



Topinabee Development Association

Fourteenth Annual Meeting & Zoom Conference Call

August 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, by James Hilyard, TDA President. A few people could not be here in person and are attending via Zoom. All were thanked for participating.

We have three term renewals: Claudia Holland, Graham Tillotson, and Tom O'Hare. Each was presented to the membership and have agreed to continue serving. Motion made by Ken Hoehn to renew the 3-year term for Claudia Holland, second by Mary O'Hare, and passed by the membership. Lori Hoehn made a motion for Graham Tillotson, second by Sue Garlick, and passed by the membership. Sue Warren made a motion for Tom O'Hare, second by Jessica Haslock, and passed by the membership.

Election of officers took place for the Board of Directors. Those up for elections are James Hilyard, President, Claudia Holland, Secretary, and Ken Hoehn, Treasurer. Ken Hoehn made a motion to re-elect James Hilyard as President, second by Linda Miller, and passed by the membership. Mary O'Hare made a motion to re-elect Claudia Holland as Secretary, second by Jill Lutz, and passed by the membership. Linda Miller made a motion to re-elect Ken Hoehn as Treasurer, second by Tom O'Hare, and passed by the membership.

Claudia Holland, Secretary, presented a synopsis of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. The meeting minutes, in their entirety, can be found on Topinabee.org website. A motion for the acceptance of the 2021 meeting minutes was made by Ken Hoehn, second by Tom O'Hare, and accepted by the membership.

Treasurer Ken Hoehn read the 2021 Annual Treasurer's report. Starting balance as of January 1 was \$23080.51. Income obtained from dues and contributions: \$2965.77, less expenditures for supplies, community memberships, donations, and expenses: \$849.87, for a total net gain of \$2115.90. Closing balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$25196.41. A motion was made by Andrea Newman to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Mary O'Hare, and approved by a vote of the membership.

Question – Do we expect to make more money on our annual membership?

Answer: We are always looking to increase our membership and many members donate more than the annual membership fee. When there are projects that require more money than what we feel we can cover, we've gone to the community for help. Our community have been very generous in their donations towards project they feel is in the best interest of Topinabee.

We are also looking at additional funding ideas like the Topinabee signs that we have for sale. We originally started with 25 signs and there are only 4 signs left. All signs were personally delivered by a member of the TDA Board.

An additional way that our community can help build our budget is through the Amazon Smile program when shopping on line.

Director Reports

Membership (Lori Hoehn)

We completed this year's mailings of the annual report and renewal forms with thanks to Graham Tillotson for his donation of time and postage.

Our membership has been averaging around 87 members and we are looking at way to make joining or renewing membership easier through electronic processing of dues. This makes it easier for those members that do things electronically. We currently send reminders for those lagging in paying their dues and will do a follow-up mailing if necessary.

Question – Would anyone would use the electronic capability if it were available?

Answer: If it cost additional money for the TDA to process the payment then they would prefer to send a check.

We are also using our email list to make everyone aware of volunteer projects or opportunities that are available. We feel that increasing communications and community awareness is a good for our Topinabee area.

Village Planning Committee (James Hilyard)

Last year, as indicated in our last annual meeting minutes, we had an agreement with the Mullett Township Board to help in developing a 5-year strategy plan. Since then, the board had terminated all township committees, including ours, due to some technical difficulty concerning the library. At the August Township Board Meeting it was determined that a third-party resource would be used instead of the Village Planning Committee that was put together. We can still be an advocate for what we feel is important to Topinabee.

Tom mentioned that much of the information, questionnaires, and surveys being proposed by the third party have already been completed. The TDA can give this data to

the Mullett Township Board and they can continue to build on what was provided. James, Tom, and Andrea will get together to pull all this information together and present to the township board for their use.

Community Outreach

Topinabee SummerFair & Market (Andrea Newman)

We decided to try a fair/market type of event to see how well the surrounding communities would respond. Well, the SummerFair and Market was a great hit. It was estimated that approximately 600+ people from the community and visitors alike were in attendance that day. We had 20 vendors and 3 food trucks available and most of them were running low on food by the time it was over. Since we were unsure of our first event, we gave the vendors the option to return their vendor fee and they all did so well no one wanted their fee back. We had super positive responses from all the vendors and all are willing to return.

The membership thinks this would make a great annual event and would like to do this again next year. Mary Jan Miller made a motion to have another event on July 29th, 2023, this was second by Sue Warren, and passed by the membership.

Topinabee Holiday Festival (James Hilyard)

Since we had so much fun with the SummerFair & Market we thought it might be fun to have a Holiday Festival. The TDA would like to purchase a live tree that can be decorated each year for the holidays. Plan an event with music, cookie exchange, picture with Santa, etc. We have already reached out to local tree farms looking for a tree 15 to 20 feet in height that is slow growing. Many of the farms do not have the resources to relocate that large of a tree.

As it stands the cost would be:

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| Tree/Installation | \$3000 |
| Light Package | \$650 |
| Stake and Plaques | \$250 |
| Total | \$3900 |

The event for tree lighting would be:

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|--------------|---------------|
| Music | \$400 |
| Santa | \$200 |
| Beverages | \$300 |
| Social Media | \$100 |
| Total | \$1000 |

We, of course, will need the approval of the township board and they need to understand that there will be some annual maintenance as part of this agreement. If all is approved, then we are looking to have our tree planted in October and a lighting festival on November 19th.

Ken indicated that we should try to garner donations towards the tree to offset the cost, but it may take more time than what we have if the tree is to be planted in October. Topinabee Fire Department is considering a donation towards this cost and assist in decorating the tree.

Membership had a show of hands and passed a request to allow this event to move forward and allow the TDA board to formally vote on this at a later date.

Next Annual Meeting

Please save the date of August 26, 2023 for our next annual meeting.

Any thought or questions from this annual meeting can be sent by email to topinabeescommunity@gmail.com.

The minutes from this annual meeting will be posted on the website at www.topinabee.org. If you wish to have a paper copy, please notify one of our officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Holland
TDA Secretary