

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES—FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

IN ATTENDANCE

Joe Quick, Josh Boehme, Tim Kovacik, Suzanne Knight, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, Veronica Gracia-Wing, Emily Stevens, Kimberlyn Fauson, Paul Holland, Cathy Bacile Cunningham, Cassandra Nelson, Dan Boutell, Paul Pratt

EXCUSED

John Stratton, Lisa Alicea, Jackie Payne, Danielle Casavant

UNEXCUSED

None

GUESTS

Maureen Nelson, Westside Neighborhood Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Cunningham called meeting to order at 6:31 with quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Personal Introductions

Motion to elect Maureen Johnson to the eighteenth board position.

Approved

President—Danielle Casavant

Vice President—Cathy Bacile Cunningham

Secretary—Kim Fauson

Treasurer—Josh Boehme

Motion to elect the 2014 Executive Board members as named above.

Approved

Explanation of committees and chairs chosen. Chairs noted when multiple members listed.

- Fiesta—Cheryl Hecksel, Dan Boutell (co-chairs)
- Yard Sale—Cathy Bacile Cunningham
- Grants—Cassandra Nelson
- Riddle Elementary Liaison—Kim Fauson
- Sexton High Liaison—Suzanne Knight (chair), Veronica Gracia-Wing, Joe Quick, Cheryl Hecksel
- Newsletter—Dan Boutell
- Voter Education—Tim Kovacik
- Westside History—Veronica Gracia-Wing (chair), Paul Pratt, Cassandra Nelson
- Communications—Veronica Gracia-Wing
- Summer Event—Danielle Casavant (chair), Emily Stevens, Kim Fauson, Paul Holland

- Crime and Safety—Jackie Payne
- Community Engagement—Lisa Alicea
- RACER Trust Liaison—Joe Quick (chair), Tim Kovacik, Paul Pratt
- Neighborhood Improvement—Paul Holland (chair), Tim Kovacik
- Parks and Recreation—Emily Stevens (Merged parks and the community center liaison positions.)
- MLK Garden—Cassandra Nelson
- Annual Meeting—Suzanne Knight
- Business Promotions—Maureen Nelson
- Fun—Danielle Casavant
- Worship—Open; discussed possibly rolling it into community engagement.

FIESTA COMMITTEE REPORT

Casavant recommends moving to fall. Reasons given:

- Not enough time to bring a new chair up to speed in order to announce a spring date in the February 28 newsletter
- No urgency to hold event in spring because it no longer is tied to announcing scholarship recipients
- Only place large enough to hold the event in neighborhood is Irish Pub, which will hopefully be opened by fall so event could be moved back to a neighborhood business.

Motion to move Fiesta to fall 2014 date.

Approved

YARD SALE COMMITTEE REPORT

There are dates in May/June that are big garage sale weekends, and it might be good to have the garage sale then. It was also suggested to do a sale with Old Oakland; last year the WNA and Old Oakland garage sales were the same weekend and we included them on the map. The new chair will decide the date.

SUMMER PICNIC COMMITTEE REPORT

C. Nelson reported that she has not heard anything from Mayor's Grant people regarding funding. The band (Root Doctor) must still be confirmed. Stevens and Casavant are working on the logistics of how to determine which concert attendees are neighborhood members and can therefore receive picnic food.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Boehme explained format of report. The former scholarship money has been moved back to the general fund and needs to be reappropriated. Ideas for how to use these funds could be brought to the next meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

There will be an announcement about tree planting in the next newsletter. Right now we have 15 or so volunteers, and we need about 30. In the first week of March the city forester is giving an informational presentation on how to care for trees at Lett's Community Center. Each person receiving a tree will also receive a one-page document explaining how to care for trees; there will be a tear-away contract at the bottom of the document that the neighbor receiving the trees promises to care for it for the first year. Holland will monitor the trees the first year after they are planted. This is a pilot program for the rest of the city and could be framework for how other neighborhoods can do this. Boutell stated that the Lansing Neighborhood Council has indicated that they have organizations they work with who might be willing to help volunteer to plant the trees. Knight suggested that the NHS and Science Club at Sexton might be interested and this could work well as long as students are supervised by an advisor. Planting will be in April. Date will depend on weather and soil conditions, and therefore cannot be announced until the end of March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Stratton wanted to use WNA drink coolers for GSA event at LCC, which raised the larger question of the process for tracking loaned items. A clipboard with form on it will be place in the St. Joseph Park storage facility; an executive board member must be present to let individuals in to sign out items and sign them back in after use.

Stevens raised questions about the Michigan State group that wanted to do an art project on Racer Trust property. They would need to get on the agenda at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

Committee chairs and executive board members to create a statement of purpose and goals for the year to be presented at the March board meeting.

Fauson to update board contact info directory.

Holland will coordinate with Boehme to issue and deliver check in the amount of \$350 to the City of Lansing for trees.

Boehme will make clipboard sign-out sheet for St. Joseph Park storage facility.

Stevens will follow up with Casavant to learn more about the proposed art project at RACER Trust and contact the MSU group interested in doing the project.