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Hillcrest Town Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 29 January 2024

- **HTC General Meeting:** Monday Jan 29, 2024, 7:00pm PDT
- **Location:** Zoom Only
 - Zoom Invite Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87905960269?pwd=c3JQTzcyL1lqZ3VRdHRNM290QVBydz09>
- **Email:** info@hillcresttc.org
- **Bylaws:** <https://www.hillcresttc.org/bylaws>

ATTENDANCE

- I. Jason Frye
- II. Edgard Portela
- III. Michael Donovan
- IV. Kyle Amdahl
- V. Alex Marin
- VI. Benny Cartwright
- VII. Youssef Biziri
 - A. Ybizri@gmail.com
- VIII. Keo (keo's iPad)
 - A. staceykeo@yahoo.com
- IX. George Mayo

MEETING AGENDA

- X. Roll Call
- XI. Announcements
 - A. Elected Officials
 - B. External & Partner Organizations
 - 1. **Alex, HBA:** Sunday Funday last year, very successful. HBA will do Sunday Funday again this year, and have it in March, April, and May in 2024. Big success story for our community, 12p-6pm, block party for the community.
 - 2. **Kiwanis Club, Benny** - Neighborhood Cleanup and Cocktails successful, 67 people signed in and participated. Cleanup happened before the rainstorm and helped the community. Mo's to sponsor April 20th and another in August and December.
 - a) **Hillcrest Honors** - a week from today, HTC Board invited, celebration of neighborhood on Monday.
- XII. Non-Agenda Public Comment
 - A. **Kyle, question on Sunday Funday** - Is that a revenue generating opportunity? Keep eyes out for opportunities for the community organizations to raise funds in this event.

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1. Alex: Sunday Funday made a little money with sponsorships. Not a big money maker, more about the community and growing the event first before making a lot of money. Last year was the very first year.
2. Jason: Something we can't do right now but we are working organizationally to be able to raise funds for our own projects and organization. More details on this in the Treasurer's Update.

B. **Jason, visit to the OB Town Council** - Ongoing scandal with leadership stealing money, organization raised a lot of money through different events. HTC showed up to support the organization through the challenge.

XIII. HTC Committee Reports

A. Executive

1. Kiwanis Membership

- a) **Jason, timetable for HTC to become corporate member** - Corporate dues, 168 for the year. Membership dues down to \$100. Whenever HTC can pay, we'll do corporate membership. Wait until money is able to come in to pay dues.

2. Town Council Meeting Attendance

- a) **Jason** - Attendance has been low at recent meetings, last meeting had significant attendance by elected officials and organizations, but not very many members, and did not have a quorum.

(1) **Benny** - Will include HTC in thank you and email blasts after the cleanup to bring in volunteers into the HTC.

- b) **Michael** - send emails and communications for meetings more often, consistently, with certain intervals. Communicate regularly through social media and email newsletters.

c) **Benny** - schedule meetings around topics that are of concern to the community, use hot topics that the community wants to hear about.

d) **Michael** - Town Hall with Vibrant Uptown in future town hall re: mobility. Opportunity for HTC to participate and partner.

e) **Michael** - survey for the community for topics and issues to discuss that matter to the community.

(1) **Alex, Michael** - housing, housing issues and affordability.

(2) **Kyle** - parking in the neighborhood.

3. 2024 HTC Board Elections (March 2024)

a) **2 seats open - Benny and Jason's seats**: Benny will run again for the Board, Jason will run again as well. Benny and Jason filled vacancies and now will run for their own full terms.

(1) Attend a certain amount of meetings, nominations period in Feb and March

(2) We have a number of full vacancies that could use people.

b) **Jason** - Uptown Planners also having elections in March as well.

4. HTC Board Retreat (April 2024)

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- a) **Jason** - Location unknown yet, planning needs to start, we will plan accordingly over the next few months.

B. Treasurer's Update

- 1. **Michael** - past boards never filed taxes, left organization bereft, we can't conduct business, collect money or spend money until matter is sorted out. Michael has obtained access to full records and statements, has filed taxes with the state of California, allowing him to file paperwork to become non-profit officially.
 - a) One that process is complete, we will have no tax and we can file with the Franchise Tax Board and get released from FTB.
 - (1) Forms by us have been received by the FTB, will take about six weeks to complete this process.
 - b) Tough to find all signatories to transfer bank account, created new account, have moved balance of \$250.32 to account left over from old accounts.
 - c) Things are looking up, we will become a public benefit corp in good standing soon, the process continues but it's moving along well.

C. Say San Diego Update

- 1. **Edgard** - Partnership and project is concluding, it will open HTC for opportunities to obtain funding later on with our work on the TRL community sessions.
 - a) Pending work: some social media posts highlighting our work and tobacco cessation topics in the community.

XIV. Events

A. Candidate Forum

- 1. **Jason**: Several seats and positions open across government, we should hold candidate forums to bring in the community and raise awareness. Is this something we are interested in organizing?
 - a) Benny - HTC used to do that in the past, would be good for the organization to do to engage the community.
 - b) Michael - great idea, focus on local races that affect races such as District 3. If we go broader, let's speak to other organizations to come together and sponsor. We should focus on District 3 in the HTC to do something in pretty short order.
 - c) Jason - We can get that together in two weeks, should not take too long, Different candidates already attend our meetings and we can pull in more candidates and community.

B. February Mini Taste/Karaoke

- 1. **Jason** - 3rd Friday of February: Jason to take over the main HTC work to organize this event for the HTC, Jason has free time to organize and get together with support from everyone else as desired!

C. August Dog Days of Hillcrest

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1. **Jason** - Project brought up last year, and it was met with great enthusiasm and support among our members. Partner with vets, shelters, and other similar businesses and organizations to help the welfare of our furry companions in Hillcrest.
 - a) Potential for a great community day for everyone to appreciate the pups in the neighborhood. Would be a lovely community benefit for the organization.
 - b) **Michael and Benny** think it's a good idea for an event. Benny is not a fan of animals but supports the initiative.
 - c) **Michael** - Combine events with other events like the Big Gay Picnic, where it is held in a park, an open space, would be really good for an event that involves animals.

D. Hillcrest Honors Letter

1. **Jason**: Official letter from the HTC to endorse the Hillcrest Honors event, symbolic but it shows support that we have not been able to give due to limits.
 - a) **Michael, Benny, Alex**: Support, any support is great support, two members of our board are being honored.
2. **Michael**: We should also include a letter to the Assemblyman Ward in support of the DMV development for more housing. HTC should have a letter of support released as well.

E. Holiday Parade Collaboration

1. **Nicole Murray Ramirez, the Imperial Court** - HTC can reach out and get involved, supported by Bennt, Michael, Jason, Edgard, and Alex. HTC can send someone to connect with them and send a rep to help plan and participate.

XV. Initiatives

A. Organization Growth & Outreach

B. Disaster Preparedness

1. **Jason - Storms coming in in a few days**: We are lucky we didn't have catastrophic flooding, start posts to help people prepare, where the community can report downed power lines.
 - a) Social media campaigns like Hurricane Hillary.
2. **Michael** - 3-3.5' forecasted over four days, would be more flooding to a city already suffering.
3. **Jason - Paul, Guardian Angels** loop them in measures for community public safety, distributing Narcan - we can endorse it and ask for volunteers but allow Guardian Angels run it and administer it but with our support.

C. CPG Endorsement

1. **Jason** - Is this where the HTC can take a stand, what stand do we want?
 - a) **Jason**: In favor of a strong message of support for Vibrant Uptown, VU is better poised for representation for our neighborhood.
 - b) **Michael**: Recused from taking a decision due to being part of VU.
 - c) **Alex**: Support.

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- d) **Benny:** Support, support Vibrant Uptown.
- e) **Edgard:** Supports also, due to Uptown PLanners being the reason why we are where we are today, VU better poised to represent and advocate for community needs.
- f) **Jason:** Vibrant Uptown's recent success with town hall meetings around housing and other events have gotten more community participation than any other organization.
- g) **Jason:** Briefly explained CPG's to other attendees and why Vibrant Uptown is worthy.
- h) **Jason:** Members of Vibrant Uptown are actually engaged with us and the community, Uptown Planners is insular, factional, and not representative of the community.
- i) **Board motion:** CPG Vibrant Uptown endorsement, seconded by Benny and Alex
 - (1) 4-0-1; Michael Donovan abstaining/recusing.
- j) **Action:** Draft letter of support by the HTC and attend City Council meetings, mobilize community to support CPG reform and Vibrant Uptown.

XVI. Neighborhood Issues

A. Safety

B. Homelessness

- 1. **Youssef -** Is there a special forum for homelessness, people have many different encounters, what is the HTC doing about it? Is there a more direct meeting to discuss the topic? Youssef would like to get involved to talk about issues and deploy answers, and find solutions that are community driven.
 - a) **Jason:** February meeting topic, we will discuss homelessness.
 - b) **Michael:** HBA is sponsoring a drive towards a MAD/Central Biz District of Hillcrest. Assessment placed on biz in an area that will hire PATH team to redirect homeless people into shelter and services and pay for more public security on the streets.
 - (1) Working with the City Council to get it passed - needs to happen for this success.
 - (2) Do not hesitate to use the Get It Done app to report encampments and report issues.
 - (3) Encampment law specifics has left Hillcrest virtually open to encampments, we need to step up and report and get the MAD passed ASAP to deliver resources.
 - (4) **Email Stephen Whitburn, Ben Nichols with HBA, City Council of San Diego** and other stakeholders; businesses need to be motivated to be part of this.
 - (a) Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, District 3
 - (b) Ben Nicholls, Hillcrest Business Association

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C. Public Bathrooms

1. **Michael:** Publish the results of our bathroom survey on social media, grand jury report that was highly critical of city's position on non public bathrooms. Article that came out - company that installs and manages public bathrooms without plumbing or power, like LA is using in their Metro, proposes to the city so we can install in the Pride Promenade.

XVII. Adjournment