

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – March 11, 2008

In attendance: D.Bagley, J.Boggs, J.Decker, D.Horn, J.Keplar, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, C.Patterson, M.Potts, B.Spears, K.Whitman

Meeting called to order with pledge to the flag. Minutes of the February meeting approved. No treasurer's report given.

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Zoning:

.....3909 Ardath Rd., (Greg and Shawna Gillam). Request is for a variance in order to allow encroachment in the required 25' setback in the side yard to accommodate a previously-constructed driveway. Applicant had been told at some point in the past that putting in a side parking area was fine; later discovered a permit was needed for this, hence the variance request. Zoning committee recommended approval. Motion made and seconded (Horn/Boggs) for approval; unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.

No committee meeting unless notified.

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Presentations:

.....Lisa Jones, Family Services Director for Cols. Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is looking for a letter of support from the GHAC to build on lots it owns on Thomas Ave (1701, 1705). Habitat is partnering with Homes on the Hill in this project. Homes would have a 1-car detached garage, full basement. Two families have already been selected to occupy. Patterson motioned (2nd by Horn) to write a letter of support. Unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.

.....Angela Mingo, Dir. of Community Relations, Nationwide Children's Hospital addressed the GHAC regarding plans for the hospital to open a primary care center on the Hilltop, 2857 W.Broad St.(using part of site of former Hilltop Marketplace). The center would provide pediatric care. Their site at 50 Old Village Rd. would close and move to this location; anticipated opening in June 2008. Appointments could be scheduled as well as care on a walk-in basis.

.....Christopher Boring, Blvd. Strategies, updated the GHAC on the results of his survey for improvements to W.Broad corridor. Councilmember M.O'Shaugnessy was in attendance to support this effort. Those present were given copies of the analysis done, which Boring highlighted. Q&A ranged from who should a new business owner contact to how would this plan be implemented.

C.Patterson announced additional meetings with C.Boring and M.O'Shaugnessy would be scheduled, as well as meetings with other City officials.

Announcements:

.....Mike Puckett, City Development, mentioned the City area commission training program and that the next would be in Robert's Rules of Order. He also mentioned that the Mayor's State of the City message is March 13.

.....D.Horn said he had received an email from a college graduate student who needs to do 2 case studies on organizations that use the arts to bring about transformation and healing. If anyone has a group/organization to suggest let him know.

.....At the March 12 HBA meeting a representative of Buckeye Ranch will be speaking.

.....Officer Ramos was introduced as the new liaison officer for the Cols. Police.

Committee Reports:

.....Recreation/Parks – at the April GHAC meeting Alan McKnight will be present. The Friends of Westgate Park organization is working on submitting an application for a grant to create a mural on the racquet ball court.

..... Community Relations – will have a meeting on March 18, 7:30pm, in conjunction with the Govt/Legislation committee

.....Human Services/Education – D.Bagley stated she would be attending a grant writing meeting in connection with health issues. The Wedgewood Residents Council will be meeting on March 24.

.....Public Safety – J.Boggs stated he will be calling a meeting in about 2 weeks to discuss support for local businesses and the Hilltop Youth Commission. Members of the committee will be contacted by email.

.....Planning/Economic Development – D.Horn state there was nothing new to report.

.....Govt/Legislation – J.Keplar informed the GHAC that at its latest meeting the committee discussed the election process and decided to hold an informal meeting to let residents who may be interested in serving on the GHAC know about the election process and expectations of membership.

.....Development Regulations/Public Service – no report

.....Liquor Permit – J.Decker stated nothing new.

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Old Business and Follow-up:

.....J.Decker informed the GHAC that the Tonti property on Briggs Rd. is in environmental court and before Judge Hale renders his decision regarding demolition, he wants to review the law regarding empty building without roofs and whether there is any legal reason to keep the building in this condition.

New Business:

Nothing

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J.Manley, secretary