

Hiltonia Association General Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020
7:00 PM
Home of Scott and Margaret Mason

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey. 20 residents attended.

Members heard a presentation by Wahab (Wally) Onitiri, Director of Public Works. Mr. Onitiri said that the state DOT had approved road repairs and resurfacing for Trenton. He said work will begin in about six months. He added that there are plans to add more speed bumps and speed radar signs. He added that damaged stop signs are also being replaced. Jeannie Weakliem asked about crumbling curbs. Mr. Onitiri said he has a list of bad curbs and that he is prioritizing repairs. Mr. Onitiri added he is working to reduce trash pick up to once a week in the West Ward by providing each house with a 55-gallon trash can. This is a preliminary plan that would need to go through an approval process. Jacques Lebel asked about paint disposal. Mr. Onitiri said residents can call the Sanitation Department for a pick up or they can drop paint off at the Sanitation Department site.

Yoshi Manale, Chief of Staff for Mayor Gusciora, was at the meeting and told attendees that Trenton spent \$12,000 last summer cleaning up debris from the grassy area that abuts Hilvista Boulevard. He added that the city is hoping to get more funding so that cleanup efforts can continue. In response to a question about LED lights, Mr. Manale said the plan is for PSE&G to replace all streetlights in the city with LED bulbs.

Answering another question, Mr. Manale said that while illegal use of ATVs throughout Trenton remains an issue, the city now has four drones to monitor riders. The drones will follow the ATVs to a rider's residence and warrants will be issued. Mr. Manale said the administration tried to have an ATV ordinance passed last summer but that City Council President Kathy McBride rejected it.

In other updates, Mr. Manale said a Trenton Half Marathon is planned for May. The old Sentimo restaurant is now The Lobby. He added that plans are in the works to reopen Maxine's as an upscale pizza restaurant and that a new coffee shop opened recently on Broad Street.

Mr. Manale said that City Council is "pushing back" on Capital Fund money for roads and for Trenton Water Works repairs. TWW is looking for \$500 million for infrastructure repairs. Instead of installing a cap on the reservoir, TWW wants to place water tanks in surrounding towns. He added that Trenton is looking for public and private funding to invest in historical sites to increase tourism.

He said that property values in the East Ward have seen a five to six percent increase; with investors interested in small scale investments. He added that private firms are "trying to come into the city," with the train station as a draw.

Mr. Manale also said the City was seeking \$35 million in state aid, which was the amount Trenton had been receiving prior to the Christie Administration.

Regular Meeting

1) **Minutes:** Minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting were approved by voice vote.

2) Presentation of the slate of new officers: Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey, co-presidents
Jeannie Weakliem, 1st vice president
Ali Wilson, 2nd vice president
Barry Giordano, treasurer
Melinda Chance, recording secretary
Michael Nalbhone, corresponding secretary

The slate was approved by a voice vote.

3) Treasurer's Report: As of

4) Committee Reports (oral reports)

A. Civic: Paulette Ayres said there is a West Ward meeting scheduled with Jerrell Blakely, City Council Member At Large.

B. Publicity: Linda Reid – no report

C. Membership: Donnie Johnson – no report

D. Social: Children's: Kathleen Coughlin – no report

Adult: Lori Emmerson asked anyone willing to host an event to sign up via the spreadsheet or by calling her.

E. Hospitality: Georgia Wallar is looking for a host for the March 10 meeting.

F. Worthy Projects: Maureen Lebel announced that Meals on Wheels of Mercer County met the \$250 matching donation cap and Ellarslie Museum exceeded the cap.

G. Communications: Kathi Eckert said the next *Hilltone* will be out in March.

H. Cadwalader Park Projects: Becky Taylor said the pathway by the bridge has been restored with help from neighbors and student athletes and coaches from the high school. In addition to local volunteers, students from Princeton University are also coming out to help with clean up efforts. Future restoration will focus on the rock garden and the park benches.

I. Porchfest: Jeannie Weakliem said that Porchfest is scheduled for June 13th. There are bands already lining up to participate. She said she's looking for at least 20 "porches," where bands can play. A sign in table, food trucks and port-a-potties will be set up at the end of Cadwalader Drive, near the park entrance. Jeannie said the Porchfest committee is also looking for grants to cover the costs of publicity and souvenirs, such as t-shirts.

4) Unfinished Business

Neighborhood Signs- Dennis said a neighborhood watch sign will be installed at the corner of Renfrew Avenue and Hilvista Boulevard.

5) New Business

The Association is looking for new, more efficient ways to collect dues payments online.

Next General Meeting: March 10, 2020. location TBA

Additional Information