Susan said she needed to inform the board members that the meeting is being recorded and needed their approval. The board approved.

The Treasurer's Report is informational and there was not action required.

4) Discussion of open board position and potential nominations

Chris said that Jason has stepped down as a member of the board and that leaves one position open, which, between annual elections, is fills by the board.

Susan said that Nikkia McBath, a resident of Spruce Hill Apartments, was interested in joining the board. Susan said she had been trying to get someone interested from that

apartment complex to join the board. Nikkia is African-American, a single mom with two children, who is interested in community gardening.

Susan said that she had not heard back from Nikkia. Susan said talked with the Spruce Hill property manager about finding someone else if Nikkia doesn't follow through.

Chris encouraged other board members to suggest other to fill the vacancy, in case Nikkia did not work out. He said that the board should consider what an applicant for the vacancy could bring to the table.

Holly Arghiere asked if the board should get more than one person to consider for the board vacancy. She also asked about a youth representative on the board as a way of encouraging students to participate. Holly suggested that perhaps the number of board members could be increased.

Chris said inviting student participation in some way, not as a board member, but perhaps working on a committee. He said that could be discussed at a later time.

There was no board action taken.

Secretary's Note:

In an email sent by Susan a day after the board meeting, she said that Nikkia had tried to join the Zoom meeting, but could not gain entrance. Susan hoped that the board could still consider Nikkia for the board vacancy.

7) Arco Rd greenway -- Chris Pelly

Chris asked to discuss the Arco Road Greenway out of order of the agenda.

Chris said that he had been contact with a resident, who owned property along Haw Creek next to Arco Road. And who has offered to give the City of Asheville a 600-foot easement along the creek for a greenway. The proposed greenway would mark the first public access along the creek. Chris said this was an exciting development for the community because it would become the first greenway in Hw Creek.

The proposed greenway would start at the hairpin curve on Arco, run along the Greek and connects to Haw Creek Park and Beverly Road.

Chris said the property owner, Jack Carlton, had been approached about 20 years ago, asking if he and his family would consider an easement, but at the time, he declined.

Chris, the property owner and Lucy Crown, the greenway coordinator for the City meet three weeks ago to discuss the easement. He cautioned that there is process, by which the City acquires easements, and that it might be later in the year before that process is completed and the City Council approves the easement acquisition.

Chris said he suggested to Carlton that he write an article for the HCCVA newsletter about his offer of the greenway easement.

Chris said there is a City sidewalk fund, but the greenway would likely be a hard packed path, because it would be less expensive.

Board members expressed excitement and support for the greenway, and complimented Chris for his role in pursuing the issue.

Torin suggested that perhaps Carlton's article might encourage others owning property along the creek to also consider easements, thus expanding the greenway in the future.

Chris said he would keep the board and the community apprised as the easement process works its way through the City.

This agenda item was informational only, and there was no board action required

5) Building community via food trucks -- Renate Ridders

Renate reported on her activities in inviting several food truck services to; provide cooked food for residents of Haw Creek during the pandemic. She said she floated the idea via and email that the response encouraged her to pursue the idea.

She noted that her hope is that once the pandemic restrictions are eased and it's safe for people to congregate, that a regular visit from the food trucks would provide opportunities for residents to mingle, eat, and have some fun activities for children, along with music from local musicians.

Renate said that the Haw Creek Commons agreed to host the food trucks at its parking lot. She said the first food truck, Cecilia's Kitchen, was scheduled to arrive on Saturday, May 9, starting at 5 p.m. and operating until 8 p.m. On successive Saturdays. Ole Guacamole, Wicked Smoke BBQ and Gypsy Queen agreed to come from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Board members agreed this was an exciting idea. Several asked about how the association could get the word out to residents. Chris said he would post something on Nextdoor. The notice would include the menu for Cecilia's Kitchen, the phone number to call in an order for pick up.

Several board members suggested having signs to help direct residents to the food truck location, including putting a sign at the Tunnel Road/New Haw Creek Road entrance to the community. Torin said he had a sandwich board the association could use for that purpose.

Other board members asked if the food truck services needed help at the site.

Renatee said let the food truck operators do their thing and see how it works out. Chris agreed and asked Renata to contact the food truck operators and see if they need signs, and then the association can go from there.

Susan suggested contacting Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and see if they would be interested in providing food and beer on one of the Saturdays.

Wayne said he would help put out the word about the food trucks on Facebook.

Board members congratulated Renate on her efforts.

This agenda item was for discussion only, and there was no board action required

6) How we communicate with the Haw Creek community -- analysis by HCCA member Amy McCrea

Chris said he had asked Amy McCrea, a local resident who put together the most recent association newsletter and the HCCA website, to evaluate how the association communicates with Haw Creek residents. Her report is as follows:

- 628 residents -- # on association email list -- no charge however requires regular updating of email list
- 1,895 residents -- # on Next Door (1,596 in Haw Creek and 299 in Sondley) -- no cost
- 2,252 households -- # of households receiving the newsletter -- cost is roughly 50 cents per household however offers broadest coverage of Haw Creek
- 600 (estimated) followers of Association's Facebook page -- no cost
- Association website: Ilovehawcreek.com -- maintenance charge, reach TBD

Chris said he hoped this information could be used for an ongoing discussion about how to better communicate with residents.

Members discussed the different communication tools. They said that a Facebook page would be the easiest, quickest and cheapest method to get out communications.

Wayne Robbins said that putting information on the association FB page, then linking to WAX, the West Asheville Exchange Facebook public group, would create a lot more viewers and participants from East Asheville. He noted that a lot of Haw Creek residents post on WAX.

Chris said no one in the association is administering the HCCA FB page and that someone who uses FB regularly should be appointed to take charge of it.

Renate asked why the association email list could not be used as the primary source for communication.

Torin said he joined the board because he wants to see better communication and that he favors using all communication tools.

Wayne agreed to take over administering the association's FB page

Chris said the board should continue addressing the association's communication needs.

This agenda item was for discussion only, and there was no board action required

7) World cafe community forum -- tentative reschedule date?

Susan said she doesn't think the community forum will be held anytime soon because of the pandemic, but that she just wants to keep it event on everyone's radar screen.

8) Summer newsletter

-- Content suggestions: greenway, food trucks, cultural/history -- what else?

Wyndy Bonesteel talked about what should go into the next association newsletter. She said that people like to read about the history of Haw Creek, its culture, and the people who have lived here a long time and know the history of the community.

Wyndy said she knows of a couple who are longtime residents of Haw Creek and have a lot of stories to tell. Other board members said that they also know people like that, and residents like to read those kinds of stories.

Holly suggested that one article should be about the Haw bush, from whence the name of the creek and the community came, and how the Haw bush is becoming rare in the community.

Patrick noted that the newsletter should also be a vehicle for informing residents what is going on at City Hall and major issues coming before the City Council.

Chris said if the issues are specifically related to Haw Creek and East Asheville, otherwise not. He said that members should continue thinking about appropriate articles for the summer newsletter.

Several members said that Barber Melton, board member and one of the founding members of the association should write an article.

This agenda item was for discussion only, and there was no board action required

9) New business

Susan brought up the next board meeting, which would be scheduled for July 6, part of the July 4th holiday weekend. She suggested that the meeting be moved to Tuesday, July 7.

Barber Melton noted that the community association was created, in part, to keep the residents of Haw Creek informed about city issues and important legislation going before the City Council, such as the Open Space Amendment, the Tree protection Amendment and the Noise Ordinance.

Barber said she feels the association has a duty to keep residents up to date. .

Chris said that the important question to ask about an issue is what is at stake for the community? The answer, he said, will determine if there should be any action.

Patrick reported on the Open Space Amendment, noting that generally, the proposed ordinance change reduced the amount of open space required for developments from roughly 33 percent to 5 to 15 percent. He said this would have an impact on residential communities mainly through infill development, such as what is happening in West and East Asheville, and through proposed urban space mixed-use development projects along major corridors, such as Tunnel Road or Haywood Road.

Patrick also talked about the Tree Protection Amendment, which is designed to protect more trees during development or require developers to pay a fee-in-lieu of saving trees. The fee would go toward planting trees on other parcels. The amendment goal is to prevent developers from taking out all the trees on a development site.

Patrick noted the development of Abundance Run on the west side of Haw Creek, in which the builder remove nearly all the trees on a completely wooded 5.4-acre sited, adding the amendment would have forced the builder to save and protect more trees.

Patrick also gave a short history and report of the Noise Ordinance and the contribution to the ordinance by the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods (CAN).

Wayne asked if the board should take any action on these ordinances.

Patrick said that a working group from the Urban Forestry Commission will be working with the City to recommend changes in the Open Space and Tree Protection amendments, and that the Noise Ordinance is still several months away from going to

the Council. He said that once these ordinances are ready for public comment, he will bring them back to the board with recommendations for action.

This subject was for discussion only, and there was no board action required

10 Adjournment

Chris thanked everyone for participating in the meeting, which he felt was productive. He adjourned the meeting.