



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Millikin Heights Board Meeting – February 9, 2021

Board Attendees: Alan Duesterhaus; Charlotte Hanks; Mark Peters; Jim Hendren; Krista Foxx; Brian Anselmo

Non-Board Attendees: Kristin Hargrove, Deb Scheiter

Note: Due to social distancing requirements associated with the COVID-19 crisis, the meeting was held remotely via a Zoom conference call.

Call to Order at 7:02 pm.

January minutes approved as written.

Financial Report –

Total Current Assets = \$7,913.68; Total Assets = \$35,560.02.

Old Business:

Little Free Library Project –

- Charlotte indicated there are now seven libraries installed and three yet to be installed.
- She indicated the recent LFL Stewards newsletter referenced the upcoming National Day of Unplugging in March and a reference to use scavenger hunts as a way to feature Little Free Libraries.
- Charlotte also has an item available to be repurposed as an LFL, which Brian indicated he'd take the challenge.

Beautification:

- Discussed the Lake Clean-up that occurred the weekend prior – a good number of people showed up and it was a productive event.
- Discussed the rescheduling of the Neighborhood Cleanup Day that was previously scheduled for April 18 of last year, whereby CONO, Beautify Decatur and Pugsley Containers were partnering with us to help with the former event. Details are to be worked out, but the proposed new date is April 24, 2021.

Neighborhood Revitalization –

- 1) 124 N Edward - Alan met with the Community Affairs Director and Richelle Irons to discuss the City response to the CHDO application for 124 N Edward. Some tidbits from the meeting:
 - Need to get Mark Birch certified as a Project Manager
 - The City is not sold on his prescribed salary amount.
 - They are concerned about the scope of the project and raised the lease to own concept as a possible alternative to direct ownership.

We discussed an updated project budget which Alan presented and included a portion of funding proceeds from CHDO funds, a portion from Central Illinois Land Bank, and in-kind donations.

- 2) 130 N Edward – house is owned by the City but is currently inhabited by unauthorized tenants. Two thoughts were discussed with this house that is adjacent to 124 N Edward:
 - Rehab 124 N Edward and sell it to the current occupants of 130 N Edward, and then rehab 130 N Edward.
 - Rehab 130 N Edward and sell it to the current occupants.
- 3) Johns Hill Neighborhood –
 - Benny Smith is looking for a CHDO partner for a storage container housing project in the area.
 - The City has purchased a few properties in the area and is looking to rehab those.
- 4) Central Illinois Land Bank – Alan referred to a Mike Davis as heading up a revolving loan fund that provides capital for building projects as an alternative to government funding.

Other Business:

- Discussed obtaining ideas on how to elevate the Decatur School District 61 in the eyes of the public at large. There was some concern expressed about the focus and direction of the current school board.

Board Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectively Submitted, Brian Anselmo