

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES—AUGUST 21, 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cathy Bacile-Cunningham, Josh Boehme, Danielle Casavant, Kimberlyn Fauson, Cheryl Hecksel, Cassandra Nelson, Jackie Payne, Paul Pratt, Emily Stevens

**EXCUSED**

Dan Boutell, Veronica Gracia-Wing, Tim Kovacik, Maureen Nelson

**UNEXCUSED**

Paul Holland, Suzanne Knight, John Stratton

**GUESTS**

- Jeff Burdick—Executive Director, Ingham County Land Bank
- Adam Williams—Manager, Westside Farmers Market

**NEIGHBORS IN ATTENDANCE**

Joan Austin, Maggie Gerich, Liz Homer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:32 without quorum.  
Quorum met at 6:55.

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

**Jeff Burdick—Executive Director, Ingham County Land Bank**

The purpose of the Land Bank is to get properties that have fallen off the city's tax roll (usually through foreclosure) back on the tax roll. Approximately 300 properties per year county-wide become Land Bank properties, 90% of which are within Lansing city limits. Mr. Burdick provided the Board and neighbors in attendance with a map of neighborhood properties owned by the Land Bank. Mr. Burdick's presentation included the following topics:

- The process the Land Bank goes through to obtain properties
- The Land Bank's responsibility to maintain and secure the properties it owns
- Different legal restrictions the Land Bank encounters, such as the requirement to sell to low-income families and historic preservation restrictions

After Mr. Burdick's presentation, there was a brief Q&A session. The Board concluded that it would be a good idea to have an update from the Land Bank in the WNA newsletter a couple of times per year and invite the Land Bank to the June meeting annually, as foreclosed properties are up for auction in July.

**Adam Williams—Manager, Westside Farmers Market**

Mr. Williams is seeking to get the community more engaged in the market and asked for Board input. The number of attendees is slowly growing, and one goal is grow the variety of types of vendors. The cost per booth is \$10.00.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Fauson moved, Payne seconded to approve the agenda.

**APPROVED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Fauson moved, Pratt seconded to approve July 2014 minutes.

**APPROVED**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Action items from July were reviewed. Ongoing items have been placed on the action items list at the end of these minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As the city has severed its ties with the Lansing Neighborhood Council, anything that the LNC would have taken care of can be directed through Bill Risk of the City Planning Office at this point.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Boehme proposed that he not be the only one privy to bank statements and would like at least one other board member to review them. He will draft an addendum to the financial policy and bring it to the next meeting.

## **FIESTA**

- The 2014 Fiesta & Silent Auction will be held on October 5.
- The time has been pushed to 4:30 at the request of the Nuthouse.
- Hecksel/Boutell will make a list of last-minute tasks that need to be done before Fiesta and bring it to the next board meeting.
- Casavant explained the procedure for ticket sales and distributed ten tickets to each board member. She also explained the procedure for accepting a donation in lieu of selling tickets in the event that a neighbor is unable to attend but would like to donate to the WNA.
- Ticket presales end on September 28.
- Hecksel asked each board member to commit to soliciting three businesses for silent auction donations.

## **YARD SALE**

Casavant asked Cunningham to write up a report regarding the 2014 yard sale that can be used by the 2015 chair for planning purposes.

## **GRANTS**

- C. Nelson submitted two of the three Mayor's Grant reports.
- Casavant has leftover burgers from the summer picnic and suggested they be used at the Letts library opening.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Past newsletter issues have been printed and mailed by the Lansing Neighborhood Council. Since that is no longer feasible, Payne volunteered to request bids for printing services for the newsletter. Boutell submitted a report of these bids. The Board awaits Boutell's recommendation, at which point it will choose a new printer via electronic vote.

## **CRIME AND SAFETY**

Lansing Police Chief Mike Yankowski attended the special Crime and Safety meeting to discuss the break-in on Lenawee; the details of the Sexton shooting case were also discussed at the meeting.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

- The rugby team Capital Area Crisis plays in St. Joe Park. Payne suggested we offer a spot in the newsletter for the team to list game dates and other information. She will contact Waylon Sanford to see if the team is interested.
- Stevens requested that when a board member makes a room request at Letts in order to hold a meeting, the purpose of the meeting is stated so there is no confusion. If there is a room reservation problem, it is best to call Stevens and she will work it out.
- The work on the Letts library is under way.
- Letts had pre- and post-care for the first time at their summer camp. Camp numbers increased.
- Parks and Rec is offering tennis, leadership training, and tutoring for grades 4-12 at Letts.
- The new fall Parks and Rec booklet will come out at the end of August.

## **FUN COMMITTEE**

The WNA Lugnuts outing was a success. 49 people bought tickets, about 40 attended the game.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- **Holland, Cunningham, and Kovacik** will write goal statements for their positions or committees and will e-mail to Fauson.
- **Gracia-Wing** will send a letter to places of worship.
- **Cunningham** will prepare a report regarding the 2014 yard sale.
- **Casavant** will complete paperwork and file with Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.
- **Gracia-Wing** will investigate the feasibility of a young entrepreneurs program.
- **Gracia-Wing** will work with **Kovacik** to develop a memorandum of understanding in order to improve communications between RACER Trust and the WNA.
- **Holland** will create a budget and plan for neighborhood tree stump grinding.
- **Boehme** will draft an addendum to the WNA financial policy regarding review of bank account statements.
- **Payne** will contact Waylon Sanford regarding a newsletter section for the Capital Area Crisis.