

Harbour View Citizens Association
Minutes of General Meeting Held July 11, 2021
via Google Meet

*****Call to Order & Welcome*****

The meeting was called to order at 3:05p.m. by the president, Sandra Hall. She extended a very warm welcome to all and thanked the members for joining (12 members at start).

*****Prayer*****

Prayers was graciously offered by Carol Jumpp-Graham.

*****Reading, Correction and Confirmation of Minutes*****

The minutes of the general meeting held on June 6, 2021 via Google Meet was read by PRO, Danique Hayden.

The following are the noted corrections of the minutes:

- *Page 1:*
 - *The word **on** should be inserted for the sentence to read ... tendered apologies **on** behalf of....*
 - *..... **bottled** should be **bottles***
- *Page 2: ... **Treasure**...should read ... **Treasurer***
- *Page 3:*
 - *Removal of the incomplete sentence - **The outgoing President's re***
 - *... **I**... should be replaced with **in***
 - *...**wee**... should be replaced with ...**were**...*
- *Page 4: Bullets should be used to separate the different subject areas under AOB.*

A motion for the conformation of the minutes subject to the above amendment was moved by Beverlyn Wong and seconded by Ethel Peat-Smith.

*****Apologies*****

President Hall tendered apologies for absence on behalf of Racquel, Rohan and Molly. Danique Hayden also tendered apologies for absence on behalf of Maxine Solay-Williams and Brenda, and lateness for Karlene Black. Additionally, apologies for absence for Lorna Harris was tendered by Orian Archat and Fiona McEwan expressed apology for being late.

*****Family matters*****

Special birthday greetings were extended to *Andrew Gray – July 27.*

*****Presentations*****

There were two presenters scheduled for the meeting, Mrs Faith Thomas and Mr. Paul

The first was Mrs. Faith Thomas from Choose Life International and a former resident of Harbour View who delivered a very interesting, engaging and interactive presentation on Conflict Management. Some of the take-aways from her presentation were ground rules in how to effectively resolve/avoid conflicts:

1. Keep interactions respectful even when feeling frustrated or hurt.
2. Maintain emotional control, even when feeling angry.
3. Keep interactions on “hot topics” within a structures process.
4. Show a willingness to understand.
5. Communicate honestly, openly, and respectfully.
6. Be as objective as possible.
7. Express concerns in a constructive manner.
8. Focus on future solutions rather than past blame.
9. Look for solutions that meet everyone’s needs.
10. Chose the time carefully.

Mrs. Thomas’ presentation also highlighted that in resolving conflicts, one should use the ‘I’ statement, attack the problem and not the person, deal with feelings rather than accusations, deal with the issue rather than generalizations, talk it out rather than fight it out, commit to working towards a win-win situation and, avoid statements that you’re likely to regret.

In response to the Mrs. Thomas’ presentation, Dr Degia suggested that future presentations of this nature, be held as separate online workshops rather than within the monthly meeting, as an attempt to try to engage young people and others who may not attend regular monthly meetings. This she stated would prevent monthly meetings, where community business is discussed, to be too long. Orion Archat also suggested that such presentation could be used as training for the executive.

The second presentation was made by Paul regarding the Ruby Henton Performing Arts Centre currently operating from the library. The Ruby Henton Performing Arts Centre Operations is a non-profit organization aimed at teaching children to play music to improve their lives and make a change in the community. Ruby Henton was a teacher at the Harbour View Primary School for over 20 years and also a music teacher.

The Centre which caters to children 6 to 16 years, began operating at the library on July 3rd, 2021. The inaugural event went smoothly except that there was some delay in gaining access to the library. Twelve (12) recorders have so far been received from the Music Mart.

The second class along with more enrolment took place on July 10, 2021. Currently, there are approximately 14 registered students. The donated instruments have been distributed and the children have had a class in Music Theory were fed, because the class time was extended, and took part in a photoshoot. Pictures may be viewed on the organization’s website. Efforts are still being made to increase the numbers to about 20 so that an ensemble can be facilitated.

The library is housing the program for one evening during the week and on Saturdays. The primary need currently is the storage of the instruments, The Association is being asked to spread word of the program. There is also a request for one or two senior citizens to assist with class management during the session on Saturdays.

There were a few questions from the membership following the presentation to include:

- ✓ Day and time for classes – **Response:** Saturdays 10am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3pm to 5pm for the summer holidays.
- ✓ How does the Citizen’s Association get reflected? **Response:** As the organization grows, there will be need for a Board of Directors and members of the Association could be asked to sit on the Board. Also, there could be messages to say “Endorsed by the Harbour View Citizen’s Association”.
- ✓ When will the Board be established? **Response:** The process to register the non-profit organization is currently underway and should be completed before the end of this summer.

Members were encouraged to visit the website (<https://rubyhentonpac.mymusicstaff.com>) and make suggestions and recommendations and support the initiative.

President Hall expressed hearty thank you to both presenters.

Comments from the membership regarding the Ruby Henton Performing Arts Centre included congratulations on the initiative, commendations for keeping the children in the community engaged, and being careful about the risk of exposing our senior citizens in face-to-face interactions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

*****Updates*****

Cake Sale

Beverlyn Wong began her update by thanking everyone who supported the cake sale in various ways, on behalf of the Fund-Raising committee. She emphasized that because of person’s generosity, the cake sale was a “sell-off”. One hundred and thirty-five (135) slices of cake were sold grossing one hundred and eight thousand dollars (\$108,000). She reported that the Committee had received a float of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Association and as such the profit amounted to fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000). She expressed thanks to the members of her team. Beverlyn also offered a special thank you to Colleen for the very delicious carrot cheesecake that was donated.

President Hall expressed her own thank you to the Fund-Raising/Event Planning Committee for an excellent job in garnering funds for the Annual Flag Raising Ceremony in August.

Membership Drive

PRO Danique Hayden expressed a huge thank you to the Street Reps and members who participated in the membership drive on June 19th. She was very appreciative of the sacrifice made in walking door-to-door in trying to get residents to become a part of the Association. It was reported that there were initially twelve (12) groups that were slated to go out. Danique reported that confirmation was received that (10) of the groups actually went out, one (1) was unable to go and she is awaiting the report of the other group. She stated that prior to the drive, there were 123 members. This has been increased to 225 and counting as a result of the membership drive. Information for new members is to be entered to the online form so that a final tally can be done. Efforts are still being made to add the over 100 new members to the

WhatsApp group. She indicated that within the next two weeks, most, if not all new members should be added.

The PRO said that persons who participated in the drive highlighted issues that were raised by the residents which are being compiled so that they can at least be acknowledged and addressed where possible. She encouraged everyone to continue to support the social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). All accounts have the “myharbourview” handle. A pie chart with showing the distribution of members by street was posted in the Membership group. It shows that Harbour Drive which initially had 25% of the membership (thanks to Beverlyn’s efforts), now has 18%, which indicates a wider spread of the members, as suggested by Carol Harris.

President Hall thanked Danique and her team for the excellent job of organizing and executing the membership drive and encouraged the Street Reps to continue to invite citizens to become members of the Association.

Business Venture (Redemption Centre – Recycling Program)

Garth Daniel who currently leads the Business Venture, expressed pride at being a part of the magnificent Executive led by the astute president, Sandra Hall and thanked to the outgoing president, Oriion Archat for his input and loyalty to the community of Harbour View.

He provided the following as update:

- The Redemption Centre is the brainchild of Jamaica Recycles which is headed by Rohan Brown, an Executive member of the Association
- There are approximately 6-7 outlets in Kingston area with the latest to be opened in Harbour View on the right-hand side of the St Thomas main road heading east, painted in the colours of the Association (blue and gold).
- The only involvement of the Association is to mobilize persons in the community to take plastic bottles to the location. The benefit to the Association is that they will receive 50 cents per pound for all bottles brought to the Redemption Centre. The sum will be paid over on a monthly basis. Persons taking bottles are given \$22 per pound and can donate the monies to the Association. This is viewed as win-win situation.

It must be noted that the bottles must be clean and empty to be correctly weighed.

The presentation triggered the following comments/questions:

- Is there a formal signed contract with the Association? – **Response: No.**
- Who is it that the Association is partnering with? – **Response: Jamaica Recycles.**
- It is a bit disappointing that the information regarding the operation of the plant which was requested from about February this year is just now coming with the opening of the Centre slated for this week and without any formal presentation or documentation, especially since the Association will be benefitting financially. The information being given now is far from the original proposal and the buy-in of the general membership is still to be explored.

It was the view of the general membership that it is a good initiative but there should be some formal agreement.

Unfortunately, President Hall lost Internet connection at this point but the meeting was continued by 1st Vice President Wong.

*****AOB*****

- **MOSSAIC Project**

1st Vice President Wong reported that dialogue was had with the Public Defender on Thursday, July 8, regarding updates on the issue of the gully and requesting that the Association receives such in writing. The Public Defender informed that she was yet to receive new information but would make contact on Monday July 12. As soon as information is received, it will be communicated to the members.

Dr. Degia added that a draft of the letter that President Hall had promised to write on behalf of the residents of Harbour Drive was seen. Some comments and recommendations were made regarding the content but to date the update, which was promised in two weeks, is yet to be shared. 1st Vice President Wong was unable to update but promised to follow-up with President Hall and report accordingly

Althea Blissett requested an update on the status of the petition written by the residents of Harbour Drive. 1st Vice President Wong indicated that she stands to be corrected, but believes the petition was tied to the letter and as such may not have been actioned. She would, however, speak with President Hall and post the update in the members group. She went on to add that the news had indicated that the cleaning of the gully would begin by mid-July. She also promised that at the next Executive meeting, she would raise the issue with the length of time of time it took for such correspondences to go out and having the residents get the support of the Association.

*****Adjournment*****

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm on a motion moved by Danique Hayden and seconded by Heather Prendergast.