

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES—SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE

Mitzi Allen, Dan Boutell, Danielle Casavant, Caryn Coyle, Cathy Bacile Cunningham, Kristie Dickinson, Kimberlyn Fauson, Veronica Gracia-Wing, Emily Johnson, Suzanne Knight, Maureen Nelson, Emily Stevens, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel

WNA MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Phil Hecksel

GUESTS

Mr. Joe Duris, President, Old Oakland Neighborhood Association

Mr. Brett Kaschinske, Director, Lansing Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Quorum present.

AGENDA

MOTION by Boutell, seconded by Coyle, to approve the agenda. Motion adopted.

MINUTES

MOTION by Boutell, seconded by Casavant, to approve the August 2015 minutes. Motion adopted.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Joe Duris presented information about a proposed multi-use trail around both Dunnebacke and West Side Parks that Old Oakland Neighborhood Association (OONA) and Saginaw Oakland Commercial Association (SOCA) are spearheading. He also invited the WNA to join SOCA and OONA in supporting the project. The trail will connect the Old Oakland and Westside Neighborhoods to one another, and it will also connect to the Saginaw Bike Trail (which connects to the River Trail at Saginaw Bridge). The project will include a public art installation at “The Point” (the split between Saginaw and Oakland near Stanley Street) and hand-activated walk signals crossing both Oakland and Saginaw.

WNA commitment would involve the following:

- A Westside Neighborhood representative to attend meetings
- Providing input on grant applications
- Name and logo use on promotional and informational materials

Coyle volunteered to be the WNA representative on the project.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Casavant, seconded by Coyle, to support the multi-use trail project around Dunnebacke and West Side Parks. Motion adopted, with Gracia-Wing and Stevens abstaining from the vote.

OLD BUSINESS

The following action items from August 2015 have been completed or are no longer applicable:

- **C. Nelson** will e-mail a list of WNA accomplishments that she uses for grant writing to Jackie Payne.
- **Coyle** will submit copies of financial documents needed to fill out the Meijer donation form to Jackie Payne.
- **Cunningham** will get an update from Holland regarding the Thump the Stumps program.
- **M. Nelson** will solicit volunteers on Facebook to adhere disks to the storm drains.

- **Fauson** will reserve the Community Room at Letts for November 19 and December 17.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Cunningham asked the directors in attendance to declare their intent to run for the 2016 board. Members with an intent to serve at this point are Casavant, Johnson, and Coyle, who would like to continue as treasurer.
- Thump the Stumps Chair—The project will be tabled until next year, unless a neighborhood resident who is interested in stump removal agrees to chair the project.
- Neighborhood Improvement Chair—Cunningham asked for volunteers but received none.
- Lansing Board of Water and Light Integrated Resource Plan—BWL would like resident input on the future of the BWL and its Integrated Resource Plan. They will be holding meetings, the first of which is tonight (September 24) at 6:00 P.M. Cunningham will attend meetings as she is able but would like a back-up. It was suggested that neighborhood residents Tom Stanton or Rod Lambert might be interested. A non-board member could represent the WNA at meetings as long as he/she doesn't speak for the WNA, but serves only to report to the board.
- Dollar General wants to purchase the property owned by the Land Bank at 923 West Saginaw in order to construct a Dollar General store and parking lot. Two buildings would be demolished. The project does not fit within the redevelopment vision of SOCA. Goods carried by Dollar General are similar to those carried by other nearby stores. The next meeting is October 5 at 5:30, in conference rooms D and E of the Human Services Building at 5301 South Cedar. Questions can be submitted ahead of the meeting to Jeff Burdick at jburdick@ingham.org.

MOTION by Coyle, seconded by Fauson, to oppose the sale of the property at 923 West Saginaw to Dollar General. Motion adopted, with Gracia-Wing abstaining.

Cunningham will write a letter on behalf of the WNA that states the WNA's opposition to the sale. The letter will be posted on the Facebook page.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- The remote card reader is in Coyle's possession.
- Our account balance is \$10,070.80. Payments for the newsletter and summer picnic have been made. A \$340 deposit from advertisement revenue was made.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Newsletter Proposal—Gracia-Wing had anticipated being able to bring forth a proposal but did not receive sufficient information from the printer to do so. She shall put forth action via electronic vote prior to the next meeting. The target updated publication is the winter newsletter.
- The Facebook page has had an influx of posts regarding the sale or free offering of items. The Facebook policy bans sales, and Gracia-Wing sought input from the directors as to how strictly we should enforce this policy. After discussion, the sentiment of the directors present was that we should gently guide conversation by steering people to the Westside Sales Facebook group for a trial period and see how that goes.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Crime is down significantly in Section One overall, except in larceny.
- Incidents at Buddies have decreased. The LPD has been proactive by sending squad cars to Buddies at bar closing time.
- The WNA Crime and Safety Committee has been communicating with Old Oakland and Renaissance Neighborhoods so that the groups can work together to solve issues that cross neighborhood boundaries.
- The presentation at the last Crime and Safety meeting was about elder abuse. The presentation on Tuesday, October 27 will be about identity theft.
- Crime and Safety will not meet in November. December's meeting will be a holiday social event.

- Sexton High School needs help on football game nights as well as people to work School Watch.
- The Child Health and Safety Fair is October 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Twenty-five organizations will be present. Mayor Bernero has been invited.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fiesta

- Board members reported their ticket sales to Casavant. Ticket sales typically end on the designated date, but they go up by \$5 at the door. A concern was raised that the price increase was not stated on posters advertising the event. The sentiment of the directors is that we should not increase the price at the door, as neighbors were not fully informed of the price bump.
- There is a meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, October 2, at William-Hecksel's home to do last-minute Fiesta planning.
- The set-up for the event begins at 3:00 P.M. Williams-Hecksel invited the directors to help with set-up.
- Music will be timed so that the band will play for a half hour and be off for a half hour. The volume will be kept conversation-friendly.
- The first lot of the Silent Auction will close at 6:45 P.M., the second at 7:15.
- Gracia-Wing will act as emcee.
- Stevens is organizing a children's table.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Lansing Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske stopped by in order to respond to the request for lighting at the tennis courts at Letts. The standard for recreational tennis is ten candlepower, which cannot be accomplished with existing fixtures. The cost to install the new fixtures plus contingency is \$59,340. The rental rate from BWL to maintain the fixtures would be an additional \$172 per standard, which would cost \$6912 per year. This estimate does not include the removal of existing poles.

Dickinson raised concerns regarding the condition of the court surfaces. As far as short-term repair, no one will repair and guarantee the work for the year. The better solution is to wait until the condition of the courts worsens a bit and resurface them entirely. Money from the millage renewal could be used for tennis courts if that's how the funds get budgeted.

Kaschinske agreed to send an e-mail regarding next steps to Gracia-Wing, who will forward it to the board.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- There is a Zombie Walk downtown on October 3. It's free, but donations for the Youth Scholarship Fund and for the Food Bank will be accepted. A Halloween makers fair will be held afterward in the Lansing Center.
- October 10 is the Heart Walk at Cooley Stadium. There are teams for each Lansing Parks and Rec community center. The event is very kid-friendly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

- Cunningham will write a letter on behalf of the WNA that states the WNA's opposition to the sale of the property at 923 West Saginaw to Dollar General. The letter will be posted on the Facebook page.
- Gracia-Wing will forward Kaschinske's e-mail regarding the tennis courts to board members.