



Hillcrest Committee Meeting

January 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Lara David at 5:30 pm. Lara thanked Dixie Hackstedde for providing her home for this meeting as well as the cooking committee Kate Empasis, Randee Leever, Lara David, Megan Rea and Lauren Gambee.

Roll Call: 37 present members.

Old Business: Meeting Minutes: Patti Diehl approved meeting minutes, Rebekah McNally seconded the minutes as approved.

Treasure Report: Randee Leever reported on the treasurer report and the Ball Revenue. It can be found on the website for further review.

Yellow Rose Report: Crissie Olson reported that she had no yellow roses to deliver.

Correspondence Report: Staci Drewien read correspondence from – a Christmas card from Knight Institute thanking the Hillcrest Committee for all our support. A grant that the Hillcrest Committee received on behalf of Sid and Karen DeBoer for \$2500.

Meeting and Party Schedule: Paula Carroll reported on party sign-ups. Regarding the meeting and party schedule, buyers should now be contacted directly by their party chairs. Paula also provided a brief overview of how cooking duties will be handled, divided into first-half and second-half assignments. For large ‘paddle’ parties, everyone will have cooking responsibilities.

Website update: Cathy Winans reported on the website. Once the QR code has been updated for 2026 members, an email will be sent with a link to the new QR code, allowing members to upload their photos. A reminder was given to turn off Live Mode when uploading photo (when using an Apple phone) so that they do not have to go through a conversion process to be usable

Ball Report: Monica and Diane reported on the Ball and felt it was a great success, with positive feedback received. They will continue to collect additional feedback. They also acknowledged the husbands’ support throughout the Ball. Overall, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the vibe and atmosphere.

Upcoming Parties: Stephanie DeBoer reported on Tokyo After Dark, being held on 2.21.26. This party is in hand, and the Hillcrest Committee does not need to do anything further, Stephanie DeBoer and Tiffany Graeber will handle everything.

Christin Sherbourne Austin reported on the Masquerade in Paris, which is a Paddle Party being held on 2.27.2026 at the Ashland Armory. This will be an ‘all cook’ party where everyone will be asked to help create the food.

New Business: Jennifer Sieg has resigned. Yvette Provosty also submitted her resignation. Dixie Hackstedde and Sue Martin submitted their resignations as well but wish to continue serving as they are able through their Excalibur status. Resigning members are expected to fulfill their duties through September 1, 2026, with the exception of Jennifer Sieg, who is not required to complete any further duties.

In light of these resignations, it would be beneficial to begin considering potential candidates to invite to join the Committee. Patti provided a brief description of the qualities we are seeking in our membership. We would also like to extend invitations to Excalibur's to assist with duties as needed. It is important to ensure that our current list of Excalibur's is up to date, with the goal of helping them feel more connected to the Committee while also benefiting from their valuable experience and historical knowledge, especially when membership numbers are low.

There was significant discussion regarding lower membership numbers and whether this has impacted attendance and incoming funds at the Ball. It appears that not everyone received invitations. Time should be spent researching and improving our invitation process. Sending email invitations in addition to mailed invitations was suggested. Invitations should be sent earlier, and the mailing list should be thoroughly reviewed. There was also discussion about comparing and cross-referencing our list with Greater Giving.

Lara reviewed the current Board of Directors positions, noting that this information is also available on the website. She explained which positions are currently open and which will need to be filled. The Nominating Committee recommends a slate of incoming Officers and Advisory Board members. If you are interested in a position, you are encouraged to let Lara or someone on the Board of Directors know.

The supplies position is currently open, and we need to find someone who can organize and inventory the storage unit.

Quarterly Socials: Crissie Olson will be organizing a spring social with a “speed dating” theme.

The meeting adjourned at by President Lara David at 6:33.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Rea

Recording Secretary