

Hiltonia Association General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019

7:00 PM

Home of John and Jeannie Weakliem

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. with two guest speakers: Yoshi Manale, Chief of Staff to Mayor Reed Gusciora and Dr. Shing-Fu Hsueh former mayor of West Windsor, who is now Director of Trenton Water Works.

Mr. Manale spoke first and touched on a number of issues: from economic development, encouraging investors, focusing on Warren Street as a “restaurant row,” creating a youth work program, bringing in a grants management company “to make sure we don’t miss out on money.” In response to questions, Mr. Manale said City Hall is working with PSE&G on fixing badly trimmed trees in Hiltonia. A new City website is going to be designed and constructed. The City also has a contract to put parking kiosks around town and it also wants to hire full- and part-time parking enforcement officers.

Dr. Hsueh said TWW has made basic improvements inside the filtration plant and is looking to improve customer service. One problem is getting staffing at full levels. Since Dr. Hsueh has been at the helm, 27 new entry-level employees have been hired. Hiring experienced staff with chemistry/engineering credentials has been difficult because TWW’s salaries are not competitive. Mr. Manale said TWW salaries at these levels are 30% lower than the state average. He is proposing presenting to City Council a request that TWW salaries are raised to the state average.

Dr. Hsueh warned that TWW probably won’t make the clean water standard for 2019 because 2018 stats have to be factored in for averaging. “No one can deny we’re making progress,” he said.

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:25 p.m. by Dennis Wendell and Terri O’Prey. There were about 35 residents in attendance.

1) Minutes: Minutes from the January 8, 2019 meeting were approved by voice vote.

2) Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Barry Giordano was not at the meeting; the following was reported: There was a starting balance of \$3,011.47 (as of January 1). Deposits totaled \$1,635, expenditures totaled \$1,318.69 and uncleared checks totaled \$271.19.

3) Committee Reports (oral reports)

A. Civic: Paulette Ayres said there was nothing of note to report from the February CPAC meeting.

B. Publicity: no report

C. Membership: Dr. Donnie Johnson provided an updated list of members

D. Social: Children's: Kathleen Coughlin noted the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 13.

Adult: Terri announced that Lori Emmerson has agreed to chair this committee.

E. Hospitality: Georgia Wallar is looking for a host for the May meeting.

F. Worthy Projects: Maureen and Jacques Lebel said that grants were made in January to the two organizations chosen for donations. They added they would like to start thinking of organizations with a Hiltonia connection, if possible, for this year's worthy projects.

G. Communications: Kathi Eckert said she plans to add some of the charts Dr. Hsueh provided during his presentation in the next *Hilltone*.

4) Unfinished Business

Hiltonia 100th Anniversary—Terri is looking for people to help with researching the planned book about the neighborhood since her schedule has made it difficult to continue without additional support.

A review of the Association Constitution and Bylaws will be initiated by officers in April.

5) New Business

a) A new committee has been created: The Beautification Committee will be headed by Mike Ranallo. Members of the committee include Candice Brearley, Janet Perez, Joyce Kersey, Marcia Youngs and Bill Merz.

b) Dennis, Mike Ranallo and Paul Perez met with Trenton Psychiatric Hospital authorities after a patient escaped the facility on January 3. Dennis said TPH was very responsive and offered to have someone speak at a future meeting, which may be separate from the general meeting. He added that the TPH board meets at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month and anyone can attend and observe.

c) Jeannie Weakliem announced that each ward is getting surveillance cameras and added that Hiltonia could buy 10 surveillance signs with posts for \$736.00. Sam Boorse made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Bea Scala -Fischler. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Upcoming Hiltonia and related events:

Next General Meeting, Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. location TBD

Additional Information