

## **Meeting Minutes – November 2011**

The November 9 General Meeting was held at the home of Don and Georgia Waller. There were approximately 20 people in attendance. Speakers were Ali Wilson, president of the I Am Trenton Foundation, and Qareeb Bashir, director of the Trenton Fire Department.

Mr. Wilson spoke about the Foundation's purpose, which is to give grants to nonprofits that serve Trenton. The organization was founded five years ago, and since its inception, it has awarded 18 grants totaling \$10,000. One recent recipient, Mr. Wilson noted, was the Old Barracks Museum. The money will go towards the Museum's educational programs. Another grant went to Echo Corp., a group geared to getting retirees in the city involved in sports programs.

One subcategory within the foundation, Hope and Respect, is set up to deal with issues young people are facing. The focus of Hope and Respect is children having children, Mr. Wilson said. A recent grant to Hope and Respect targeted bullying. He is hoping that Hope and Respect can become a self-sustaining grant program.

Mr. Wilson noted that while current grants range from \$250 to \$1,000, he is looking to increase the amount the foundation awards, as well as the number of grants (doubling the current 18 grants). Mr. Wilson said the organization is always happy to accept donations of time and/or money. I Am Trenton can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

The second speaker was Mr. Bashir. He spoke about the various specialties within the Fire Department, including Swift Water Rescue, Haz-Mat Team and Dive Team. The Department also has a number of programs for children and young adults, including the Explorer Program and Cadet Program, which is a mentoring program for young people interested in a possible career in fire fighting.

Mr. Bashir said the department makes more than 10,000 runs in a year for a variety of emergencies. Overall, the number of fires are down this year, he said. The closest fire houses are Engine 9, on Sanhican Drive, and Engine 8, on Stuyvesant Avenue.

### **New Business**

The meeting began at 8:35. Officer nominations for 2012 were discussed. Officer positions are president, first vice president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer. Two positions, first vice president and corresponding secretary, are going to be open. Linda Reid said she will be looking for volunteers for those positions. A slate of officers will be voted on at the January General Meeting.

Meeting attendees were asked to vote on a charity to receive a \$375 donation from the Association. The Cadwalader-Asbury Church Pantry will be the recipient of this year's donation. Susan Robinson said the church pantry is open from 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays, only. The church needs canned goods, eggs, meats and toiletries. The pantry often runs out of supplies long before 6 p.m., Susan said. Donations and volunteers are both needed. If anyone has questions feel free to call or email Susan.

### *City Ordinances-Leaf Pick Up*

Leaves are picked up by two different departments: bagged leaves are picked up the day after a trash pick up by the Sanitation Department. Loose leaves along the curb are picked up by the Streets Department. Leaves are being picked up through the beginning of December. Susan added that residents can call to have the city clear street gutters and storm drains of debris.

### *History of Hiltonia*

Pat Flores and Linda Reid were thanked for the pictorial history of Hiltonia that they assembled for the November 5 TCCA banquet.

### *Dates of Interest*

November 18 – Neighborhood dinner at Amici Milano

November 19- Wrecking Ball (Historical Society)

January 21st or 28th – Winter Party at the home of Donald Brokate and Anthony Rebara

Tues./Thurs. 5:30 p.m. – City Council Meetings

### **Unfinished Business**

#### *Minutes*

Margaret Mason reported that the meeting minutes from September have been put on the Hiltonia website; a few copies were also available at the meeting.

## *Treasurer's Report*

Jackie Kutch gave the Treasurer's Report. There are 145 members as of October 31st. The checking account balance as of October 31st was \$3,633.01. Thirty dollars in membership dues were deposited on October 7th. Jackie also presented the proposed 2012 budget which will be voted on at the January general meeting. The financial ledgers were recently audited by Bill Harbach; who suggested the Association make a more concerted effort to stay within its proposed budget during the upcoming year.

## *Committee Reports*

The new website is up. There is also a website devoted to the upcoming Hiltonia House Tour. The First Edition of the Hiltonia Directory is out.

The Children's Committee had 20 children attend the Halloween party, despite the snow and power outage. Michael Nalbone said the Children's Committee may work with other neighborhoods, like Glen Afton, on future children's events.

Don Waller reported on the Civic Committee. The West Ward CPAC is still operating. He noted one incident in the area: a car was stolen. Don also said the Mayoral Recall effort had a 50-50 chance of succeeding.

Elise Mannella said the House Tour Committee would be meeting later in November. The Committee is still looking for a sponsor.

Don said the Neighborhood Investment Committee has paid a \$1,000 retainer for an attorney. Nothing will be happening until after the new year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mason

Recording Secretary

