

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association

Minutes of November 19, 2008

Board Action Items:

1. Roll Call of Board of Directors

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

Not Present: Greg Laws, Romella Ealom

2. The minutes of September 17 board meeting and the October 15 board meetings were presented. Upon a motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Irene Cooper they were approved by a voice vote.
3. The Treasurer's report was presented. Upon a motion by Greg Borgman, seconded by Bob Bosch, it was approved by a voice vote.
4. Strategic Planning
 - Set for Jan 15, 2009 starting at 5:30 p.m. Motion by Larry Spataro, seconded by Irene Cooper to approve an expenditure of up to \$75 for pizza and any other supplies necessary for the meeting. The goal of the session is to come up with an action plan for the association.
5. Annual Meeting
 - Committee reports should be submitted to Dan by February 14. Notice of the meeting will be given to all residents via the newsletter which will be sent approximately a week prior to the meeting. Greg will work with Mia and Grace to provide refreshments for the meeting, which will be held on February 21 at 10 a.m. at Nelson Place
6. Nominating Committee
 - A discussion of the potential for a conflict of interest with Marcia Hovey Wright being the President and Bill Wright being the Treasurer. As it is not possible for a check to be authorized by Marcia, as one of two required signatures a conflict of interest was decided by consensus of those present to not exist.
 - The nominating committee, chaired by Bob Bosch, stated that it would begin work to present a line up of board nominations in time for the Annual meeting.
7. Christmas Party
 - A potluck sign up was circulated and the white elephant gift exchange was described.
8. Healthy Nelson Initiative
 - Community Garden – 2 gardens and 2 parks will be the target of improvement with the Healthy Nelson grant funding that has been secured.
 - Downtown Walking Club – Marcia will investigate how these work to possibly implement in Nelson based on the success of such clubs in other Muskegon neighborhoods.
9. Endowment Committee
 - Dollie reported that she will begin work on this item in January 2009.
10. Mike Miller Memorial Committee
 - Will report on progress at the January meeting.
11. General Membership participation
 - 23 people were present and introduced themselves
 - Neighborhood Concerns (Community Officer Scott Vanderwier)
 1. Speeds in the alley behind 7th St were raised.

2. Graffiti on Jefferson St was raised
 3. An explanation of a large fight at 5th and Western was presented
 - Committee Reports
 1. Membership (Dollie Hippchen) – Dollie reported that 5 new members had joined the organization over the last month.
 2. Communications (Dan Rinsema-Sybenga) – The Newsletter was completed and story ideas for the February edition were solicited
 3. Activities (Marcia Hovey Wright) – Update on Home Tour and Holiday potluck were presented.
 4. Block Clubs – The potential of combined training with McLaughlin neighborhood was presented.
 5. Hospitality Committee – Karen stated that she would no longer be able to chair this committee. _____ stated that she would be willing to take over this responsibility.
 - Community Involvement
 1. NAM (Marcia Hovey-Wright)
 2. First Congregational Breakfast - The next service opportunity will be November 29
12. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.