

Community Engagement Committee
August 28, 2018 6:45pm
Highland Park Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:47

Roll Call:

Committee Members Present: Sally Bauer, Tyler Teggatz, Kristina Mattson, Nate Hurse, Jolene Sterner (alternate), Brandon Long, Tim Morehead

Committee Members Absent: Catie Gardner, Amanda Willis, Bob Whitehead

Others Present: Patty Partridge

Approval of 08/28/2018 Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Seconded and passed.

New Neighbor Welcome

Discussion was centered on the event, both good and bad aspects. Tiffany presents a challenge for attendees for a few reasons; it's a loud environment, some people don't like bars, it's not a great place for kids, etc. They were extremely helpful in hosting us and provided food and drinks. Tiffany was a great place for those who want to go there. Future events at Tiff could be branded as a Happy Hour. Arby's was mentioned as an alternative location, as well as McDonald's. Next resident welcome is next spring – discussion was made to move the new resident welcome to after the annual meeting in order to give neighbors another ask for events to come to. We could get the word out to more people at the annual meeting and give the new board members something to jump into the action with.

Board Retreat Discussion: Making Meetings More Welcoming for Neighbors:

Agendas should be posted on social media and any other appropriate places prior to meetings. Provide signage or directions on day of meeting. (Staff can handle this task).

Board members should post flyers with meeting dates and locations – look at local restaurants, coffeeshops, apartment buildings, businesses, etc.

At board meetings, president can say something on decorum, ground rules, meeting expectations, or general meeting guidelines in order to better educate any neighbors attending that night. Setting expectations early can help the president address issues later on and

hopefully prevent an unwelcoming atmosphere. Board members might need training in meeting facilitation and handling situations with open public comment. Maybe have board members welcome guests. (Executive Committee task)

HDC can provide a bundle of toys, puzzles, and coloring books to give kids something to do. Adding “Kid Friendly” language to meeting invitations would help also. It’s possible to hire Parks & Rec staff to provide childcare for some specific meetings. Staff can explore potential of hiring childcare staff for meetings of different sizes.

Identify languages for potential translation of written material and in-person event translation. Put together some cost estimates and compare with available dedicated funds. We should have an HDC general flyer in several languages to educate people about us. (Staff)

Board Retreat Discussion: Annual Meeting and How it can be Improved:

Location of beer hall at Summit will probably not meet our needs for accommodating the huge crowds expected at the next annual meeting. Options to look at are High School and Middle School.

A major point of emphasis should be adding a draw to bring people to the meeting besides voting. Organizing a discussion panel of city or neighborhood experts around current issues. Topics could be: restorative justice, rental and housing affordability, or something other than police or politics. Dropping the police chief, city council, and mayor updates should be an option.

A better public understanding of the district council and what it does may help with public perception. We could offer more advance notice of people who are running for board seats in order to educate neighbors about the elections. Options include survey of candidates and posting info and photos to website. We don’t have to cut off statement of candidacy prior to meeting, but we could encourage early participation of potential candidates.

Providing more opportunity to vote prior to the meeting could diffuse some of the contention while engaging more people. Staff and board would have to Some neighbors seem to need an outlet just to vent about the issues they may be upset about.

At November meeting, CEC will review the prior year annual meeting agenda and discuss how the following ideas could be implemented: guided discussion or panel instead of politician’s updates; and early candidacy/voting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18