

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association

Minutes June 18, 2008

Board Action Items:

1. Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Board of Directors
Present: Bob Bosch, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bill Wright, Larry Spataro, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Mike Miller, Dollie Hippchen, Karen Ladd, Ann Craig, Irene Cooper, Greg Laws, Greg Borgman
Not Present: Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Romella Ealom, Helen Sherman,
3. There were no minutes from the May meeting as a quorum was not present.
4. Financial Report – Treasurer Bill Wright made the monthly report, along with an additional report showing the actual incomes and expenses against the amount budgeted for the year. Motion by Marcia Hovey-Wright, seconded by Greg Laws to accept the report. The motion carried on a voice vote.
5. Academic Olympics – Will Griffin of Community and Neighborhood Services of the City of Muskegon made a presentation of a community effort to hold this event, likely at Nelson School, on August 16, or 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m, as an effort to encourage students with their studies. By a poll of the board, prior to the meeting permission was given to allow the NNIA to act as the requesting organization for a grant for this event to Comerica Bank. Other help being requested is for volunteers on the day of the event. Motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Marcia Hovey-Wright, to donate \$500 from NNIA for this project. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Will also stated that as part of the Infill and Rehabilitation program through Community and Neighborhood Services that he had done a survey of those who had moved into CNS homes asking them regarding participation in their neighborhood association. One of those residents, Ms Oakes from 435 Monroe, was present and was introduced.

6. The introductions were continued by all present with 19 in attendance.
7. Adopt-A-Highway Application – Dan and Marcia presented two ideas of the Activities committee regarding the maintenance of Shoreline Dr. First was the possibility of the NNIA adopting BR-31 from Laketon to Spring/Eastern. This would involved 2 cleanups a year where the NNIA would gather at least 6 volunteers to walk along BR-31 and pick up trash in bags provided by M-DOT. Two signs would be posted noting the contribution of the NNIA. Motion by Bill Wright, seconded by Larry Spataro, for Mike Miller to sign the application. Second, Marcia contacted Bernadette Young regarding NNIA volunteers helping keep the beds along Shoreline Drive weeded. Bernadette stated that she would be open to volunteers helping with this job. For the time being the Activities committee will proceed with arrangements regarding the possibilities and will seek volunteers when firm dates to undertake activities are announced. A number of those present stated they would be willing to volunteer when a date is set and if they were available.
8. Investment of excess funds – Mike Miller and Bill Wright explained that they were of the opinion that the organization should pursue a course of action with money currently being held in savings accounts to achieve better returns for the NNIA. Some initial suggestions by National City Bank were briefly discussed Another idea presented by Larry Spataro was to investigate the creation of a fund at the Community Foundation that might produce yearly income for the NNIA. It was decided that the Executive Committee should meet and present some concrete action steps for approval to the board.
9. Community Garden – Mike Miller stated that some progress preparing the plot across from Central United Methodist had been accomplished. Further progress must wait for the church to enter into a formal

agreement with the NNIA regarding the use of the lot. Some hurdles regarding watering of the lot must also be worked on, but it looks like water will be provided by adjacent property owners.

10. National Night Out – The NNIA will host a Neighborhood Picnic on the night of Tuesday August 5 from 6-8 p.m. This information will be submitted to Denny Powers, who is coordinating National Night Out activities on behalf of the City of Muskegon Police Department.
11. Neighborhood Concerns – Scott Vanderwier was congratulated on the birth of his second daughter exactly 6 weeks prior. Scott stated that the eviction of a difficult tenant at 6th and Southern was almost complete. In addition with the warmer weather there was more standing on the corners. Nick Kroes reported a white house on Southern as being unsecured. Also, the number of homeless individuals were noted to be on the rise. West Michigan Therapy is the first point of contact through the Muskegon Homeless Continuum of Care to link individuals to housing.
12. Committee Reports
 - There was no report from the Membership Committee
 - The Communication committee reported that the next edition of the newsletter would be sent around the middle of July and that stories would be appreciated. Suggestions provided at the meeting included an article on the Academic Olympics event, the St. Joe's Park activities and National Night Out activities, including the Neighborhood Picnic.
 - In addition to the Neighborhood Picnic the Activities committee has begun working on the December Home Tour. The next committee meeting will be July 1 at 5:30 at Marcia's house. Any new members are welcome.
 - Greg Borgman reported for the Block Club committee that the letter approved by the board was sent to the agent for the property owner at 299 Houston regarding the ability of the house to be used as a multi family dwelling.
 - Greg Laws reported that Norman Flowers was willing to cut the lawn for \$20 a cut, including brush trimming, compared to the current \$30 price the NNIA was paying. Motion by Lary Spataro, seconded by Marcia Hovey-Wright to approve paying Norman Flowers \$20 per time cutting the NNIA grass. The motion carried on a voice vote.
 - NAM report – Mike Miller reported that he had learned of the Fishing Derby at the NAM meeting and had attempted to spread the word to kids in Nelson about this opportunity..

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.