**Hillcrest Residents Association Minutes**

May 13, 2024 at Hillcrest Hall

**Attending:** April Panian, Pittman Ware, Jessica Saunders, Laurel Lawrence, Janet Flegal, Caroline Reddman,

**Absent:** Toni Johnson, Karen Ryall, Karen Konarski-Hart

**1. Pittman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM**

**2. Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Caroline to approve the Minutes and Laurel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report: 20,167.42 ending balance. Motion was made by Jessica to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Caroline seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. Elected Officials and Those Seeking Public Office:**

**Kathy Webb   
\*Downtown LR master plan unveiled.** Here is the link [https://downtownlittlerockmasterplan.engage.sasaki.com/#resources](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/downtownlittlerockmasterplan.engage.sasaki.com/*resources__;Iw!!HtHHOlX6NcI!XtqCag837jb1ZM_ngJv00WK0Y7cm49EiWbDWLFTJ7Zoq6oz3qpeW15uYvFDRNR463UBo29O_gdagQ4QNC7D3gQ$). Look through the executive summary. Meeting on future of cities (people from all over the country attended). Mentioned that downtowns are the heart and that neighborhoods are the soul of city – not sure agree but downtown is important to everyone. The board of directors will vote down the road. Look now and see what you think.

**\*Working on road diet.** Two phases. Have money for 1st phase. Initial plan is complete.

**\*Dental school coming to Little Rock. Will be in Riverdale (Ward 3).**

**\*Short term rentals** – 5/21 – have 20 short term rentals on city board agenda. 10 in ward 3 and 5 are in Hillcrest. City website has the agenda. Encourage everyone to go look at that website and review the info. Looking for feedback from neighborhood association and neighbors. Kenyon, N Monroe, 2 on Kavanaugh, 1 on Lee. Littlerock.gov agenda for city board meeting. Let Kathy know feedback. Grouped to be voted on together. Requesting at least one pulled out to be voted on separately. If other emails will request those be voted separately as well. If you plan on coming to board meeting suggest you get there on the 21st at least 20 minutes before the meeting starts. 5:30 would be ideal. If you are late you don’t get to speak. Law is to cap limit of short-term rentals at 500. Currently around 1000 estimated that are operating city since cap came later and is not retroactive. Feeback send to Kathy before meeting tomorrow night. Commercial zones do not convey per someone from planning commission.

**\*Board of adjustment meets May 16th.** Two Hillcrest items, 10 and 11. Decision that planning commission Woodrow and N Monroe (sober living facilities). They reapplied to planning commission. They denied their request. Request was too similar. If board of adjustment thinks it was different enough will go back to planning commission. 906 N Polk thinks across from Holy Souls. Did not appeal. Put property on Zillow for long term rental.

**\*Number of dental school employees? Unknown.**

**\*Vet school is going to Cabot. More room.**

**\*Tonight Ward 4 meeting and 5/29 is Ward 3 meeting at St Mark Baptist Church to discuss tax increase proposal.** Bond meeting in Ward 3 we had 100 million dollars in infrastructure requests. We got 4 million to apply. Markham repair would take all 4 million and nothing for any other neighborhoods. Drainage project is ongoing. Got projects all over. Street resurfacing, drainage issues, etc.

**Tippi – presented by Kathy** – house adjourned fiscal session last week. All budgets minus fish and game were approved. New session for fish and game. Passed bill for small raise for state workers. Two bills to regulate crypto mining. Resolutions for some sports teams. Memorial resolution to honor senator David Pryor. Any questions contact Tippi.

**Kathy Wells coalition of Little Rock neighborhoods:**   
\*2024 proposed sales tax list. Went from 1-45 items.

\*More than 5 new code enforcement positions – would like to double that. Current total is 38. Half of the dwellings in the city are rentals they are woefully behind. Downtown master plan features. Pending plan not formally adopted.   
Clinton library where park came out.

WLR put outdoor complex – no address yet.

Pool at senior center at W 12th. Therapy pool 30’ x 30’. Devices inserted in it. Current so can swim against current or bicycle in pool against current. Open to public.

Pursuing some info about items but open to questions.

Major component of master plan pulls from school millage.   
Found property city owns downtown. We wanted to ask what would happen if the city offered to lease purchase property. 10-year contract for lease purchase.

Details about War Memorial park – tree house, upgrade on creek, performance stage and arch with grassy lawn, dirt lots to hang out or family ball games, trails expanded.

Too much parking downtown – turn into high rises  
Will take a lot of time in these meetings. Bring your message in writing and include name, address, and phone number.

**Julie Blackwood – JP in this district.**\*Only thing going on is budgets right now. Budgets not anywhere near done. Should be done in about a month. Not a lot of work in Hillcrest area. Most is outside Hillcrest.   
\*”Unlocked: A Jail Experiment” series is on Netflix and there is a lot of talk about that right now. Everybody should watch it. Doing well. Re-visitation is extremely low. They are all going to get out at some point and prisons would prefer if they all turned it around and became good citizens and stayed out of prison in the future.

**5. President’s Comments   
Great 1st year of leading this little association.   
Accomplishments:  
Crosswalk  
Merger with PHMS and PHES – meetings with the superintendent**

**Public safety dormant and now have Alex leading that committee**

**6.** **New Business:  
President of HMA – Eric**\*Proud of collaboration with HRA, HMA, and Hillcrest Garden Club. Stronger together and appreciate everyone’s collaboration.   
\*Tree watering  
\*Cross walks

\*Panther Prowl

\*Picassos

\*Upcoming replacing lights on Promenade

\*Marketing and communications between HRA and HMA (Lisa Havner HMA marketing)

\*HarvestFest Oct 12, 2024 – Committee of HarvestFest (Ross and Ryan)   
 -Moving off committee after this year (Jim Metzger and Jane Anne Sikes)   
 -Need help in getting more people involved and helping out as Jim and Jane Anne leave

some big shoes to fill  
\*1st Thursday – picking up with nicer weather. 4th of July is first Thursday in July. Palm and Beechwood closed off on Kavanaugh for July 4th first Thursday.

\*August board retreat – will send a doodle poll to determine location and date/times

\*Would like to start back up the neighborhood mailed newsletter that went out twice a year. Would like to get HMA involved and Eric offered up any help as he was involved with previous editions.

\*Short term rentals – Kathy gave a bunch of info.   
 -3501 Kavanaugh 2 apps in  
 -415 N Monroe  
 -4816 Kenyon – strong decent on that and neighbors want to speak out

-2508 Lee (almost at Lee and Van Buren)  
 -Send a letter out opposing any short-term rentals

\*Open treasurer position – need to find someone to fill in or a permanent board member

\*Motion was made by Jessica and seconded by Caroline for Pittman Ware to be put on the signature card at Simmons Bank and was unanimously approved.

**7. Committee Reports**

1. Membership – Karen did not have anything.
2. Communication – Send out some socials and eblast on short term rental. Master plan eblast and will work with HMA. If you have anything that the neighborhood needs to know about.
3. Preservation and Planning – Bob – main things are STR’s and Markham Rd diet and group home discussion.
4. Parks – Daniel absent
5. Education – Jessica – no updates

f.) Arts and Aesthetics – Marion and Tommy are absent. Tommy is still looking into the paint to be resealed on crosswalk.

**8. Upcoming Events –   
\*HRA to vote on board additions.**

-**Matt Price** not here but still committed.   
-**Mike Jackson** – been on HRA before. Lived here since 1993. Helped with pancake breakfast last fall along with wife. Big fans of the neighborhood.

-**Steel Strauss** – grew up on Hill Rd. Lived here since 1996. Been involved in a lot of things since grew up here. Interested in social media.   
-**Rob Hodge** – lived in neighborhood since 2013. Wife owns Hodge Orthodontic Clinic.   
-**Austin Sanders** – been here since 2022. Only neighborhood they wanted to move to was Hillcrest. Looking forward to getting involved.

Motion was made by Jim to close the nominations and Caroline seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.   
Motion was made by Jessica to accept all new board members and Caroline seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**9. Announcements –   
\*HMA meeting last week**

**\*Children’s House Montessori – 50-year celebration**. Saturday night at Innovation Hub NLR. Silent auction, food, and drinks

**\*Hillcrest Garden Club – 4th Sunday –** Urbana Farmstead meeting place out Arch St

\*June 6th 1st Thursday.

**\*Nov 3rd pumpkin roll  
  
\*Becky Kirkpatrick – Hope Church** – 2-year lease signed at Pulaski Heights Baptist and excited to be here. Start at 9 and started last Sunday. Had 203 folks.

**11. As there was no other business, Motion was made by Jessica to end the meeting and Janet seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM