

Haw Creek Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Via Zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7, 7 p.m.
Minutes

Attending Board Members

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

Absent

Other Participants

- Bernard Arghiere
- Nikkia McBeth
- Michael Harrison
- Lynn Hurley

1) Welcome and introductions

President Chris Pully welcomed the board back.

2) Approval of minutes from July 7th, 2020 meeting of board of directors -- Patrick Gilbert

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July meeting.

3) Treasurer's report --Torin Kexel

Torun noted that the Treasurer's Report covered the last two Board meetings.

- Torin announced he was resigning as Treasurer and from his post as Board of Directors member
- Since last meeting 26 new households joined HCCA
- Dues being collected through PayPal Account, but they were not deposited until today, so didn't show up in report
- Need a better web database to better capture dues, but major issue is just to make sure dues are collected and recorded
- Renate Ridders said not good for people to join and not get acknowledge
- Chris said spending more money than bringing in and need to address that. Hope next

meeting have positive report on membership and dues

No action take on the Treasurer's Report, which is included.

4) Pump Track proposal for Haw Creek Park -- Ofri Gilan

Ofri Gilan, a Haw Creek resident and landscape architect, gave a presentation on her idea for a pump, or dirt bike, track at Haw Creek Park.

- As a result of the covid-19 pandemic, more people are looking for outdoor activities, such as biking.
- Not many people are drawn to the park.
- Talked with parents and they are excited about the idea
- Think the park is large enough to accommodate this pump track, which would be made of compressed wood out of concern for damaging tree roots
- Richmond hill has a pump track
- Can raise the money, but needs approval from the City of Asheville and that HCCA approval would be important

The Board took no formal position, but asked Ofri to come back with a more formal and detailed proposal.

5) Website management -- Bernie Arghiere

Bernie Arghiere reported on the progress of upgrading the HCCA website.

- A lot of progress made over the past month with some redesign from Elemental Creations, who originally built the site
- Added a home page now, so the site is not just a blog
- Paid the large share of invoice to Elemental Creations, but there will be a few more charges for some additional plug-ins
- Michael Harrison, a Haw Creek resident, volunteered to keep the website updated, including adding information on the food trucks, calendar events, and other community news
- Deleted all previous users, with authorization rights only to Elemental Creations, Michael, Bernie and Chris Pelly
- One outstanding issue is adding a business sponsor's and figuring out the price for various sponsorships

6) Mission Statement -- Holly Arghiere

Holly reported on the work she and a subcommittee is doing on writing a mission statement for HCCA.

- She submitted two proposed mission statements:
 1. We inspire engagement and mobilize resources to enrich lives and promote safety in the Haw Creek valley area of Asheville, N.C.
 2. Dedicated to engagement within the Haw Creek community focusing upon improvements in social, cultural and physical aspects of our shared environment.
- Renate read her own suggestion for mission statement:

Our goal and commitment is to improve and protect the connectedness, safety, and natural beauty of our Haw Creek community.

- Barber said the proposed statements don't say that HCCA is committed to neighborhood activism to protect the values of the community
- Holly said will continue working on the statement and bring it back to the Board.

7) Membership dues & sponsorship program -- Renate Ridders & Chris Pelly

Chris and Renate asked the board to think more about membership dues.

- Suggesting increasing the membership dues slightly from \$12 a year to \$20 or \$25 annually.
- Another idea is, rather than having business sponsorships, of which there are only a handful, to have family sponsorships of perhaps \$100 a year
- Reaction from Board members varied on the suggestion of family sponsorships
- Renate said her research of other neighborhood association showed that due structure were all over the board
- Patrick felt a dues increase requires further study to address the issue of providing a sliding scale for people who can't afford a full yearly membership fee

The Board voted to approve a membership due increase to \$20 annually, with 9 members voting, yes, and Patrick Gilbert abstaining.

8) Treasurer -- Torin Kexel & Bruce Michael

Chris informed the Board that Bruce Michael has agreed to take over as HCCA Treasurer, and also become a Board member, replacing Torin Kexel.

The Board voted unanimously to install Bruce as HCCA Treasurer and add him to the Board of Directors.

9) Beverly Rd safety improvements -- Chris Pelly

Chris reported on progress in constructing a safe walkway from the parking lot off of Beverly to the Creekside Taphouse, Penny Cup and other businesses along the street.

- AT&T, the owner of the right away, has agreed to pay for the footbridge and the City of Asheville has agreed to give AT&T a liability waiver
- Chris will bring updates back to the Board at the next meeting

10) Future Food truck programming -- Renate Ridders

Renate gave the board a report on the food truck program she set up for the summer.

- Feedback from conversations with customers is that they would like the food truck operation to continue through the winter
- She met with the new minister of Haw Creek Commons, where the food trucks set up, and he indicated an interest in continuing to host the food trucks
- Renate said she would like to keep the program going, but it takes a lot of work and coordination, and to keep it up during the winter, she would need some help
- Holly suggested having the trucks just one or two weekends during the winter, rather

than every weekend; cold weather might drive down participation

11) Government Affairs -- Patrick Gilbert

Patrick gave the Board an update about various issues on which the Board has taken action.

- Earlier in the day, the City Council unanimously approved the Tree Canopy Protection Amendment, and he thanked the Board for its support
- The Zero Net Canopy Loss Resolution and the proposed Open Space Amendment change to the UJDO are still scheduled for City Council deliberation on Oct. 27
- An Urban Forestry Commission working group is still trying to schedule a meeting with Buncombe County Schools to discuss its plans for planting trees in Phase 2 of the Haw Creek Elementary School Addition project

12) New business

Renate brought up the issue Board member's personal information--street address, email address, phone numbers--on the newly updated website.

- She noted that reaction from Board members varied greatly
- She and Chris will discuss this further and bring a recommendation back to the Board the board.

Chris and Wendy Bonesteel asked Board members to suggest items for articles for the next community newsletter.

Barber Melton reported on the Tunnel Road Corridor Study

- City of Asheville wants community comments and statements by the middle of October on land use changes and traffic flow
- Barber will send information to Chris to share with the board

Chris said he was waiting for the design report for the proposed greenway along Haw Creek to Beverly Rd. and will share it with the Board.

13) Proposed next board meeting -- Monday, Nov. 9th

The Board agreed to hold the next virtual meeting on Nov. 9.

14) Final thoughts

There were none.

15) Adjournment