

# COLONIAL VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

March 17, 2010

Attendance 35

Present: Anita Beavers, Mike Morofsky, Mary Bechtol, Evie Bush, Kathy Miles.

Anita brought the meeting to order at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no police report but crime maps were dropped off.

**County Commission Report** - Dale Copedge reported that the current controller for the County Commission is retiring and they have narrowed the search for a replacement down to 5 candidates. On April 16<sup>th</sup> they will be making their selection. The commission balanced their books at 2.3 million dollars. The attorney for the city of Lansing is seeking restitution from MACON through the Public Safety Commission for the problems with "dead zones" affecting police communication in south Lansing. A new radio tower had to be constructed and some buildings needed new DBA's to get reception inside them. In February of 2008 the city paid \$255,000 and in September of 2008 another \$161,000 was spent. A total of \$461,000 has been spent so far and most of the problem areas have improved reception. Mike asked when Waverly road would be resurfaced. Dale said that the Department of Transportation does not have the required 20% matching funds necessary to qualify for Federal funds at this time.

Several neighbors residing on Marion inquired about license numbers being taken down and why. It was explained that there have been problems in the neighborhood with burglaries and other crimes and that the Neighborhood Watch is just trying to be proactive.

Minutes were ok'd. June was absent but Anita read the Treasurers report. Donations from the last meeting were \$45.00 and we received a thank you from South church for the \$45 donation in memory of Vi Bass. A donation of \$25 was given for the Bea Christy dinner. Our current balance is \$274.44.

The Neighborhood Advisory Board has given us 2 grants totaling \$1,100; one for \$650.00 to fund printing of the newsletter and website improvements and another for \$450.00 for a new brochure. Council Member Carol Wood was also instrumental in helping us get a grant for \$500 from city general services; half of that will cover the fee for the obstacle course at the annual picnic.

**Speaker** – Rita O'Brien, Coordinator for the South Lansing CDA, gave a presentation on the community gardens that will be available this summer. One will be at Grace church and there will be a meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 to discuss participation. The second will be across from the fire station on Pleasant Grove and Jolly. A meeting will be held at the fire station on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00. They plan to have a children's garden, a donation garden with produce being given to the Lansing Food Bank and plots available to those interested in growing their own food. The idea is to give residents more access to fresh food and to teach gardening techniques to the public. Some seeds will be supplied. They are also looking for volunteers who could start seedlings in their homes until planting time; seeds and containers would be supplied. Donations of unused gardening tools would be most welcome.

Margie Evarian asked if non-GMO seeds would be available and a question was asked if there would be a section for organic plots. That will be investigated if enough interest is expressed in it. Kathy suggested contacting MSU for non-GMO seeds as they have a college of organic gardening.

The new Parks and Recreation Guide are out. There will be a conference at LCC March 25<sup>th</sup> on gardening. The Southside Community Coalition has a newsletter with lots of good information. They are located at 2101 Holmes and their number is 394-3213. Pete Cunningham is the contact person.

**Area 1 Report** - Mike showed pictures of flowers in bloom and the first robin. Eric Hewitt is still working on language clarification regarding the snow-removal ordinance.

**Area 2 Report** – Mary Bechtol had no report (except for a drunken leprechaun).

**Area 3 Report** - Potholes on Boston have been repaired.

**Vice President** – Elmhurst school is having Kindergarten roundup.

There will be a meeting at the Southside Community Center March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Community room from 6:00 to 8:00 to discuss the 5 Year plan for Parks and Recreation. This is your chance to have input; please consider attending. Carol Wood said this will compare the last 5-year plan with the current one and will impact grant applications for the future.

The city has applied for Federal grant funds to open Crego Park. Carol Wood said that 8 million has been spent to clean up the contamination in that area. The park comprises 200 acres with a lake and the plan is for trails and fishing with access for non-motorized boating.

**Carol Wood, Council Member at Large** informed us on the status of the negotiations between the City and MACON over the problems with 911 communications. The Council is revising the cabaret license applications to insure there is adequate parking in place before a license is granted. Council is working on bringing the fireworks ordinance into compliance with State statutes. Ice cream vendors will be restricted to selling between the hours of 9:00 and 8:30 or dusk. This will make them consistent with other licenses. A change in the ordinance was passed in December which will allow Code Compliance to inspect mobile homes. Early retirement will include police and fire personnel for the first time. Care will need to be taken to insure that critical positions do not go unfilled. She thanked Mike for providing her with data on unplowed streets and neglected walks. Leaves raked in the streets are currently causing clogged sewers and water back up when it rains.

**Council Member A'Lynne Robinson** announced that the Sycamore golf course will be closed unless First Tee organization agrees to take over administration of it. She also said that if residents mention at the gate of Hawk Hollow park that the \$2 admission fee is a hardship for them, it will be waived. Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> there will be hearings for input on central service priorities. She is still working on getting the sewer grates left ajar at the intersection of Victor and Pattengill fixed. A request was sent to Comcast that they send an official to the next meeting; so far that has been ignored.

**Greg Scrimger** - Reported that compliance officer Daryl Zuk died so Greg's workload is busier than ever. Please be patient.

There is a problem with coyotes along South Holly Way and on Victor. Deb Garvy passed out pictures of them in yards. They have been displaced by the new charter school and are much closer to homes. She asked if you see them to please call Animal Control. A'Lynne will work on resolving this.

Colonial Village Baptist church will be having a seminar March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, with a continental breakfast, to help with personal planning such as funeral arrangements, Living Will and communicating final wishes to loved ones. Please RSVP by March 22 by contacting Aondray Worthy at 322-9475.

**Anita** announced that Grace is collecting "hand tools for Haiti"; their Giving Tree is also in need of pots and pans, dishes and linens. A vote was taken and the date for the neighborhood sale will be the first Saturday in June. A volunteer is needed for the calling list and she still needs 2 people for the refreshment committee. Ideas were asked for future speakers. Suggestions were: an update on the past "Meeting in a Box", a self-defense demonstration, having someone from the Prosecutor's office come and discuss our rights to defend ourselves under the Castle Doctrine, having the City Rescue come and discuss their needs and give a report on the opening of the new women and children's shelter in the former Maplewood school. Pat Zue suggested a singing group to entertain at the picnic.

Anita also reminded us that she will be stepping down as president after serving 7 years and asked that anyone interested in knowing what is entailed in the position contact her.

Dismissed at 8:48.

km