

Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

April 19, 2021, Start 6:32pm End 7:41pm

Location: Virtual

Board Member Participants: Kayla Domeyer, Gwen Howey, Mark Staves, Don Wheeler, Sam Warber, Matthew Channing, Andrea Lehman

Not Present: Chelsea Beckman (maternity leave)

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. **Kayla calls the meeting to order at 6:32pm**
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. 1st Motion-Kayla, Gwen motions they not be approved- errors in the minutes that need to be corrected. We will vote next meeting to approve minutes.
 - b. 2nd Motion-
3. REPORTS OF OFFICER
 - a. **President – Kayla**
 - i. Board as intermediary between neighbors and Redstone (see addendum B). A meeting was had by the “300 club” who are residents around the Redstone development. They continue to investigate the development and they are attempting to explore what legal actions they can take. One person in the group, Cindy, wrote letter to FHNA, they don’t trust they will abide by the things Coperrock and Redstone said they would do during the meetings, So, who could be an intermediary to reach out, Cindy is asking that we as a board should do that. Kayla says, if we do I will not be that person, and we should designate someone, secondly, should we do that at all.
 - ii. Sam: it may be a good thing for the board to do, however, it could come back and bite us as we the board are complicit with Redstone and the project. I can see the pros and cons, I cannot take it on. My instinct is to stay out of it.
 - iii. Don: it would make sense for the 300 group to handle that.
 - iv. Matt: I would be shocked if there isn’t a city department to address concerns, if there’s an agency to use, we should direct them to that entity for help. If the city wasn’t responding then we should revisit this as well. Kayla said they were directed to Elizabeth and City Ordinance would be

the way and then call GRPD. Code violations would be covered by inspection. Is a building inspector assigned ? That doesn't seem how that would function, we could look into that. Leaving it in the hands of this group is the least likely scenario that they would forge a positive relationship with Redstone, so maybe it would be beneficial to have a relationship with the property members.

- v. Sam: Let's wait until they are there and established, Kayla says they are not putting forth information. Also they don't need to give neighbors information. Redstone is probably not going to answer any questions.
- vi. Gwen: once the project is going, there will be project manager onsite and we should have access to the information and we can say we will call and talk with that person if we have issues, and who at the City do we talk to when we can't get something resolved, then post that information and then not be the go-between, but just provide the info.
- vii. Planning commission approved without stipulation.
- viii. Matt: we might have an opportunity to set up how we do business here in FHNA, do we want to send a message that this is how we do communications and that could help people take more investment in their relationships with us. Kayla- we could help to ease the relationship between neighbors and the development company.
- ix. Kayla- let's table this for our June meeting and we might have more information at that time. Matt says we will get questions at the meeting. Sam agrees, and says we should have someone we can contact? Don, can we talk to the zoning people and see if they suggest a contact we could use?
- x. Andrea- pass this to committee? Gwen will contact Elizabeth Zeller, Redstone and CoperRock and will find the proper channels to contact people for concerns during the construction and we will share the information and we are not part of the 300 group in any way. At the meeting we will treat the development like a neighbor and responding as such.

b. Secretary - Andrea

- i. Nothing

c. Treasurer - Gwen

- i. Year End Financials (see addendum D)

4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. PR Committee Report- Kayla/Andrea

- i. Newsletter- Deadline for articles today- look over today
- ii. Facebook- FB requests- Tyson, mail carrier- approved
- iii. Outreach- look at finding some businesses in the area for advertising in the coming months

b. Events Committee Report- Matt

- i. Upcoming Events
 - 1. Garage Sale Day

2. Dumpster Day- site being determined, Encounter probable. Sam reiterates to use the Google Doc folder for those events
 3. WMEAC Rain barrel workshop
- ii. Recent Developments or Initiatives
 1. Mother's Day Blitz- maybe a photographer? Matt will explore.
 2. Spring Service Projects
 3. New Baby Celebration
 4. Blandford Garden Outreach
- c. **Garden Committee Report - Mark**
- i. Garden Boundaries Committee? (don) Yes this will begin again.
 - ii. Need more GC minutes
 - iii. Clean up done 50 people there!
- d. **Block Captain Committee Report- Chelsea**
- iv. Topics covered in the recent meeting:
 - a. Newsletter distribution
 - b. Open BC positions
 - c. Traffic Calming studies
 - d. Welcome letters
 - e. Matt and REL asked for an escort for a neighbor. Fact finding with the neighbor, neighbors drain goes to the other neighbors basement. Talked with code enforcement, 1- informal, 2- code, 3- litigation. Talked with neighbor about the options and how to resolve. BC worked well in this situation. Will follow up later down the road if needed.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

5. Unfinished Business

1. Spring Membership Meeting- 2pm Saturday, May 8th, Do we need speakers? Suggestions we could do to foster neighbor/community in the form of take-a-way that is safe (PR). EC might have some ideas, but it's not on their plate. Let's come up with something. Community officers will be invited to speak. Committees will also be speaking, Living Stones, ask them for electricity, bring extra chairs, need to find out about the ball field schedule. Signs for parking.
2. We need to recruit board of directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of either seven or nine resident FHNA members elected by the Membership at the FHNA Annual Meeting.

6. New Business

- a. GRPD Neighborhood Policing (see addendum C)
- b. Facebook thread- neighborhood garage sale, neighbors wanted to plan their own. PR shut down commenting and posted dates that were decided.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Congrats to Chelsea on her new baby!

8. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn 1st- Mark
- b. 2nds- Matt
- c. Meeting Adjourned at 7:41pm

9. Addendum A

- a. Tabled Items (from Unfinished Business)
 - i. Document in Google Drive telling where things go.
 1. Onboarding and New FHNA Board Members Policy write up and vote
 2. Power Grid Progress update
 3. Historical FHN info update (postponed)
 4. FHNA Facebook Member group UPDATE
 1. Post concerns-
 2. Crime reporting-
 3. Purging the people who don't belong- ongoing

10. Addendum B: Letter from neighbor Cindy:

Many years ago I was on the FHNA board during the time 2 different projects were constructed in area. At that time, neighbors were provided the name of point/contact person for the project.

I encourage the FHNA to obtain contact information (phone and email) from Redstone for their point person. It's Redstone's project and they should assume the responsibility and time to work with neighborhood concerns. And I think they should mail that information at least to everyone within 300 feet. They need to step up, remember this is all about profit for Redstone. This project will take approximately 18 months and FHNA is a volunteer board.

Once construction begins I suggest Redstone's point person contact information be posted on FH Facebook and published in neighborhood newsletter.

It would also be helpful if FH included City of GR contact information if Redstone does not respond or address construction/property concerns.

This is going to be noisy and a mess for many people in FH neighborhood .

I think it's past time for the Redstone group to demonstrate their going to be responsible and good neighbors.

Cindy

11. Addendum C

- a. Letter from GRPD Officer Maycroft: North Neighborhood Associations,

I hope this email finds you well. As most of you are aware, our strategic plan has yielded some changes to our patrol staffing and services to the community. After 26 years in law enforcement, I have always believed honesty is the best policy so I am going to be straight with you here.

The city of Grand Rapids police department is severely understaffed. We have been for years. There is also no interest in increasing our staffing from city hall. The "Defund the Police" movement resonates with some of our appointed and elected officials as well as even one neighborhood association who is also calling for us to be defunded. With that being said, we realized that due to our patrol staffing shortages we needed to bring our previously assigned **Community Policing Specialists** (Community Officers) back into the patrol staffing ranks to answer calls for service. After the unprecedented increase in violent crime that besieged our city last year, this became even more critical. Even after absorbing these 10 positions back into patrol, we still have numerous beat areas in the city that are not covered. In the North Service Area alone, I have **FIVE** beat areas that do not have 24/7 coverage that could use an assigned officer. The main beat area uncovered is the Highland Park area, or North 4. The reason I did this is because a large part of the beat area is a park and it is also surrounded by five other beat areas whose officers can be called upon to handle calls for service and problem solve when needed. They are

not being abandoned, but just not staffed with a permanent officer. Think of like having a whole bunch of part time officers assisting. I have attached a map of the North Service Area Beat Areas.

What does this mean for you? Well, the personal service you used to get from your CPS officers is not going to be there. I realize this a huge change from how we have been doing policing for over 20 years. Our goal is to essentially go back to the original intent of Chief Dolan who believed an officer in each beat area was responsible for their area and the issues in it. First and foremost, criminal activity. The beat area boundaries were created as a result of geographical delineations involving neighborhood borders, business districts, etc. We realize they are not perfect, but they still do yield value to assigned officers so they know their neighborhoods and the ability for us to run crime stats in one particular beat area or neighborhood to follow and analyze crime trends.

I have instructed my officers to reach out to you with their email to open the lines of communication. If they haven't reached out yet, please give them a couple weeks as this change just occurred on Sunday. I am also hopeful my sergeants have reached out as well so you get to know the supervisors working the street.

My expectations for my officers:

- **Their first priority is responding to calls for service from our community and to back each other up.**
- **Initiate proactive policing efforts to reduce crime in our community including traffic enforcement.**
- **Respond to other issues in their beat areas and work to solve those problems collaboratively with stakeholders, including neighborhood and business associations.**

I am hopeful you all realize that as we move forward with our current staffing levels that our officers primary job is responding to calls for service and combating criminal activity. Unfortunately, this takes up the bulk of their time while on patrol, especially in the summer. The reality of this is they still do have vacations, training, backfilling of other service areas due to injuries, sick calls, retirements, etc. When time permits, we then want them working collaboratively on the other issues in their beat areas. This includes working with you.

I am hopeful that as we move forward you will get to know your beat officers and supervisors. This is going to take time, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

What I am respectfully asking from you is:

- **Please realize these officers do not work 24/7 and their response time to neighborhood issues and complaints may be longer than you are used to.**
- **Please copy me on emails for issues in your neighborhoods so I can follow up and make other officers aware in the event this problem needs immediate attention and the officer assigned is on vacation, injured, sick, etc.**
- **Please give ample notice for any meetings in which you are requesting officers. We will do the best we can to get somebody there, but staffing and call volume will take priority.**
- **Communicate with me any concerns that may arise as we move forward. We are going to have quarterly meetings with you and the Captains so I hope our communication flow will improve.**

Again, we value our neighborhood associations and the relationship we have with them. I wish we could give you the same service we used to when we had nearly 100 more officers, but the reality is we cannot sustain the same level of service with our current personnel. We will, however, do all we can to combat crime and keep you and all our citizens as safe as possible. Please also keep **Julie Niemchick** in the loop as she is the main liaison with all the city Neighborhood Associations and the police department. She has been a valuable asset to us here at the police department and she is always willing to help you as well. We are currently working on getting an interactive webpage so citizens can click on their address and see which officers are assigned to their respective beat area. I'm sure you will find that very valuable.

Thank you for your understanding and time as we move forward.

Respectfully,

Captain Michael Maycroft

North Service Area | Bomb Squad | Honor Guard

Grand Rapids Police Department

01 Monroe CN NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

D: 616.456.3412

12. Addendum D. Year end Financial statement

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|--|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association - FYE Financial Statements | | | | | | | |
| | | | FYE | FYE | | | |
| GENERAL ACCOUNT: | | | <u>3/31/20</u> | <u>3/31/21</u> | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Beginning Balance April 1 | | | \$ 5,420.84 | \$ 4,066.73 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| <u>Income:</u> | | | | | | | |
| Membership Dues/Donations | | | \$1,483.14 | \$1,718.00 | | | |
| Newsletter Ads | | | \$275.00 | \$450.00 | | | |
| Picnic Donations (Uptown) | | | \$382.20 | \$500.00 | | | |
| General Donations | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | | |

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|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | \$2,140.34 | \$2,668.00 | | | |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | | | | | | | |
| Insurance | | | \$999.85 | \$848.00 | | | |
| Office Supplies/Mailing | | | \$0.00 | \$22.00 | | | |
| State of Michigan - Filing fees | | | \$40.00 | \$20.00 | | | |
| Signs | | | \$24.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Newsletter Printing | | | \$1,073.88 | \$722.26 | | | |
| PO Box fee | | | \$106.00 | \$118.00 | | | |
| Website/hosting fees | | | \$13.10 | \$30.12 | | | |
| Block Captain Expenses | | | \$20.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Picnic Expenses | | | \$465.69 | \$500.00 | | | |
| Food for Meetings | | | \$162.04 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Events-Dumpster Day | | | \$23.64 | \$45.10 | | | |
| Events-Blue Bridge Game | | | \$119.25 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Events-Luminary Bags | | | \$0.00 | \$27.12 | | | |

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|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Events Committee Gift Certs | | | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | | | |
| Donations (Kids Food Basket) | | | \$135.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Garden Sign Expenses | | | \$312.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| | | | \$ 3,494.45 | \$ 2,382.60 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Balance as of March 31 | | | \$ 4,066.73 | \$ 4,352.13 | | | |
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| GARDEN ACCOUNT | | | FYE | FYE | | | |
| | | | <u>3/31/20</u> | <u>3/31/21</u> | | | |
| Beginning Balance April 1 | | | \$ 7,912.63 | \$ 9,087.38 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | | | | |
| Plot Rental Fees | | | \$5,689.00 | \$6,162.00 | | | |
| Misc. | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| | | | \$5,689.00 | \$6,162.00 | | | |
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|---------------------|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Balance March 31 | | | \$ 9,087.38 | \$11,167.09 | | | |
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