

## Meeting Minutes – May 2011

May 11, 2011 Hiltonia Civic Association General Meeting

The Hiltonia Civic Association General Meeting was held at the home of Scott and Margaret Mason. There were 20 people in attendance.

Donna Garcia, president of Animal Alliance of New Jersey, told the group that there is financial assistance for spaying and neutering services available to Trenton residents. Details are available by calling 609-818-1952.

Elizabeth Yull, president of the Trenton City Council of Civic Associations, spoke about Fix Trenton's Budget. Residents have until the end of this month to get onto the organization's website and complete an online survey concerning priorities in next year's fiscal budget. The anonymous surveys will be sent on to City Hall. The second part of the fiscal equation is how to make money. Ideas include taxing nonprofits for the services they use; reassessing the tax rate on vacant properties to a higher level; imposing a city wage tax; utilizing shared services, such as a county-wide police force. Ms. Yull added that priority-based budgeting is part of the City's rules and regulations.

The TCCA is updating its survey of abandoned properties in Trenton. The last survey, conducted in 2009, found 1,500 such properties in Trenton.

The TCCA meets the second Thursday of each month at Thomas Edison College. Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting. The TCCCA's annual dinner will be held on November 4th at the Masonic Lodge.

The Regular Meeting began at 8:15.

### New Business

A fall Yard Sale is being organized by Bobbie Shelingoski. The Neighborhood Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., May 25th. It will be held at El Mariachi (site of the former La Gondola). Bea Fischer-Scala is coordinating the trip and will be sending further information.

### Unfinished Business

### Treasurer's Report/Membership Update

Membership is now at 136. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted.

### Children's Committee

Inclement weather kept attendance at the April 16 Easter Egg Hunt lower than usual, but by rescheduling an hour earlier, the event was able to take place before heavy rain began. The Committee will be working on Halloween activities.

Civic Committee

Nothing reported.

Events

A new neighbor open house will take place at the home of Jackie Kutch on June 4. It will run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Neighbors here three years or less will be invited to meet with members of the Executive Board.

The Garden Party will also take place on June 4th at the home of Jim Ambrosio and Pat Rodeawald, 201 Renfrew Avenue.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 2nd.

The Hiltonia House Tour will be the first or second weekend of May. Elise Mannella said money raised from the tour could go to neighborhood beautification.

The meeting finished with a talk from Sam Frisby, Mercer County's newest freeholder. Mr. Frisby said he wanted to introduce himself to the neighborhood. He spoke about the need for towns in Mercer County to come together to better utilize money and resources. He said that Mercer County as a region would be a stronger tourist destination than towns marketed individually. He said he would like to see towns thinking regionally, much like Williamsburg, Virginia and its surrounding areas.

Mr. Frisby also spoke of Trenton's underutilized potential. He said the public's perception of Trenton is marred by the gateways into town that are examples of urban blight. He said that Trenton is "the only waterfront city that doesn't think like a waterfront city." He noted that waterfront buildings, instead of being built and used by private entities, are being used by the county and state.

Mr. Frisby said that we all have to take a more active role in improving our community. He invited residents to call him with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mason