

Dolores Heights Improvement Club Meeting Minutes
04.01.08

****Note:** Please overlook any misspelled names. Also, the minutes below are not exact quotes of what was said at the meeting, only notes about what was said.

In Attendance: Carlene Laughlin - Co-President, Jim Koulias, Bob Gain, Julie Paginini, David Stokes, Erik Reider, David Pennebaker, Laura McCloskey, Lamisse Droubi, Cliff Hopkins, Bob Collari, Hedi Saraf, Monica Henshky (sp?), Pam Hemphill, John Goldsmith, and Ilyas Ilyia (sp?)

Location: Julie Paginini's House on Liberty Street

DHIC members went around and introduced themselves and present issues they wanted to discuss:

- Carlene Laughlin presented the idea we need to discuss the membership of the DHIC
- Jim Koulias discussed how he was involved with Julie Paginini in organizing the DHIC block party
- Bob Gain represents the Sanchez Street Stairs and was here to thank the DHIC for the \$500 donation.
- Julie Paginini talked about the leaving of a lot of board members and one of the co-presidents, Maureen Thomas. She discussed wanting to take a small leadership role if others are interested in small leadership roles
- David Stokes presented the idea of starting a Wiki for Dolores Heights. Bob Gain explained how a Wiki is a forum for the DHIC members to post ideas and conversations for all to see on the website. The idea was presented of making sure there is a dialog on the website about the needs of the neighborhood.
- Erik Redier is a board member, looking to phase out of the board member role, but would love to take on small projects.
- David Pennebaker is excited to get involved with the DHIC and lives on 21st Street.
- Lamisse Droubi just moved to a new place on Liberty Street and wanted to get more involved.
- Cliff Hopkins lives on 19th Street and Sanchez. Came to thank the DHIC for the \$500 for the Sanchez Street Steps project. Cleaning up the foliage around the stairs keeps the neighborhood clean and safe. The brighter lights are more of a deterrent. More of the neighbors paying attention to what is going on with the stairs and more people calling when there is something to report.
- Monica Henshky (sp?), lived on the corner of Hill and Sanchez. Has been involved in the DHIC in the past. She has a passion for native plants. Wants to contribute some time and money to help with the corner of Sanchez and Hill. She got a grant a while back from SF Beautiful to work on the triangle by Sanchez and Hill. Wants to be kept informed by the DHIC for the work on the hillside at Hill and Sanchez.
- Bob Callori, lives on Hill Street, member of the DHIC Design Review Board Committee, under the wing of the DHIC board. Wants to know what is going to happen to the design review board if the DHIC is crumbling. Receives all the

paperwork about new remodels in the neighborhood and consults with the neighbors about their projects prior to going to the city. Had problems trying to get people to replace other people. Now Bob gives the paperwork to Harry Clark about the remodels. They have an active committee and rely on the support of the DHIC. Julie Paginini asked about the role of the design review board. Carlene Laughlin mentioned there are guidelines and Bob Callori said they meet with neighbors and discuss complaints. Prior to this we have Erik and Justin be the liaison with the DHIC. Erik Reider said the design review committee does not have authority to red light a project, but the DHIC can give their opinion. Lamisse Droubi talked about her process with the Design Review Committee and found the process very supportive and helped with any conflicts.

- Pam Hemphill has lived in the neighborhood for about 20 years and she worked on the S parking permit on Hill Street. Communication is an issue when trying to organize people. Getting out and talking to their neighbors is the best way to do it. They got four blocks to get together and everything got past, but communication is difficult. At one point they got parking permits, but not signs. Pam supports the neighborhood beautiful.
- John Goldsmith lives on Liberty Street. Used to be on the Hayes Valley beautification committee. Ilyas Ilyia lives with John on Liberty Street. They want to get involved in DHIC. There was a car break in on their block of Liberty Street. Monica mentioned that people should not leave any valuables in the car. John said in the past month 8 businesses on 24th street got robbed.
- Hedi Saraf, DHIC board member, played the role of secretary for a number of years. Has a desire to organize the community around earthquake preparedness.

Items Discussed:

Project at Sanchez and Hill Street:

- Mark Miller put the project together three years ago and endorsed by Carlene Laughlin. They received money from the city, \$3500 and the money came through the Neighborhood Parks Council. The grant asked to deal with the retaining wall falling down at the corner of Sanchez and Hill Streets and asked to make it safe. The idea would be that the city would do some of the work. The city put it on hold for 2 years and then the city finally released the money. It took Mark 2 years to get permits in place. The hillside is owned by DPW, but the city is supposed to maintain it. The DPW declared it a disaster area. They have started re-sloping the hillside. Mark told the city this amount of money would not be enough, and the city said to Mark they should get started and the city will give them the rest of the money once they get started. They spent about \$3000 in funds to excavate, take down terracing, and take down the brick stairs.
- Monica talked about her concern for the leaning wall and if they remove the leaning wall what would happen to the tree pushing on the wall. Discussed how her house was actually moved without permits prior to her owning it. The wall with the leaning tree on it does not have footings. Monica got an arborist to consult about the tree and he thought that the excavating would not affect the health of the tree. Monica is concerned that the liability in Mark's grant is Monica's liability. The city had cited Monica for hazardous conditions because of the leaning wall. There is some tension between

Monica and Mark about how to move forward on the hillside. Monica would like to be a part of the planning of what to plan there. She wants to plant all native plants on the hillside.

- Carlene read the rest of Mark's statement. Needs help with the grant application to fund plants. To plant plants there, we can write up a grant with SF Beautiful. There was discussion of what they should put up for the retaining wall. Mark is trying to get matching funds to build the rest of the retaining wall. Discussion of whether Monica could take out that pine tree. Monica did apply for a grant with the city and was refused a grant to take out the tree. Monica has already spent money to prune and take care of the trees. Monica discussed possibly putting a retaining wall in with modular bricks.
- Monica, Bob, Pam, Laura, and Carlene would like to meet separately about the issue to try to address the issue further. Contact Pam Goldsmith if interested in discussing the issue further.

Landmarking of tree at 21st and Sanchez Streets:

- Friend of Urban Forest wants to discuss with DHIC the idea of landmarking the tree on the corner of Sanchez and 21st.

New Board Membership

- Carlene discussed new membership to the board. We can restructure the DHIC board to be more committee based and have people take turns heading the meetings. At this meeting, we will get nominations for new board members and then have a general vote at the next meeting. By the by-laws, there should be 6 meetings a year. The board seats are two year terms. Maureen and Justin/Erik are leaving the board. There are Hedi, Tom Taylor, and Carlene left. Carlene said she thought it would be better to do work in committees. Laura thought she might be a board member as it was discussed and voted on over a year ago at the 2006 block party. Always need a treasurer, secretary, and possibly a president. There was on-going discussing on what the needs of committees: design review, beautification, crime/safety, communications. Important to share the responsibility.
- Kevin Burke on Liberty is very interested in getting involved in the design review board.
- Is it possible to rewrite the by-laws? Carlene says it is possible to rewrite the by-laws. An outcome of tonight's meeting could be to get the communication flowing. Julie Paginini said things would be expedited by getting into small groups. Carlene said communication is probably the biggest issue. Bob Gain said we need to send an email out with these new ideas presented to the community. Jim said David, Laura and Bob could get together and discuss next steps in communications.
- Topics for committees discussed at the meeting: Beautification (Stair cases), Block party, Design Review Board, Newsletter, Membership, Safety, Playground/Dolores Park, parking, children
- Bob Gain thinks we need to market to neighbors DHIC.
- Proposed to have a general membership meeting at the end of April after the April 12th event at the park hosted by Friends of Dolores Park Playground.
- May 1st Thursday, 7:30PM, membership meeting, Bob Gain will host at his house at 19th street between Church and Sanchez. We will send an email out if they want to

nominate themselves for the DHIC board. We will be forming committee and the topics for committee are: Beautification (Stair cases), Block party, Design Review Board, Newsletter, Membership, Safety, Playground/Dolores Park, parking, children.

- John Guisti is not treasurer, but continues to handle the finances/taxes for the DHIC.
- Julie Paginini said she'd be interested in doing the block party and communications as a board member.
- Bob Gain said he'd like to be on the DHIC board.
- Jim Koulias volunteered to work on the block party again as a board member.
- Bob Callori asked to have someone take over his position as the coordinator to the Design Review Board.