

**Westside Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes – June 20 , 2013**

In Attendance

Joshua Boehme, Dan Boutell, Danielle Casavant, Suzanne Knight, Keith Kris, Sara McCormick, Cathy Bacile Cunningham, and Michael Schury

Excused

Paul Pratt, Jackie Payne, and Cassandra Nelson

Absent

Jen Long, John Stratton, and Ellie Wong

Guest

- Jared Talaga, Ingham County Land Bank Garden Program
- Gretchen Cochran, Preservation Lansing

Call to Order

Schury called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. without a quorum present. Schury suggested starting with guest presentations as a quorum was not present to approve the agenda. A quorum was present by 6:06 p.m.

Guest Presentation

Jared Talaga of the Ingham County Land Bank Garden Program informed the board that a community garden is proposed for a lot at 1136 Chelsea Street. Part of the county's vetting process is to invite neighbors of the property to a meeting (ours) to discuss any concerns and to get the buy-in of the neighborhood association. There were no neighbors from Chelsea Street present at the meeting and no WNA Board Members had objections to the property being used as a community garden.

Gretchen Cochran provided information to the board regarding Preservation Lansing and their awards program for restoration work done on local properties. This is their second year offering the award. Gretchen asked for board members to consider making nominations for the awards. The deadline for nominations is August 1st.

Approval of Agenda

Schury requested to alter the agenda to accommodate board members who needed to leave early. It was agreed to have any items requiring board approval go first, followed by Voter Education, Summer Event and Sexton update. This was moved by Kris, seconded by Boehme.

APPROVED

Note from Secretary: Minutes will follow original agenda for simplicity of conveying information.

Approval of Minutes

Schury asked if there were any corrections for the Minutes from May 16, 2013. Boehme note that a correction he submitted was not in the minutes as presented. Casavant noted that she still had his original email and would make the correction. Kris moved, seconded by Boutell, to accept minutes of May 16, 2013 with corrections noted.

APPROVED

Old Business

Meeting with Advent House: Schury reported that no meeting had yet been set.

Home Tour Booklets: Schury referred to the email sent to the board from Susan Cancro of Advent House stating that they would not provide the home tour booklets for the WNA to digitize and make available to the public. The board members were in general agreement that digitizing the booklets and making them freely available to the public via the WNA website would not be a violation of copyright law under fair use. Casavant moved, seconded by Boehme, to seek out copies of all past home tour booklets from any available source to digitize and make available. The ads would not be included.

APPROVED

St. Joe Park Storage: Casavant distributed keys to the storage space to the Executive Committee – Schury, Cunningham, Boehme and herself.

New Business

Safety Concerns at Scribbles & Giggles: Casavant explained that there is concern among neighbors about the significant number of U-turns and wrong-way parking by parents picking up and dropping off children at Scribbles and Giggles daycare center. One neighbor who lives close by stated that he sees and hears “near misses” (almost accidents) on a very regular basis. Neighbors are concerned for the safety of our neighbors, especially small children living and playing in the area, and the children who attend Scribbles and Giggles. Casavant has spoken to the owner of Scribbles and Giggles in the past to no avail as they believe U-turns are legal there. Casavant indicated the law is written very loosely with lots of room for interpretation. She asked the City of Lansing Public Service Department to offer an opinion but has not received a response. Casavant prepared a letter to the owner asking for cooperation in improving safety in the area. The board agreed it should come under Schury’s signature. Casavant moved, seconded by Boehme, to send a letter to Scribbles and Giggles addressing the safety concerns.

APPROVED

T-Shirts: Schury asked if there was interest in a WNA t-shirt. Casavant had received a quote for t-shirts for a separate project and forwarded the pricing along, as it was quite good. A detailed discussion about logo and design followed. It was decided to shoot for a t-shirt to be available by the annual meeting. Knight offered to lead the ad-hoc committee that would come with a design recommendation for the board to approve.

Mailbox at Letts: Casavant shared that Letts staff would like the WNA to provide a mailbox (normal outdoor type) for them to mount on the wall near the reception desk so that all mail that arrives at Letts for WNA will have a safe storage place. It was clarified that the board would not encourage correspondence to be sent to Letts, but as that address is used on official documents some items do get sent there. Kris moved, seconded by Boehme to approve up to \$50 for the purchase of a mailbox.

APPROVED

President's Report

Schury presented the concept of being a co-applicant on a grant with the Westside Commercial Association to 5th/3rd Bank to support a business discount card. It would feature businesses along the Saginaw commercial corridor and in the WNA borders. The grant is for \$1,000 with expecting cost of the cards being \$800 allowing \$200 for distribution. Schury moved, seconded by McCormick to approve WNA being a co-applicant on this grant with the Westside Commercial Association.

APPROVED

At the last meeting, the board approved sending a letter of support for trees to be replanted in the neighborhood. The City of Lansing will provide bare root trees and the neighborhood needs to pick a Friday in March to have them dropped. Volunteer planters will need to be coordinated to plant trees. As this was a priority for neighbor Paul Holland, Schury will work him to coordinate this effort.

Schury reported that missing compost bins that had been purchased for the Letts Garden by the WNA with a grant were located and brought back to the proper location.

Treasurer's Report

Kris moved, seconded by Cunningham, to move the \$100 that had been restricted to the canceled "clean-up" day back into the general Neighborhood Improvement line.

APPROVED

Fiesta Committee Report

Casavant noted that Schury had provided a report on the event that was posted to Facebook, the website and included in the current newsletter. The attempt to have a wrap-up meeting was a failure due to committee members' busy schedules. Several board members made suggestions. The suggestions are:

- Be sure we have a date without another function taking place downtown

- Ensure that we have the entire east side of The Nuthouse reserved, including the bar.
- Find a better flow for the Silent Auction.

Yard Sale Committee Report

Kris reported that the Yard Sale had 43 participants, 12 of which were in Old Oakland.

Voter Education Committee Report

The candidate night was successful. All 4th Ward and At-Large Candidates were present. There were about 20 guests. Cunningham offered her thanks to all who helped and attended. Casavant asked if Cunningham was planning an event for the fall once the field has been narrowed. Cunningham said that she would.

Westside History Committee Report

No report

Communications Committee Report

Boutell apologized for the newsletter being so late, but noted that it will make profit!

Summer Social Event Committee Report

McCormick reported that City of Lansing is waiving all fees for park use. The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 20th at St. Joe Park. McCormick plans to invite all the elected officials representing our area (council through Senate).

Community Center Liaison Report

Schury noted that a volunteer for this position is still needed.

Grants Committee Report

No Report

MLK Garden

No report

Crime & Safety Committee Report

No report – June meeting canceled as chair, Jackie Payne, is out of town. Guest, Gretchen Cochran, thanked WNA Crime & Safety for their help with organizing advice in the Downtown Neighborhood and noted that last month's WNA Crime & Safety meeting was very good.

Scholarship Committee Report

No report – Schury noted that this is the time for this committee to work on evaluating the program and proposing changes as promotion for the scholarship begins in early fall. Schury suggests that the committee look at only making this available to graduating seniors who both live in the WNA boundaries and attend Sexton High School. The

board would designate an amount available and that would be divided among any applicants who qualify.

GM/RACER Trust Liaison Report

No report – Schury took notes at the meeting held by RACER Trust in June and posted a brief summary to the WNA website with a link to the website article in the WNA Facebook group.

Neighborhood Improvement

No report

Riddle Liaison Report

No Report – Schury is concerned that we are not making progress toward spending the \$650 grant for improvements around Riddle Elementary. We are currently waiting for approval for the location of playground equipment installation, but there is a hold-up in that the principal we were working with has retired. Cunningham volunteered to contact Lansing School District board member Peter Spadafore to learn how to get approval for location of equipment installation.

Sexton High School

The breakfast held to recognize faculty and staff went very well. They stayed within budget.

Business Promotion Committee Report

The directory went out in the newsletter and is available online. It will be up to the committee to maintain the information. At least one annual update should be available. Now that this is established, perhaps advertisers could be solicited and this could be a self-contained mailer next year.

Places of Worship Committee Report

No report

Fun Committee Report

Casavant shared that the Lugnuts ticket sales are going well.

The Westside Wednesdays at Harry's have been a huge success. Around 30 neighbors attending in May and the number in attendance was closer to 50 in June. Casavant will add this event to the website as a monthly activity and will continue to promote through a Facebook event. Casavant will make sure an announcement is placed in the next newsletter.

Good and Welfare

None

Kris motioned, Boehme seconded, to adjourn.

APPROVED

Next meeting – Thursday, July 18th at 6:00 pm at Letts

Action Items:

Board Members will seek copies of the past Home Tour booklets.

Knight will convene an ad hoc committee to come up with T-shirt design and ordering strategy in time for the annual meeting in January.

Casavant will update the letter addressing safety concerns at Scribbles and Giggles and will forward to Schury for signature.

Nelson and Schury will schedule a meeting with Susan Cancro to continue discussion on partnering with Advent House. **Casavant** was asked to attend if her schedule permits.

Casavant will purchase a mailbox to be installed at Letts for WNA.

Schury will speak with Paul Holland about tree planting in March.

Cunningham will organize a fall candidate night for council and mayoral candidates that move past the August primary.

McCormick will contact all elected official who represent the neighborhood to invite them to our summer event.

Cunningham will contact Peter Spadafore to determine how to get approval for playground equipment installation site at Riddle Elementary.

Casavant will put a note in the next newsletter about Westside Wednesday's at Harry's Place.