

MINUTES

West Hill Cambridge Neighbor Council General Membership Meeting

March 8, 2023

Introductions & Welcome

At 6:04 pm, via Zoom meeting, Mike Scuderi welcomed members. Mike reviewed the discussion from the January 24 board meeting and encouraged general members attending to thoughtfully consider a possible new direction for the Council.

Minutes Approval

The Minutes from the January 24, 2023 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Crystal shared that there is money in our account and that she will submit a report at the April 19 Annual meeting. Mike reimbursed Dale for the website administration fees. Crystal will reimburse Mike.

Direction

Members discussed the history of the Council: the positives and the challenges. The board is recommending amendment to the bylaws to change the status of the Council to an ad-hoc type body, meeting only as needed. Members in attendance supported the change but recommend first presenting to a larger body of members for discussion. There is some hope that there may be some fresh energy and ideas coming from a larger pool of neighbors. The business was tabled.

Issues/Challenges

- Officers have served since the beginning (October 2018) – strong need to have new leadership step up
- Lifted up accomplishments
- Communication with all neighbors continues to be a challenge – so many haven't knowledge of the Council's existence
- Electronic connections and communications appear to be a difficult choice for some residents (don't use Zoom, Facebook nor Nextdoor – no knowledge of our website)
- What are the benefits of participation? What's in it for me?

Ideas / Plans

- Kim Wise, Robin Morales and Alex Lepeska shared interest in becoming Members at Large
- Plan a variety of events that bring people out: NNO gatherings, neighborhood garage sales, clean-ups (such as the entrance clean-ups of last year)
- The Annual Event from May of 2022 was well received and a strong suggestion for recurrence

- A “touch the fire truck” event – this kind of event could bring out more young families
- In addition to the use of Facebook, Nextdoor and our current website/email system, there needs to be other means of communication and connection
- Find ways to connect more young families to the Council

Bylaws Amendment Discussion

It has been decided to table this action until the April 19 meeting. There was a recommendation to make an adjustment to the language in Section 4.03. That paragraph will be adjusted to add in that within the quorum of a simple majority, all three officers must be in attendance.

Other

- Robin Morales at 3625 Hampton Way runs a little medical supply and food pantry offering these supplies to those in need. She appreciates donations.
- Lanae will post fun things on Facebook (including her little movie)

Future and “To Do:

- Holly will work to secure a public space for future meetings
- April 19 (?) – next general membership meeting at which time Robin Morales will highlight the work of her pantry
- Robin will work with Lanae on getting a neighborhood garage sale onto our calendar

Adjournment – Mike adjourned the general meeting at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by: _____
Holly Isaman, Secretary

Attested by: _____
Officer