



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA)

April 19, 2006

President, Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Other board members present were Mike Morofsky, Anne Wilson, Thelma Dempsey and Willie Vinson. Thirty-one members and guests were in attendance, including Carol Wood, City Council; Teresa Szymanski, Captain, South Precinct. Dale Copedge, Ingham County Commission and Mark White of L & L Food Center were also in attendance.

Lansing Police Department Report: Captain Szymanski introduced herself and Officer Bock distributed a Lansing Police Department Offense report map which included Moores River Dr to W. Holmes and Waverly to Martin Luther King Blvd. and showed the following offenses for a 30 day period. They are investigating reports of signs of what could be identified as gang graffiti and said, if you notice anything, the best thing to do is collect data, report it and remove it as quickly as possible. Removing it quickly is the best defense. They reported on the status of on-going investigations into lawn damage at several houses on Pleasant Grove, BB guns being fired at moving cars on Martin Luther King Blvd, and a few family disputes.

Program:

Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer, discussed the revenues and expenditures of the taxes we pay. In 2006, \$172,836,364 total expenditures were allocated as follows: 21.7% County Services, 32.9% Human Services, 16.9% Judiciary, 22.1% Law Enforcement and 6.5% of the budget went to Debt, CIP, Contingencies. General fund revenue is generated from taxes, Intergovernmental Transfers, Department Generated Revenue and In Kind services. Mr. Schertzing shared information pertaining to dog/cat licenses. When the law was adopted in the 1900's everyone was more concerned about rabies and cats were not a problem at that time. Cats are required to be licensed only in a few communities due to a decision by local legislative body.

Paul Dykema, Supervisor, Forestry and Maintenance, City of Lansing, shared what he said were problems with the City of Lansing's proposed budget as it pertained to parks, cemeteries etc. If the budget passes as proposed, park staff will be cut and although they may be able to continue to mow, they may not be able to do weed work and some parks will not be maintained at all. They are looking at the possibility of getting others to do the work, volunteers and groups like the Friends of Frances Park and the Friends of Cooley Gardens. However, the parks will still suffer from lack of care. In addition, cemetery staff will be cut from 13 to five. Which means services and maintenance will suffer. The budget is expected to be signed on May 15, 2006.

Minutes: The Association voted to approve the minutes of the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved and second to accept the April treasurer's reports. Current balance as of today: \$420.27 which includes \$26.00 donations from the February and March meetings - \$25.00 Expense (donation to Mid-MI Chapter Red Cross).

Vice President Report: Anne Wilson attended the City of Lansing Budget meeting last month and received a four page flyer showing all the proposed cuts. She said there will be two more meetings. She recommended attending the meetings and voicing your opinion on the proposed cuts. Also, Elmhurst School will be having its annual festival on May 5 between 6 – 8 p.m. She asked everyone to support the festival and recommended anyone interested in helping the school to attend their PTA meeting on April 20. Box Tops for Education have raised over \$300 thus far for books and equipment. Don't forget the annual garage sale on June 17. An ad will be placed in the Lansing State Journal. The Annual CVNA picnic will be held on National Night Out August 1. Last year over 300 people attended the picnic. Anne thanked Mark White, L & L Foods, for the treats provided during the meeting. Also, thanked Mike Morofsky for the Cider.

President Report: Anita Beavers asked for a vote whether to participate in the Annual American Cancer Society's Lansing Relay for Life. The Association decided not to participate. Grace United Methodist is still collecting donations

of food items. Volunteers are needed for the CVNA Calling List. Contact Anita if you can spare ½ hour a month to make calls pertaining to the meeting. Volunteers will also be needed for the picnic. Anita asked for feed back pertaining to speakers. Contact her if you have program suggestions. She said the board is looking into keeping "For Sale" signs out of the traffic circles.

Members are encouraged to attend the free celebrate diversity event at Eastern High School, Don Johnson Athletic House. Also Adopt –A-River event moved to the following Saturday because of the Nazi demonstration at the Capitol.

Area One: Mike Morofsky said he has been successful in taking care of a few code compliance issues with the Code Compliance Officer. Contact him if you have questions or issues to discuss.

Area Two: (Mt. Hope south to Victor and Pleasant Grove to Boston) CVNA is still seeking a volunteer to serve as Area Representative for this area.

Area Three (Areas of Colonial Village south of Victor): Greg Kazak forwarded his report to be read in his absence. His report included the following: Greg Scrimger has been helpful addressing a number of code compliance issues. Improperly posted signs are showing up on utility poles advertising everything from lawn services to home mortgages. Mortgage fraud is at an all-time high in the state and neighbors are reminded to avoid any advertisement relating to home mortgages or “Avoid Foreclosure”. Use a reputable representative from your bank or financial institution and never sign the title of your home over to a mortgage lender. Neighbors are asked to refrain from parking cars on city streets between 2:00 – 5:00 a.m. Street sweepers will be cleaning the streets. Contact Greg at (517) 887-2901 for issues in Area three.

City Council: Carol Wood, Lansing City Council, discussed many of the budget balancing strategies under consideration. She provided copies of Budget Information Based on the mayor’s proposed budget and will provide the same information for CVNA’s Website. The last public forum was attended by approximately 100. She suggested attending the next two meetings to voice your opinions concerning the proposed budget changes.

Ingham County Commission: Dale Copedge announced the hiring of Edwin Dore as the County’s new financial controller. The Commission is also reviewing the possibility of a new mileage and several other options to support juvenile justice, Potter Park Zoo, etc.

Announcements :

June 17, 2006 - Annual neighborhood garage sale

June 17 – 18, 2006 – American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life – The Association voted not to have a team, however, members were asked to support it by attending the event.

New Business:

Judy Koelsch presented the Association with a proposal to develop a volunteer committee who will plant flowers and maintain the traffic circles on Boston Blvd. The proposal was accepted and approved.

The winner of CVNA’s Drawing was Janet Anderson

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next regular meeting will be held June 21, 2006.