

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association

Minutes of February 18, 2009

Board Action Items:

1. Roll Call of Board of Directors

Present: Larry Spataro, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Dollie Hippchen, Helen Sherman, Irene Cooper, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bill Wright, Greg Borgman, Karen Ladd, Ann Craig, Romella Ealom, Bob Bosch, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

Not Present: Greg Laws

2. The minutes of the January 21, 2009 board meeting were presented. Upon a motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Greg Borgman they were approved by a voice vote.
3. The Treasurer's report and was presented. Upon a motion by Greg Borgman, seconded by Karen Ladd, the financial report was approved by a voice vote.
 - Draft budget – after a presentation of the draft budget there was a motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Irene Cooper, to consider this budget at the annual meeting.
4. Strategic Planning
 - The potential task forces were presented. To better integrate these into the current committees this will be revisited at the March meeting.
5. Americorps volunteer opportunity
 - After a presentation of the opportunity to engage a paid volunteer, motion by Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga, seconded by Larry Spataro, to authorize participation in a collaborative to pursue the hosting of an Americorps member in Nelson neighborhood. Motion carried on a voice vote.
6. Annual Meeting
 - Details of the annual meeting were discussed. Motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Ann Craig to waive the requirement that only members who have paid their dues 10 days prior to the annual meeting may vote at the annual meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote.
7. Nominating Committee report
 - Bob made a report stating that they were ready to nominate a slate at the annual meeting but that of course nominations would be able to be made from the floor.
8. Healthy Nelson Initiative
 - Jill stated that the Healthy Nelson task force was pursuing four projects, improvements to two parks (St. Joe's and Clara Shepherd), and two community gardens (one near 8th and Monroe) and another near Second and Muskegon.
 - The contract between the NNIA and Central United Church was discussed. Motion by Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, seconded by Dollie Hippchen, to table the contract. Motion carried on a voice vote.
9. St. Joe's Park request
 - Presentation by Martha Bottomley of Volunteer Muskegon concerning NNIA participation in the St. Joe's Park program which will not longer be funded by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Motion by Bill Wright, seconded by Greg Borgman, to authorize an expenditure of \$2,000 for this program. Motion carries on a voice vote
10. Endowment Committee
 - The committee met with the community foundation and will meet again on February 28.
11. Mike Miller Memorial Committee
 - Still working with Deb pending the outcome of the community garden discussions. .

12. General Membership participation

- 37 people were present and introduced themselves
- Neighborhood Concerns (Assistant Procecuter DJ Hilson)
 1. Introduced himself as participating for the first time
- Neighborhood Concerns (Neighbors)
 1. Noted that a number of improvements have taken place at the old NNIA building on 5th Street
 2. Snow on the sidewalks was reported as a concern
- Committee Reports
 1. Reports were given at the Annual Meeting as time had run out.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.