

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Minutes – April 18, 2007  
Regular Board meeting

1. Call to order – by President Larry Spataro at 5:33 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Board of Directors
  - a. Present: Larry Spataro, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga, Greg Borgman, Dollie Hippchen, Mary Jo McCann, Ann Craig, Romella Ealom, Bob Bosch, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bill Wright, Greg Laws, Irene Cooper
  - b. Not Present: Bill Seeback, Shawn McFall
3. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2007 Regular monthly meeting
  - a. Motion by Mary Jo McCann, seconded by Bill Wright, to approve the minutes of February 21. The motion carried on a voice vote.
4. Committee Action Items
  - a. Membership Dues
    - i. Motion by Dollie Hippchen, seconded by Bill Wright, to adopt the NNIA membership dues/fee schedules as presented below.

\$5.00 Resident Member  
\$10.00 Supporting Members  
\$20.00 Businesses or Organizations

During the discussion of this motion Marcia moved, seconded by Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga to amend the underlying motion so that the membership dues/fee schedule refers to resident members, supporting individuals, and supporting businesses/organizations. The amendment of the underlying motion was called to question and carried unanimously on a voice vote. The underlying (but now amended) motion was then called to question and carried with Romella Ealom opposed. The new language is as stated below.

\$5.00 Resident Member  
\$10.00 Supporting Individual  
\$20.00 Supporting Business or Organization

- ii. Motion by Romella Ealom, supported by Ann Craig, that the new rates take effect at the time of the 2008 Annual meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote, with Dollie Hippchen opposed.
      - iii. Motion by Bill Wright, seconded by Ann Craig, to clarify that the membership year runs from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote.
    - b. Sale of Surplus Office Furniture
      - i. Motion by Marcia Hovey-Wright, seconded by Greg Borgman to sell the office furniture located in the upper front room, link to the main lobby by a reception window. This furniture had been placed there on the day of the March 24 Work Bee. It was clarified that only items in this room would be for sale. A question regarding the method of pricing was raised and Irene Cooper volunteered to help in this matter. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. An ad-hoc committee, led by Irene Cooper, also including Dollie Hippchen, Marcia Hovey-Wright, and Helen Sherman will over see the sale.

**General Membership Participation:**

5. Introductions/Recognition of Host/Hostess
  - a. Approximately 26 people were present and introduced themselves.
6. Neighborhood Concerns –Scott Vanderwier
  - a. Officer Vanderwier stated that there was not much to report, except that spring had arrived and with more people venturing outside, an increase in complaints was occurring. Officer Vanderwier reviewed the curfew rule for teenagers. Officer Vanderwier was thanked for his participation in Dumpster Day when he went above and beyond the call of duty.

7. Committee Information Items

- a. Membership Committee – Dollie Hippchen
  - i. Memberships have been trickling in response to the membership form that was part of the newsletter. Currently there are 61 members, and the NNIA has received \$443 in membership contributions.
- b. Communications Committee – Dan Rinsema-Sybenga
  - i. The publication of the first newsletter to be sent by bulk mail was reported. Advice and suggestions for upcoming newsletters were invited. The next newsletter will be sent out the last week of July to coincide with the neighborhood activities scheduled for National Night Out. Mary Jo McCann described the process to arrive at the mailing list and asked for volunteers to walk their immediate neighborhoods and report to her the properties where there are subdivided units, including the information about each unit number.
- c. Activities Committee – Marcia Hovey-Wright
  - i. The completed activities of the Work Bee, Dumpster Day and the First Congregational Breakfast were reported. Everyone agreed the office looked much cleaner, and the fact that 4.5 dumpsters were filled in spite of the snowy weather was reported.
  - ii. Progress on the National Night Out activities, the Home Tour, and Yard Improvement activities was reported.
- d. Finance/Property Committee – Bill Wright
  - i. The monthly financial report was presented. A question about the cost of insurance was raised and the nature of the insurance policy was reviewed.
- e. Block Clubs – Greg Borgman
  - i. Dollie Hippchen reported that the St. Joes Block Club plans to hold a Spring planting and picnic on June 15. All were encouraged to attend.
- f. Buildings and Grounds – Greg Laws
  - i. A lawn and garden person has been hired for the summer months.
  - ii. The JROTC has not received a letter of recognition for their volunteer efforts with the neighborhood association. Larry Spataro agreed to send a letter and asked for the contact information to be provided to him.
  - iii. John Allen agreed to coordinate replacement of the broken lights in the meeting room.
- g. Neighborhood Associations of Muskegon – Mary Jo McCann
  - i. Mary Jo McCann reported that the City of Muskegon Fishing derby would take place the 1<sup>st</sup>, or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of June.
  - ii. The Master Gardeners are holding a plant sale May 10-12.
  - iii. Next month the NAM attendees will go on a tour of the Water Filtration Plant.
  - iv. Other examples of Neighborhood Associations newsletters were presented to the Communications committee to spur ideas for the NNIA newsletter.
- h. Weed and Seed – Deb Tober
  - i. Progress on an Empowerment Center was presented. Karen Henry will be serving as the Weed and Seed coordinator, and a subcommittee on neighborhood restoration is being launched.

8. Presentations

- a. Leisure Services Master Plan – Bernadette Young
  - i. Bernadette Young conveyed Bob Kuhn's regret at not being able to attend.
  - ii. Presentation of Master Plan – The plan was passed around and was explained to be a document which summarizes the cities leisure services assets and programs, with an eye to where the city is going in this regard.
  - iii. It was explained that the City of Muskegon is preparing for an ADA audit of its parks and recreational facilities. The City is working with Disability Connections and other groups to prepare for this and perform as well as possible on this audit.
  - iv. Numerous resources available to City residents are available. There is a trailer stocked with yard maintenance tools that is available for groups to use for cleanup days and the like. In addition a group grill is available. Volunteer fire hydrant painting kits are available. In

addition leaf bags are for sale at the rate of \$2 for 5 bags at the DPW facility. Call the DPW department for more information and to reserve or request any of the above.

- v. The City's graffiti abatement program was explained and residents were asked to report graffiti to 724-6991. If you are the victim of graffiti the notice that you may receive was explained as well as the procedure for notifying the city of the intended course of action.
  - vi. If problems with streetlights are noticed residents should report those to Consumers Energy through their website.
    - 1. <https://www.consumersenergy.com/contact.asp?Products/Index.asp?SSIID=320&lasturl=/Content.asp>
  - vii. The NNIA was requested to send copies of its newsletter to DPW to the attention of Doug Sayles and Bernadette Young.
9. Adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Rinsema-Sybenga