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Hillcrest Town Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 25 March 2024

- **HTC General Meeting:** Monday March 25, 2024, 7:00pm PDT
- **Location:** Zoom Only
 - **Zoom Invite Link:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81712376287?pwd=RkpQb1ZVUjlpYWplZU9xUk8vMkxkOT09>
- **Email:** info@hillcresttc.org
- **Bylaws:** <https://www.hillcresttc.org/bylaws>

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MEETING AGENDA

I. Roll Call

A. Meeting Sign-In

1. Entire HTC Board is present, plus Mario Garcia, Drew, Gail Friedt, Charles W., Miah Earn, Adrian D'Mirez. (14)
2. Additionally, Ty Dietrich was acknowledged for joining Hillcrest Town Council's Board of Directors.

B. Approval of Agenda

1. Approved unanimously; after revisions were made leading up to the meeting

C. Approval of Minutes from 12 March 2024 HTC Annual Meeting

1. Approved unanimously; after clarifications made by the Secretary after misreading minutes to note Tai Dietrich's election to the Board.

II. Announcements

A. Elected Officials

1. None in the call.

B. External & Partner Organizations

1. Benny Cartwright; Kiwanis Club: Next Thu meeting, talk about Narcan, work with prominent Latino organization Vida; LGBTQ liaison police officers will visit re: public safety on April 11th, address LGBTQ officers. Benny provided updates on Kiwanis Club events while also discussing participation in Dining Out for Life alongside Pozibilities.
2. Michael Donovan, Gail Friedt; Vibrant Uptown: Michael and Gail shared news of their organization, Vibrant Uptown, being recognized as the neighborhood planning group by San Diego's Land Use and Housing Committee. They highlighted efforts to bring positive changes to community planning in response to dysfunctional meetings within existing organizations.
 - a) Jason and the rest of the HTC Board congratulated Gail and Michael for their achievements with Vibrant Uptown.
3. Michael Donovan, Pozibilities - Support for Dining Out for Life, replacement to AIDS Walk by the LGBTQ Center.
 - a) Jason: Will Kiwanis participate again?



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- (1) Benny: all volunteers will go through training this year, not all members can do training, if we don't, we'll move efforts towards Pozibilities.
- (2) Jason: The HTC endorses Pozibilities and will work to get a group to help out.

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

- A. Michael - Furthermore, Michael shared details about an upcoming town hall hosted by Chris Ward at The Center concerning redevelopment plans for DMV property in Hillcrest. Very important that any and all attend to ensure development is good for community; be heard. Towhall is Wednesday April 27 at the LGBTQ Center in Hillcrest.
 1. HTC letter of support for Ward's bill, drafted by Jason. Must be finalized and posted to note HTC support for the bill. The HTC Board agreed.
 2. Jason: Could you tell us about the redevelopment of the DMV property?
 - a) Michael: Redevelop into a multi use facility with DMV in place as well as community space, residential. Will be a fairly substantial structure but allow DMV to still conduct business there.
 3. Mario Garcia: partnership, Kiwanis and HTC - Mario emphasized the importance of partnerships with synergies, highlighting the inclusive nature of the Kiwanis Club and expressing gratitude for their support
 - a) Jason acknowledged Mario's sentiment, welcoming all members from Kiwanis to the meeting.
 - b) The discussion underscored the value of collaboration in building a stronger community through partnerships and synergies. 6 Kiwanis members on the call.

IV. HTC Business

- A. HTC Board executive elections
 1. Edgard explained that board members would vote for officers as per bylaws, providing a link for ballot submission. This indicated an ongoing process within HTC to elect officers based on previous general meeting decisions.
 - a) Link to ballot sent to Board in the HTC Board group chat.
- B. Operations Committee
 1. HTC Finances Update
 - a) Michael: Thanks to Edgard and others, Michael reported receiving a check related to smoking cessation efforts after initial banking issues were resolved, resulting in over \$4,000 in funds.
 - b) Michael: He also proposed reimbursing an individual \$1035 for legal expenses incurred on behalf of the board, which was seconded by Benny and approved, after discussion about financial oversight.
 - (1) Jason: comment, as someone who voted for this last year or a year and half ago, this is a good lesson to have more scrutiny over what we agree to reimburse as well. Grateful for people who stepped in to fix issues from irresponsible behavior over the

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course of multiple years by past board members, grateful for people who right the ship. This will get us past our worst.

- c) The treasurer announced that Hillcrest Town Council is now in good standing with the Franchise Tax Board following past financial challenges.
 - d) Question from Tai re: new by-laws and changes to prevent future situations shifted conversation towards discussing lessons learned from past financial issues and potential measures to mitigate similar situations moving forward.
 - e) Members discussed setting thresholds for due diligence before authorizing expenditures as well as implementing operational procedures without necessitating changes to bylaws or at annual meetings. They emphasized transparency, responsibility, scrutiny over finances, and demonstrated ability to operate effectively within HTC.
2. Asana for Project Management
 - a) Jason introduced Asana as a project management tool aimed at enhancing organization within HTC activities while addressing concerns about its cost implications post-free trial expiration raised by Michael.
- C. [HTC Board Retreat](#) (April)
1. Jason discussed plans for a board retreat in April, aiming to facilitate strategic planning and team building. The event will involve the board members and focus on laying down strategic planning ideas.

V. Future Events

- A. April 2024 [92103rd Fridays](#) (4/19)
1. Jason proposed a monthly social event called "92103rd Fridays" aimed at bringing the neighborhood together through food vendors offering various cuisines.
 2. After some discussion, it was decided to schedule the event for May, instead of April, to allow for better preparation and promotion.
 3. The first event is scheduled for May 17th, featuring pizza places from the area.
 4. Volunteers were invited to help organize and promote this community-building initiative.
- B. Cleanup and Cocktails (4/20)
1. Benny shared details about an upcoming community clean-up scheduled for April 20th, involving around 100 volunteers cleaning up neighborhoods followed by an after-party sponsored by Urban Mo's.
 2. Michael: Suggested that Hillcrest Town Council become a co-sponsor of this initiative, which received unanimous support from the Board.
- C. Sunday Funday (4/21)
1. Resident DJs, goes from 12 to 6, move to AWOL for a little bit.
 2. Alex presented an opportunity for fundraising during Sunday Funday on April 21st by selling sodas or waters with proceeds going back into Hillcrest Town

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Council's account. Several members expressed interest in participating in this fundraising effort.

3. Sunday April 21st - first Sunday Funday. Will be a monthly event.
- D. Lung Love and Turquoise Takeover (American Lung Association and Rita Redaelli)
1. Edgard briefly mentioned plans regarding collaboration with the American Lung Association but indicated limited information available at that time due to lack of follow-up since the last meeting.
 2. Lung Force Walk and Turquoise Takeover (May 6-14)
 - a) Jason: Turn our website turquoise in support, assemble a team for the Lung Force Walk.
- E. [Dog Days of Hillcrest](#) (August)
1. Jason introduced the idea of organizing "Dog Days of Hillcrest," celebrating furry companions while also promoting pet adoption from shelters at an August event.
 2. He sought volunteers interested in forming a committee to plan and execute this potential community-building initiative.
- F. Vibrant Uptown Town Hall (4/10)
1. Michael announced a town hall meeting at the center to discuss the update to the Uptown Community Plan, which will bring significant changes to Hillcrest.
 2. Hillcrest Town Council is a sponsor and partner organization for this important town hall.
 3. The meeting aims to provide an opportunity for community members to hear directly from the city planning department and offer input into the plan.
 4. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- G. Miah mentioned an upcoming DMV event hosted by Chris Ward on Wednesday, March 27th.

VI. Neighborhood Issues Forum

- A. Pride Plaza / Normal Street Promenade
1. Jason discussed the status of the Pride Plaza project, which has been put on hold due to a staffing change at SANDAG.
 2. Discussion centered around highlighting efforts being made by board members and council representatives in addressing this delay and seeking expedited progress for the project.
 3. Michael suggested inviting Nora Vargas, chair of SANDAG and county Board of Supervisors, while also extending invitations to other elected officials.
 4. Mario proposed reaching out for information regarding why staff placed it on hold.
- B. Public Safety
1. Jason shared a personal experience regarding public safety concerns in Hillcrest and proposed initiating a neighborhood watch group similar to Stonewall Citizens Patrol as part of ongoing discussions about enhancing public safety measures within the community.

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- a) Jason's experience breaking up a fight between a man and two women, he had to subdue the fight, we need to bring back a citizen's patrol like what we had with Stonewall Citizen's Patrol.
 2. Benny mentioned plans for regrouping with small groups involved in addressing public safety concerns after discussing potential collaboration with Kiwanis Club representatives.
 3. Jason asked about the community's sense of safety and any specific concerns.
 4. Miah suggested having well-lit streets and self-defense classes, emphasizing the importance of street lights.
 5. Tai proposed workshops on bystanderism to empower people to intervene when needed.
 6. Additionally, Jason and Michael mentioned the proposal for a maintenance assessment district to fund social workers near hospitals and private security.
 7. There was a discussion regarding funding from businesses within the proposed maintenance assessment district, with Michael noting that a significant portion would go towards security patrols in Hillcrest annually.
 8. Furthermore, it was mentioned that Scripps Mercy Hospital would contribute \$80,000 yearly as part of this initiative, which was welcomed by all on the call.
- C. Bike Lanes
1. The conversation shifted towards bike lanes with members sharing their experiences using them.
 2. Michael highlighted the need for secure bike infrastructure after sustaining injuries due to inadequate infrastructure.
 3. The group discussed how improved bike lanes could enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety while potentially requiring adjustments in parking arrangements.
- D. Other
1. Mario provided an update from an internal source indicating that despite delays, completion of the plaza is still anticipated by a certain date which wasn't specified during this meeting.

VII. HTC Election Results

- A. Chair: Jason Frye (3 votes, 60%); Edgard Portela (2 votes, 40%).
- B. Vice-Chair: Alex Marin (4 votes, 80%); Jason Frye (1 vote, 20%).
- C. Treasurer: Michael Donovan (5 votes, 100%).
- D. Secretary: Edgard Portela (4 votes, 60%), Tai Dietrich (2 votes, 40%).

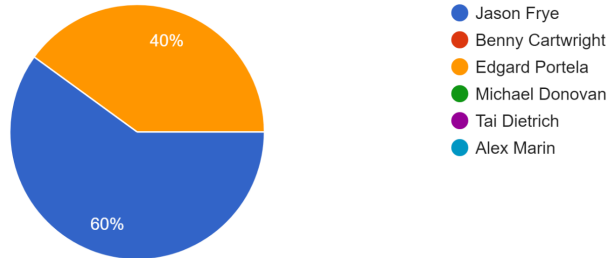
VIII. Adjournment

HTC Executive Board Election Results

Conducted through Google Forms, shared on the HTC Board group chat.

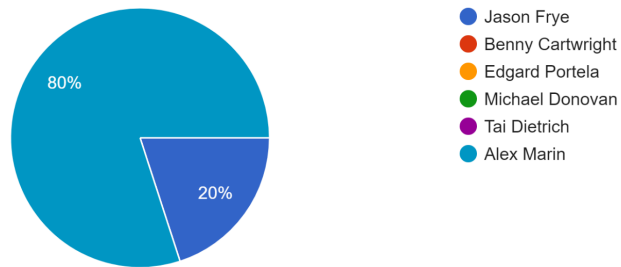
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HTC Chair
5 responses



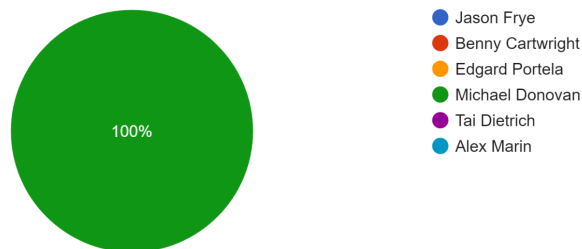
Jason Frye is re-elected as Chair of the HTC.

HTC Vice-Chair
5 responses



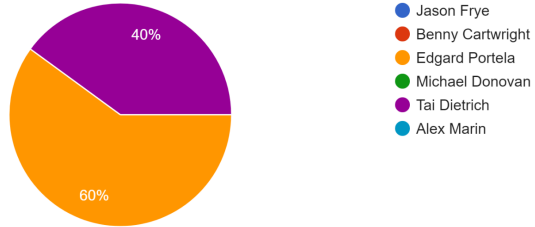
Alex Marin is re-elected as Vice-Chair of the HTC.

HTC Treasurer
5 responses



Michael Donovan is re-elected as Treasurer of the HTC.

HTC Secretary
5 responses



Edgard Portela is re-elected as Secretary of the HTC.

Benny Cartwright and Tai Dietrich are Board Members At-Large.