



HHNA Meeting Minutes

January, 9 2024 EGPD Community Room, 6:30PM

Chair: Bob Jordan

Vice Chair: Michael Brennan

Treasurer: James Cederberg

Secretary: Amanda Galmiche

Membership: Sara Doherty & Elizabeth Roy

Present: Bob Jordan, Amanda Galmiche, Elizabeth Roy, Sara Doherty, James Cederberg, Michael Brennan

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes - Minutes Approved for 11/14/23 HHNA Meeting
- III. Committees
- IV. Old & New Business

Bob Jordan calls meeting to order. Elle Roy asked Sara Doherty to give an update about the holiday party. Sara said Tio Mateo's is donating chips & dip and Thorpe's is donating beer, wine and seltzers. She said she hasn't gotten many RSVPs at this point but thinks some people could decide to come last minute. Sara also said guests may bring desserts.

Jim Cederberg said he renewed the HHNA PO Box but that it may be more cost effective to look into an alternative for next year. He said it costs \$194 to renew annually.

Bob Jordan told Jim he would like to change the verbiage in the by laws so that he doesn't have to give a physical signature to approve Jim sorting paperwork. He said it would be easier if an approval were needed rather than a signature.

Michael Brennan said his London Street Underpass Committee met with Andy Wade. Andy said the Town is waiting for funding to come through from Seth Magaziner before they can give specific answers about what will be done and what the timeline would be in regards to improvements to the area. Michael said the Town seems to be focusing on safety concerns on Water Street in the summer. He said they seem to be prioritizing the safety and implementation of cross walks and sidewalks.

Bob Jordan said he had a similar outcome of his meeting with Andy Wade about the mural project. He said Andy Wade is waiting on completing the formal process to provide funding for the project before a timeline and call to artists can be decided on.

Elle said she has received a good number of membership dues and the e-mail communications seem to be working. Sara suggested using yard signs with QR codes as another method of collecting dues. The group discussed ideas about where to put signs and pondered whether HHNA would need any kind of permission from the Town.

Amanda shared with James Gorham that the HHNA Board decided that the Friends of Academy Field group is better suited to be a stand alone group rather than an HHNA committee. James responded stating his opinion that HHNA is supposed to be an advocacy group as a 501C4. He also said HHNA could consider consolidating committees.

Sara said having separate committees for smaller events could encourage participation since people may feel more inclined to help with a smaller project rather than a broad cause.

Jim Cederberg said he will have a 2023 annual report for the next meeting including a year to date total for membership dues.

Kristie Stark shared that she had used Vista Print in the past for some marketing materials and that she could get some additional info about pricing.

Kristie also confirmed that as far as she knows the mural project and call to artists is on hold until the Request for Proposal goes through with the Town.

James Gorham said he would like to bring it to a vote to call off the mural project and reallocate the funds.

Jim said he agrees that HHNA could consider coming up with a backup plan. Elle said the organization could publicize the back up options and give the public another chance to vote.

Bob Jordan said an option could be leave the funds in the account for now.

Kristie reported that the Town said they need to wait until the spring to get the RFP is in place.

James Gorham said perhaps the London Street Underpass could be more of a benefit to both the Hill and the Harbour sides of town since it provides a link to both sides. He added that he thinks the vote on the distribution of funds was influenced by people's emotions at that meeting on 7/19/23. He said it could be a good idea to come up with alternative plans for the funds going into the spring if the mural project falls through.

Liz Greely said she is happy to share her updates about the parking study, the waterfront beautification project, and the dog park. She said she's getting her updates from Andrew Nota and the AI, the Town Planner.

She said the Town is waiting on the release of the RFP for the parking study so that the study can happen in the summer of 2024. She said the Waterfront Study project is in a stage of waiting to hear back from Seth Magaziner about funding.

The group discussed ways to reach out to State Officials about issues pertaining to Town projects that are waiting on funding.

Liz said the Town is waiting to hear back in response to the grant application for the Waterfront Study and they are hoping to hear back by the spring.

Michael Brennan said the rendering for the dog park is part of the Waterfront Study.

The group discussed ways to stay engaged about potential plans going on around changes to the Town. Suggestions were made to use e-mail to contact Town Officials and the Engage EG platform.

James Gorham suggested that he thinks the Town should focus on securing funding for building a bridge between Scallop Town to Goddard Park.

Liz Greely pointed out that the goal of the Waterfront Study was focused on increasing safety and that the existing plan has already been presented to congress for funding.

Bob Jordan explained that the founders of HHNA created the group to do good deeds in the community rather than to take a stand on contentious issues to bring the community together.

James said he believes HHNA started because of an issue related to stop sign years ago.

Bob Jordan said that the current HHNA Board voted not to take a position on contentious issues. He said the priority of the organization is to do feel good projects for the community rather than get involved in issues that divide the communities. He said that individuals are welcome to take their own personal stand as members of HHNA but they should refrain from speaking on behalf of the entire organization.

James said he is against the mural project.

Bob pointed out that the HHNA voted as a group in favor of the mural project in July of 2023.

James responded saying he supports public art and other community events. James said he hasn't received any minutes from previous HHNA meetings.

Elle pointed out to James Gorham that the minutes are posted publicly and that HHNA hasn't received any feedback from any other members asking the group to change the days or times of the bi-monthly meetings.

James Gorham responded saying that in the past HHNA has taken a stand on certain issues including a noise ordinance issue brought to the HHNA from the Waterfront Association.

Kristie Stark responded saying that she believes the HHNA did not take a stand as an organization in regards to that noise ordinance issue.

James Gorham said in the past he spoke on behalf of the HHNA to advocate for preserving the voting district.

Bob Jordan said he understands the point James is making but reiterated that the HHNA is not going to be taking a stand as an organization on political issues at this time. He then closed the discussion on the topic.

Sara Doherty went over the same information about the holiday party that she already shared earlier in the meeting.

Michael Brennan shared again that the Town is waiting for funding to come through from Seth Magaziner for the Waterfront Study before it can move forward.

James Gorham said his son's Eagle Scout group may get involved with some of the improvements to the London Street Underpass. James shared ideas about adding some plantings to the area. He said HHNA could possibly use leftover plants from the Plant Swap for this project.

Kristie Stark pointed out that HHNA should be sure to coordinate with the Cindywood group about what to do with leftover plants before making a decision.

James Gorham said he has asked the Town to commit to a regular maintenance schedule for the area of the LSUP where the planting would be. He also shared ideas for improvements to the area such as lighting and mirrors and cleaning it up.

Kristie Stark pointed out that HHNA should start planning the Yard Sale. Yard Sale Committee Chair Michael Brennan agreed.

Meeting adjourned.