

**Westside Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes – October 17, 2013**

In Attendance

Lisa Alicea, Joshua Boehme, Danielle Casavant, Cathy Cunningham, Keith Kris, Sara McCormick, Michael Schury, John Stratton, and Jackie Payne.

Absent

Suzanne Knight, Jen Long

Excused

Dan Boutell, Cassandra Nelson, Paul Pratt, and Ellie Wong

Call to Order

Schury called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Guests

Paul Ashland, Carol Skillings and Emily Stevens

Approval of Agenda

Stratton moved, seconded by McCormick, to approve agenda as presented.

APPROVED

Approval of Minutes

Schury asked if there were any corrections for the Minutes from September 19, 2013. No corrections were noted. Stratton moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Kris.

APPROVED

Old Business

Casavant reviewed the action items from the last meeting. Action items not completed will carry over to November.

Skillings shared that she was not successful in finding another nonprofit partner to help protect the historic oak tree. She is also unable to get insurance for the property through her personal policy. The best option she has come up with is to see if the Land Bank would cover it under their policy. Skillings indicated that before Land Bank would investigate this, they would need the lease with the WNA in place. The board was in general agreement that they would consider the lease, but only once there is proof that the WNA would not be liable for any damages caused by the tree. Skillings will revisit the issue with the Land Bank and get back to the board.

Alicea reported that the Lansing Neighborhood Council annual meeting was a good event.

New Business

More direction was given to the sub-group that will work on the issues with the Code Compliance office. The group, Kris, Payne and Cunningham, were charged with establishing a goal for the group and determine the best approach to addressing the issues of non-enforcement of code issues with the City of Lansing.

Schury asked which board members were planning to return for service in 2014. All in attendance indicated they would be returning except for Kris, McCormick and Schury.

Schury explained that the Lansing Art Gallery is looking for a public place in the neighborhood to display artwork done by Riddle Elementary students. There was agreement that Letts Community Center would be the best option. Stevens agreed to contact Jane Kramer of the Lansing Art Gallery to offer Letts as the location.

Skillings explained that she is rolling off of the Neighborhood Advisory Board, which is the group that reviews and selects the Mayor's Grants. Skillings is hoping that someone from the WNA board would be interested in serving. Alicea indicated she would serve, if appointed. Skillings will present her name to the Mayor's Office for their consideration.

Treasurer's Report

Boehme explained that he still did not have a recommendation on whether the WNA should switch to Astera for banking. He has not received answers to the questions he presented.

Voter Education Committee Report

Cunningham will post election information to the Facebook group.

Westside History Project Committee Report

Schury reported that Matthew Miller provided him with two discs. One has interviews with Anne Krohn and Brian Huggler. The other disc has Lansing State Journal articles from the 1960s. Miller told Schury that he had no idea how long it might take him to complete the project. The board agreed that if Miller is willing to keep plugging away, that he should be asked to do so.

Communications Committee Report

Kris noted that although he would not be returning to the board, he will continue to maintain the web and email hosting.

There have been some issues with the Lansing Neighborhood Council charging us more than they quoted us, after the fact, for the newsletter printing and mailing. Boutell is

working with them to get clear information on how much they need to charge us for printing and mailing the newsletter.

Community Engagement

There are still some questions about the concept of a neighborhood large trash pick-up. Alicea is working with them to find a way to make it a neighborhood-wide activity.

Alicea noted that she is very impressed with the good work of the Animal Shelter Outreach Center. She hopes to write an article on their work for the next newsletter.

Grants Committee Report

A brief discussion of resubmitting the Lenawee Street sign for a grant took place. Kris moved, seconded by Payne, to submit the sign project for a grant and regardless if the grant is approved, the board would commit up to \$750 to for this project.

APPROVED

Crime & Safety Committee Report

A summary of the meeting with the police chief was posted to the Facebook group. There was also a meeting on the 14th with the prosecutor's office. The office is working with the police department on the investigation of the recent rash of shootings. It appears they are all related and have to do with two "groups" of individuals, one near Jolly and Waverly, and one near Willow. Payne was very unimpressed with Lance Langdon the director of the 9-1-1 center. Payne will not be at the upcoming Crime & Safety Committee meeting. Cleveland Boyd will host the meeting and the topic will be dog law.

Scholarship Committee Report

Schury asked that it be noted in the minutes that a scholarship application is needed for inclusion in the December newsletter.

Neighborhood Improvement Report

Ashland will provide Boutell with the dates for the spring tree planting in time for inclusion in the December newsletter.

There was concern expressed over the graffiti on the Riddle Elementary outside play structures. Stevens made a note to talk to Lansing School District and Lansing Parks staff to ensure that all of the proper people know about the graffiti and to learn how best to clean it or cover it.

Annual Meeting

More information will be forthcoming on the date and format of the annual meeting. Casavant explained that the committee would like to purchase LED flashlight key chains with WNA contact information to use as giveaways at the annual meeting. Casavant moved, seconded by Stratton, to approve up to \$120 to purchase 100 key chains.

APPROVED

Meeting Adjourned: 7:02 pm

Next meeting – Thursday, November 21, 6 pm at Letts

Action Items:

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.

Pratt needs to have scholarship application ready for November 30 newsletter deadline.

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

Alicea will seek more clarity on the neighborhood clean-up program.

Alicea will contact the minister at the North Westminster Presbyterian Church to see if they might consider a neighborhood sign on their property.

Kris will check in with neighbor, Rod Lambert, about sign topper blanks.

Nelson will confirm the terms of Carol Rall resigning her duties of MLK Garden manager.

Cunningham, Kris and Payne will work on Code Compliance issues.

Cunningham will post election information to Facebook group.

Casavant will order flashlight key chains for annual meeting.