

**Westside Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes – August 15, 2013**

In Attendance

Lisa Alicea, Joshua Boehme, Dan Boutell, Danielle Casavant, Suzanne Knight, Keith Kris, Jen Long, Sara McCormick, Michael Schury, John Stratton, and Paul Pratt.

Excused

Cathy Bacile Cunningham, Cassandra Nelson, Jackie Payne and Ellie Wong

Call to Order

Schury called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Boehme asked to have the Neighborhood Night Out expenses situation added to the agenda under Treasurer's Report. Long moved to approve the agenda with the addition noted, seconded by Knight.

APPROVED

Guest

Schury introduced Lisa Alicea as a neighbor interested in board service. Several board members had met with Alicea to discuss board service with her at an earlier date. Alicea indicated she would like to serve on the board. Boehme moved to approve Alicea as a new member of the WNA board, seconded by Kris.

APPROVED

Approval of Minutes

Schury asked if there were any corrections for the Minutes from July 18, 2013. No corrections were noted. Boutell moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Kris.

APPROVED

Old Business

The group reviewed the outstanding Action Items from the last meeting. Schury's items regarding the history project and scanning of the home tour booklets will carry over to this month's Action Items list.

President's Report

Schury led a discussion of the City Pulse request for him to serve on a mayoral candidate endorsement committee for the newspaper. It was discussed that as a 501(c)(3), this activity would be prohibited. It was suggested that Schury respond with an offer to help with questions and discussion relevant to our neighborhood, but not

actually make a recommendation to the City Pulse on which candidate they should endorse. Schury will respond to the email suggesting participation but not endorsement.

Treasurer's Report

Boehme explained that he has received \$260-\$265 in receipts for the Neighborhood Night Out event. The approved budget for this event was \$100. A discussion took place around the various options of how to respond. It was determined that Boehme would email Payne to inquire if all of these receipts were turned in expecting reimbursement or just as a means to show the true cost of the event and for the grant report.

Post meeting notes: Schury ended up contacting Payne. A discussion ensued amongst the organizers as to the priority for reimbursements. The WNA board ended up agreeing by an electronic vote to increase the reimbursement by an additional \$75. Per the organizing committee's request, Payne and Mitzi Allen would be reimbursed in full, with any remaining amounts available going to Chance and Stephany Boyd for their out of pocket expenses.

Communications Committee Report

Boutell reminded the board that the next deadline for article and ad submission is August 31.

Summer Social Event Committee Report

McCormick reported that the Summer Social Event was well-attended and neighbors who have not attended previous events came out for the picnic. Working with Men Making a Difference was fine, but since this is supposed to be a neighborhood building event, it would be best to keep our event separate in the future.

Community Center Liaison Report

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

Community Engagement

Schury noted that a volunteer for this position is still needed. Alicea asked about the responsibilities and nature of the position. Schury explained, in general, what the board had in mind. Alicea indicated this would fit well with her professional experiences. She was appointed by Schury. Schury asked if Alicea would prepare an article for the upcoming newsletter highlighting some of the social services available within our neighborhood via such organization as Advent House and Letts Community Center.

Grants Committee Report

Schury noted that applications for the Mayor's/City of Lansing grants are due in December and ideas are still needed for this year's submissions.

MLK Garden

Schury noted the MLK Garden looks beautiful.

Crime & Safety Committee Report

Schury asked that board members consider attending the Crime & Safety meeting this month (Aug 27 at 6 pm) to show support for our neighbors on Kirby Street who have been experiencing trouble with unruly and unlawful neighbor activity.

Scholarship Committee Report

Pratt will contact Carol Rall and put a meeting together to discuss revamping the scholarship program.

GM/RACER Trust Liaison Report

Pratt indicated that he still plans to contact Grant Trigger and Bob Trezise to learn how we might be able to help them in their promotion efforts.

Neighborhood Improvement Report

The tree planting in the neighborhood is still planned for March. Dykema, of the City of Lansing, will conduct an audit of the neighborhood prior to March to note the optimal tree planting sites. Neighbor Paul Holland is the coordinator for this activity.

Riddle Liaison Report

Long explained the trials and tribulations of getting approval from the School District for the location of the swing set being paid for by the WNA. Long felt confident that things were moving in the right direction. Discussion ensued about what steps to take if we do not get the necessary approvals. The board agreed that if by September 6 all necessary approvals are not in place, the grant should shift from the swing set to planting trees along the pathway behind Riddle.

Long noted that the crumbling stairs at the main entrance to Riddle are being reworked into a ramp.

Sexton High School

Knight will be in contact with Sexton to find out if a welcome back activity is being planned for this year. There is also discussion of a welcome back packet for teachers.

Places of Worship Committee Report

Boehme and Long are working on the insert for the fall newsletter. It should be complete by the August 31 deadline. Schury asked that a draft be posted to Facebook as soon as possible so neighbors can review and add any additional congregations, etc. they we may have missed.

Fun Committee Report

Casavant presented her idea for a caroling event in the neighborhood on Saturday, December 7. There should be no cost to the WNA. Harry's Place is an agreeable partner and is hiring a DJ for post caroling festivities. Casavant will prepare an article for the newsletter.

Westside Wednesdays continue to be a great success. Casavant will prepare an article for the newsletter to welcome neighbors not on Facebook to join this activity.

Annual Meeting

Stratton, McCormick, Schury, Knight and Casavant agreed to serve on the planning committee for the annual meeting, which usually takes place in mid to late January. Knight will contact Sexton to inquire about Thursday evenings in January when there are no other events taking place at the school. If the best date is known prior to August 31, a "Save the Date" should be included in the newsletter.

T-Shirt Committee

Knight asked Casavant to add an action item for her pursue a meeting of the T-shirt committee.

Next meeting – Thursday, September 19 at 6:00 pm at Letts

Action Items:

Schury will send a list of the booklets he has and what he is still seeking in order to have a complete set for scanning.

Schury will contact Miller and ask for a report on progress and timeline for Westside History Project to be presented at the next meeting.

Schury will respond to the City Pulse email suggesting participation but not endorsement.

Boehme to email Payne to inquire if all of these receipts turned in for Neighborhood Night Out event were turned in expecting reimbursement or just as a means to show the true cost of the event and for the grant reporting.

Alicea will prepare an article for the upcoming newsletter highlighting some of the social services available within our neighborhood via such organization as Advent House and Letts Community Center.

ALL – Please attend August Crime & Safety if you are available to show support for Kirby St. neighbors.

Pratt will host a scholarship committee meeting.

Pratt will contact Grant Trigger and Bob Trezise to learn how we might be able to help them in their promotion efforts.

Long to post a draft copy of the Places of Worship document to Facebook for neighbor review/input.

Casavant will prepare an article about the caroling event and Westside Wednesdays for the newsletter.

Knight will contact Sexton to inquire about Thursday evenings in January when there are no other events taking place at the school so we can book the cafeteria for the annual meeting.

Knight will convene the T-shirt Committee.