

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – 10/7/08

In attendance: D.Bagley, J.Boggs, J.Contonio, T.Corson, J.Decker, S.Hermiller, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, C.Patterson, M.Potts, B.Spears, S.Thornburgh, K.Whitman

Meeting called to order; pledge to the flag. Minutes of the September meeting read and approved with correction of date. Treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$116.41, having received \$1000 from the City.

**

Zoning: (in absence of D.Horn, Chair Patterson presented issue)

.....2413 W. Broad St. Request is for a variance of use from C4 to R (single family use); if approved, this variance would be in effect for current owner and upon sale of property would revert back to C4. Current owner and applicant, M.Furgan, stated owns several other properties, one being 2515 which has been granted this same variance. The plan is to rent to a family. Q&A: applicant fielded questions ranging from value this would bring to the community to time frame for occupancy. N.Renard, representing several nearby businesses, indicated keeping this a commercial property would be better for the area.

A suggestion was made to perhaps consider making request for LC4, but applicant reluctant as this would delay create a hardship due to City deadlines. Another suggestion was to withdraw application in order to discuss other options. A motion was made/seconded to terminate discussion and call for a vote. Members were reminded that if approved, the variance would only exist with the current owner. Vote: voice vote of 10 for disapproval and 3 for approval. Results will be forwarded to the City.

**

Presentations:

.....Dr. Gene Harris, Cols. City Schools Superintendent, addressed the GHAC regarding Issue 75 which will appear on the ballot in the upcoming election. This Issue would provide monies to develop theme-based schools, add more counselors, offer college preparatory courses and much more. She highlighted the current state of the City School indicating one of the goals is to get students prepared for life beyond high school.

(It was noted that G.Baker, School Bd. Member and former commissioner, was also in attendance.)

**

Committee Reports:

.....Recreation/Parks – S.Laughlin mentioned that Friends of Westgate Park is readying areas of the park

for planting in the spring. Members helped the City clean up after the wind storm. Grants are being worked on for upcoming projects.

.....Human Services/Education – D.Bagley informed members about Fire Prevention Week and a forum on Oct.10 at Eakin Elementary.

.....Community Relations – S.Thornburgh acknowledged Chair Patterson's presentation on the Hilltop at a recent City Council meeting. Thornburgh stated he would like to hear from residents on how better the GHAC can disburse information to the area.

**

Old Business: none

**

New Business:

.....Members accepted the resignation of J.Keplar. As she was the chair of the Government/Legislation committee, it was noted that T.Corson and M.Potts have agreed to be co-chairs for the remainder of the year.

**

Announcements:

.....The November meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11 as the library is not available to hold the meeting on Nov. 5. D.Bagley motioned to remove the previous motion, from the Sept.meeting, that called for the move to the 5th; unanimous approval in the affirmative. J.Decker/K.Whitman (motion and second) to hold the November meeting on the 11th; unanimous approval in the affirmative.

.....Fire Station #17 won a Beautification Award with the help of a 4-H group. A recognition ceremony for the 4-H group will be held on November 3.

.....The HBA is sponsoring a 'Candidates' Night' on October 8 at the J.Ashburn Youth Ctr, 7-9pm.

.....Friends of Westgate Park are holding the next clean-up/planting effort on October 25, 9a-12N.

.....J.Haller, building owner at Wilson Rd. and Sullivant Ave., will open up an area of the building for 'treasures/antiques' from estate sales.

.....L.Patterson said that at the next West High PTA meeting, October 13, Cols. City Schools' Superintendent, Dr. G.Harris, will be speaking.

.....Sgt. Horton, Precinct 19, updated the GHAC on the new substation on Belvidere. He said that bicycle patrol is being expanded and relationships are beginning to be formed with residents. He is now the 'official' supervisor for 1st shift.

.....At the November meeting a presentation from the Library system will be made; the current levy expires in 2010.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is November 11, 7:00pm, Hilltop Library.

Respectfully submitted,
J.Manley, secretary