**Westside Neighborhood Association**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes – February 21, 2013**

**In Attendance:** Keith Kris; Michael Schury; John Stratton; Danielle Casavant; Cathy Bacile Cunningham;; Suzanne Knight; Cassandra Nelson; Jackie Payne; Joshua Boehme; Sara McCormick; Nick Piechotte; Daniel Boutell,

**Excused:** Paul Pratt; Julie Durham; Jen Long; Ellie Wong;

**Unexcused:** Maggie Gerich

**Guest:** Annette Sokolnicki; Diane Thompson; Jessica Yorko; Chong-Anna Canfora

**Call to Order:**  Schury called meeting to order 6:05 with quorum.

**Approval of Agenda:** Boehme moved, seconded by Payne to accept agenda as presented.

**Approved**

**Approval of Minutes:** Kris moved, seconded by Payne to accept minutes of January 17, 2013 with submitted corrections. .

**Approved**

**Guest Presentation**

* **Riddle Hoop House (Riddle Garden)**
  + Talked about the Riddle Hoop House
  + During the summer the doors were ripped off due to a windstorm and there is on going maintenance that has been ignored. The hoop house was a gift from MSU.
  + It is a learning environment for students at Riddle Elementary.
  + Would like to offer plots to the community at a price to help pay for maintenance.
  + Suggestions made to guest to write up the need so WNA could seek a volunteer via Facebook, the website and the neighborhood newsletter.
  + Nelson to keep a look out for grants that may be utilized for this endeavor.
  + Piechotte has looked into grants on his own that may support this kind of project.
  + Guest to contact Principal with the Hoop House and garden issues
  + Piechotte has agreed to work with Annette at this time
  + [Sokolni2@gmail.com-](mailto:Sokolni2@gmail.com-) Annette Sokolnicki
* Chong-Anna Canfora came to observe the neighborhood meeting, she is running for 4th Ward City Council.

**Crime & Safety –**

* Jessica Yorko reported that violent crimes have been down in the first quarter (18%). Property crimes have increased. Report crimes in online crime mapper.
* Code compliance issues being looked into further by Jessica Yorko. Notices have increased and compliance has been up also.
* Cpt. Yankowski came to last meeting.
* Lenawee/Kalamazoo meeting 4th Monday, regular crime and safety meeting 4th Tuesday of each month. 6pm at Lett’s.
* Owners listed for properties in the 1100-1400 blocks of Hillsdale, Lenawee and Kalamazoo on the City’s database is not correct at this time. Crime and safety wants to invite landlords to meetings and to build a relationship. List of incorrect Owners to be given to Jessica for updates.

**Old Business:**

* EC3 Fundraiser- via email discussion, the board approved promoting the EC3 Raise the Roof Fundraiser to put a new roof on the building. If we raiser $250.00 the WNA would be given a brick or equivalent.
* Old home tour article about the history of EC3 building is needed for promortion of the building’s history in the neighborhood.
* Cash gifts will be made in the form of a check from the WNA.
* Give gifts to Boehme or Casavant memo note to mention EC3
* Deadline April 15th.

**New Business**

* Greater Lansing Housing Coalition requested a donation. Schury brought this up as a point of interest. No action was taken..

**President’s Report:**

* Schury has a meeting scheduled with Susan Cancro, executive director of Advent house to receive check from our portion of the proceeds of the Home Tour. He will pick up a set of home tour booklets and permission to digitize them. Cancro would also like to discuss other ways WNA can work with Advent house.
* Jessica Yorko – fire house going up for sale

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Officers can sign checks for the bank account, Boehme to get two new officers on and the old two off of the account.
* Reminder of rule that no two people living in the same household can write/sign checks to one another.

**Fiesta**

* The Fiesta Committee met and got the ball rolling for the Silent Auction items. Assignments were made and commitments are coming in steadily. John Putnam is chairing this activity.
* We reviewed last year's event and decided to go with advance tickets as the primary method with the ticket allowing folks to share their contact info in advance so as not to clog up the registration area. Keith has offered to create tickets again.
* We plan to invite the scholarship recipients and up to two family members as complimentary guests.
* We plan to have a kids area again.
* We'd like to do the Mexican-themed buffet and host at Irish Pub, but we have not been able to confirm these details due to the Pub being closed for the last two weeks. If the Pub doesn't work out, we are not sure about the location. Ticket price (advance and at door, if available) will be based on the cost of food to us - again we don't know yet as we haven't been able to confirm with the Pub. We'd like to keep it at $15 adults and $5 for kids - advance price and $20 adults/$5 kids - door price.
* Once a date, location and ticket price is set, we'll prepare a newsletter article, Facebook event, website blurp, etc. Sara offered to create a poster, like last year, that we can post at our local businesses. Our hope is that this is a priority event for board members to attend and this is the only time we ask you to "hit up" your neighbors, so we'd like every board member to sell 10 tickets each (including to yourself and your family).
* Met with Greg Rampant, April 28th is okay with the Irish Pub, and is a day that John Putnam can be there.
* Total of 185 people can fit without moving the Pool tables, but Rambat is looking into having them moved.
* Will vote via email on approving ticket prices.
* Talk to John Putnam about any silent auction items before talking to business owners. He is maintaining the master list.

**Yard Sale**

* June 14-16th are the dates for the Yard Sale.

**Grants**

* We did not get the Mid-MEAC grant we applied for (for computers at Letts). Two more rounds of funding in the future. Requirements largely outweigh the benefits.
* Realtors’ Grant may be a good grant for the Hoop House
* Will find out about Mayors’ grant beginning of March.

**Riddle Liaison**

* Looking for volunteers to read at Riddle Elementary. So far many volunteers have approached Long through facebook.

**Sexton Liaison**

* McCormick met with Student/ Parent advocate, Cathy Bryde, to continue d building partnership between neighborhood and the school. Post link of Sexton newsletter in our newsletter.
* Talked about making sure to notify school if any issues arise with students.
* Always can invite the Liaison to Crime in Safety meetings if needed.
* Linking PTO on our website if they have a site.

**Community Center Liaison**

* Letts was contacted several times about meeting 3rd Thursday but we are still not in book for recurring meetings. Payne indicated this if often the case for Crime & Safety and that she has to call on the day of those meetings, usually to have them scramble for a room. It was stated that Durham is friends with Emily Caswell, who oversees Letts. Shcury will ask Durham to ask for help with this ongoing problem.

**Communications**

* Looking into problems with [board@wnalansing.org](mailto:board@wnalansing.org) listserv. Incoming emails are being received by Keith, but not forwarded to board members.

**Newsletter**

* Deadline for ads and articles is Feb. 28th.
* Really coming together looking at the possibility of a profit this quarter.

**Voter Education/Civic Engagement**

* Develop a questionnaire for city council candidates, with their responses printed in the WNA newsletter.
  + Any questions forward to Cathy Bacile-Cunningham
* Organize a candidate’s forum. Need to discuss timing for best outreach, as well as partnering with other neighborhood orgs.
  + Call Chris Swope’s office to see when absentee voter ballots are mailed out.
* Discuss policy of candidates coming to address the board.
* Candidates looking to speak at meeting are welcome to come to our meetings and leave paper materials, but are not given time on the agenda for them to talk to the board about their campaign.

**Westside History**

* Will have a meeting of the committee to make a game plan for the year

**Summer Quarterly Event**

* No planning at this time. Some other people are talking about a 5k in the neighborhood. But the committee is not taking it on at this time.

**Community Engagement**

* Nothing.

**MLK Garden**

* Posting on Facebook about the garden.

**GM Liaison**

* Grant Trigger of RACER Trust plans to attend WNA meeting next month.
* Liz Boyd is preparing an article for the newsletter.

**Scholarship**

* Scholarship is on schedule for where they need to be.
* Reached out to Andy Schor about it in the electronic format.
* Sexton Liaison contacted about scholarship opportunity.
* Deadline March 2nd.

**Business Promotions**

* Looking at creating a business directory to include in Summer Newsletter

**Places of Worship**

* nothing

**Fun**

* Invited folks to join for a MSU basketball at the Irish Pub.

**Good and Welfare**

* Jackie Payne talked about the Laramie Project at LCC. Opens March 15th
* March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23.
* Neighbors in this production include Jackie Payne and Joe Quick.

**Adjournment**

Meeting dismissed at 7:33 pm