



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA) April 16, 2008

President Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Evelyn Bush, Thelma Dempsey, Willie Vinson, Michael Morofsky and Mary Bechtol. Sixty CVNA members and guests attended the meeting including Chief Mark Alley, Lansing Police Dept.; Murdock Jemerson, Lansing Parks and Recreation Director; Joan Bauer, State Representative, 68th District; Carol Wood and A'Lynne Robinson, Lansing City Council and Dr. Otto Graesser.

Lansing Police Department Report: Chief Mark Alley reported that the police officer involved in the Lenore case has been cleared to return to work. He could not give a detailed report on the case because it is still at the State Prosecutor's office and before the Internal Board of Review. Once it has been cleared he will report back to the Association. He also reported that a case, in Churchill Downs, where air guns were being used to break car windows (65 different windows) was solved quickly due to a citizen's call. The citizen's call made it possible for the police to catch a group of young people who confessed to the crime.

Program: Friends of the Cemeteries presenters Julie Mannino, secretary for the city cemeteries; Sharon Patton, civil war buff; and Loretta S. Stanaway, president of the Friends and owner of Memorial Minders, a local gravesite beautification service teamed a presentation of interest to everyone: hikers, joggers, bikers, naturalist, genealogist, and historians. The cemeteries are open to everyone. The organization is a year old and meets the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Foster Community Center. Their purpose is to protect, promote and help prosper the City's cemeteries (Evergreen, Mt. Hope, and North). They offer tours and school field trips.

North Cemetery: Located on Miller & Pennsylvania is three acres. It was originally owned by the North family who sold it to Delhi Twp. and now City owned. Evergreen Cemetery: Located on Mt. Hope is 103 acres. It opened in 1930. You can still see how the sections were laid out for various religions and races. The Arlington section for veterans is full. They just opened a new section. A lot of Lansing's famous are buried there. Mt. Hope Cemetery: Located on Mt. Hope and Aurelius Rd., originally included a rich section and a poor section. Mt. Hope is the fourth location for this cemetery. It was first located on Turner & Grand. Mt. Hope has a Civil War section and two chapels. Trees were planted in a way to accommodate horses and buggies. This is still evident today.

Recent changes at Mt. Hope include a new iron fence and the arch, built in 2003, was recently power washed. In November, the North Cemetery arch was removed and is being stored and saved for future use. A partnership between the City and the Charley Fracher Foundation will fund the planting of flowers and upkeep based on the Foundations' stipulations. Look for other changes soon. The cemeteries were the original parks of the day and are still being used by runners, hikers and bikers today.

On Saturday, May 22, 100 geraniums will be provided free to anyone wishing to plant them at their loved one's gravesite. Flowers will be provided by Smith Floral. If you are unable to plant them yourself, a volunteer will do it for you. On September 28, from 3 – 5 p.m., the Friends of Cemeteries will conduct tours at all cemeteries free. Donations will be accepted.

Minutes: March meeting minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Dempsey's Report: Current balance is \$265.30. It includes \$47.00 donations collected at the last meeting and \$50 registration expense paid to Parks and Recreation.

Committee/Project Reports: The garden committee reported completing spring cleaning of boulevards and circles. Flower donations and mulch are needed. CVNA volunteers picked up top soil on April 19 that was donated by the Mayor's round table to all Neighborhood Associations.

President's Report: Anita Beavers reported that 1) Grace United Methodist Church is looking for Euchre players and others who might be interested in joining their prayer shawl knitting club. Also, stop by on Saturday, May 10th from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m., for a free car wash. The church is celebrating over 50 years in the neighborhood. 2)

Colonial Baptist Church will rebroadcast candidates interviewed about religion. 3) Lewton Rich Neighborhood Association meeting speaker will be a representative from the City Assessor's Office. 4) Averill Neighborhood Association will hold a discussion about the Holmes and Pleasant Grove traffic patterns. 5) April 22 is Earth Day and on May 3 Diversity Day celebrations. Volunteers are needed. It will be held at Eastern High School.

Vice President's Report Evelyn Bush reported that 1) Elmhurst School is having a book and bingo event April 24. The PTA is working on flowers (perennials) donation. They will hold a bake sale and carnival on May 30. The PTA is seeking grandmothers, as volunteers, to come into the school to listen to children read. 2) Cole Academy is currently having an open enrollment period.

Area Representatives Reports: Area One Representative Michael Morofsky, said he continues to work with Greg Schrimger on problems with rentals in the area. He feels people need to be better at keeping up their properties. Tennis courts at Elmhurst have not been resurfaced. Although not in the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association's area of responsibility, he has written a letter to the Board of Water and Light for street light replacement on Logan Street Bridge.

Area Two Representative Mary Bechtol said she had nothing to report.

Area Three Representative position is still open. CVNA is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.

State Representative Joan Bauer reported that the state level budget process is on track and on time. The energy bill package, although complicated, may be voted on April 17, 2008. She is also working on jobs for the economy and roads issues. She has an electronic newsletter and distributed a sign up sheet for anyone wishing to receive the newsletter. Saturday, May 24, 2008, is the date for the next breakfast with Bauer. The location is Gone Wired Café.

Lansing City Council Reports:

Carol Wood, Council Member at Large: 1) The April 17 budget meeting will be televised and two additional hearings will be held Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. Dwight Rich High School and April 24, room 213, Foster Center. Budget hearings will be televised every Thursday from 1 – 5 p.m. on TV. 2) There is a new false alarm (A need to know how to get in touch) ordinance on the books. Anyone with an alarm will need to get a permit. The cost is \$25 and can be obtained online. Go to City of Lansing's Website and click on false alarms for more details. 3) The council will vote on Monday night, April 17, for Red Tag House monitoring. If approved, it will provide a way to charge a fee to pay for the program. Four additional officers have been hired to monitor red tags.

A'Lynne Robinson, Council Member: 1) she expressed her appreciation of the Neighborhood Association and invited everyone to the 2nd Saturday of every month meetings with her 10 a.m. – noon at the fire station on Pleasant Grove. This is a new location for the meetings. 2) She also said that Andy Kilpatrick has assured her that the lane markings will change back to the original status and she is working with 1910 Meat and Quality Dairy on right of way issues. A light with center turn lane is wanted. A July 1 deadline includes resurfacing. 3) She is also working with an Inter Governmental Relations Committee on cell phone tower placement. The meeting is scheduled for April 30, 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Neighborhood Watch: Area Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Mary Brinks reported she is trying to wrap up contact information and maps. She hopes to contact everyone the first of May. Sign-up sheets will be provided.

New Business: Neighborhood-wide garage sale is scheduled June 21. The picnic will be held in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.