

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association

Minutes of January 21, 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, Greg Laws, Romella Ealom

Not Present: Bob Bosch, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga,

2. The minutes of the November 19, 2008 board meeting were presented. Upon a motion by Ann Craig, seconded by Greg Borgman they were approved by a voice vote.
3. The Treasurer's report and preliminary 2009 budget was presented. Upon a motion by, Dollie seconded Greg Borgman, the financial report was approved by a voice vote. Committee chairs were asked to get any projected expenses to Treasurer Bill Wright prior to the annual meeting.
4. Strategic Planning
 - A summary of the strategic planning was presented by Marcia Hovey-Wright and a sheet outlining all the priorities that identified was circulated with members signing their names to activities they were interested in participating in.
5. Annual Meeting
 - The newsletter set to go out on February 10 will highlight the annual meeting as well as the strategic planning process that fits into the annual meeting. Committee reports are due to Dan Rinsema-Sybenga by February 14. The nominating committee will meet and will make recommendations to fill 5 seats that are vacant, or where terms are coming to an end. The executive committee will set up the venue on the morning of the meeting.
6. Healthy Nelson Initiative
 - Community Garden – The executive committee, along with Susan Kroes, will evaluate the proposed contract with Central United Methodist for the use of the lot adjacent to their church, and will bring a recommendation to the next board meeting. .
7. Endowment Committee
 - The committee is pursuing setting up a meeting with Community Foundation staff to continue this process
8. Mike Miller Memorial Committee
 - Will report on progress at the February meeting.
9. General Membership participation
 - 27 people were present and introduced themselves
 - Neighborhood Concerns (Community Officer Scott Vanderwier)
 1. 2008 saw a 7% reduction in crime complaints in pertinent crime categories with 788 complaints in the Nelson neighborhood.
 2. Bill Seebach raised the issue of high vehicle traffic speeds on Sanford St.
 3. February 13-16 will see the return of the Youth Sports Days at the Winter Sports Complex that the Muskegon Police Department is assisting with. If you know youth who would benefit from the event please contact Scott.
 - Neighborhood Concerns (Neighbors)
 1. A neighbor raised a case where they believed a dog was being mistreated. It was recommended to call the Humane Society.
 - Committee Reports

1. Membership (Dollie Hippchen) – Dollie reported that the committee are working on a renewal campaign given the new membership year. .
 2. Communications (Dan Rinsema-Sybenga) – The next Newsletter will be mailed February 10 and story ideas were solicited
 3. Activities (Marcia Hovey Wright) – Update on Home Tour and Holiday potluck were presented.
 4. Block Clubs – No report was given.
 5. Hospitality Committee – Laura volunteered to prepare refreshments for the next meeting. Wendy and Bill Krick stated that they would help organize volunteers for further upcoming meetings..
- Community Involvement
 1. NAM (Marcia Hovey-Wright) – NAM will be benefiting from presentations over the upcoming months on topics that apply to all Muskegon neighborhood associations.
 2. First Congregational Breakfast - The next service opportunity will be January 31 and volunteers were solicited for that date as well as other upcoming dates.
10. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.