



## Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA) June 18, 2008

President Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Anita invited everyone to enjoy the ice cream and refreshments before she introduced Officer Bock and guest speaker, Diane Thompson, who represented the Friends of Lansing City Market. Other board members in attendance were Michael Morofsky, Mary Bechtol, Thelma Dempsey & Willie Vinson. Thirty-eight CVNA members and guests attended the meeting including, Joe McDonald, Mayor's Office, Kathy Dunbar, City Council & SLCDA, Brian Anderson of CDCD, Dr. Otto Graesser, and Ingham County Commissioners Victor Celentino and Dale Copedge and Curtis Hertel, Jr.

**Lansing Police Department Report:** Officer Bock reported the police had solved five home invasion cases. The accused were two-17 year old girls. The girls had the appearance of students as they carried book bags while casing and robbing houses. Officer Bock said some items were confiscated and returned to the rightful owners. He suggested helping the police in situations like this by placing serial numbers on bikes and other household items and/or taking photos of the items. Doing so will expedite the return of stolen items. He also said they were able to catch these girls because of information received from neighbors and citizens in the area. He reminded everyone of Michigan's fireworks law. If you are planning to use fireworks, remember SNL W/T. If it spins, makes noise, leaves the ground or w/ twist it is probably illegal in Michigan. Office Bock said that the K-13 unit is planning a trouble solving meeting. He urged neighbors to send him an email if there are issues they would like discussed.

**Program:** In addition to the Ice Cream Social the guest speaker, Diane Thompson, with Friends of Lansing City Market remarked on the history of the market and explained the Market's intent. Currently the market offers one-stop shopping. You can find all food groups at the market including snacks like popcorn, bedding plants, breads, meats, etc. The market's role is to support both organic and other local farmers and businesses. The bread, sold at the market, is milled one hour from Lansing.

The best way the community can support the market is to shop there. She asked residents to "Vote With Your Fork". She explained the "Buy into a Farm Program." Go to [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org) for a list of farmer's markets and market hours. She said the City of Lansing has plans to remodel the buildings and make other changes at the market to make it a three season market and more of a marketplace for fresh vegetables, entertainment and local arts & crafts. The Friends of the City Market has concerns about some of the changes including changes to the buildings, the raising of booth rental costs, and making sure there will be adequate parking. What can we do to help The Friends of the Market?: Petition to City Council, distribute handouts of information about changes to the market, write a letter to the Lansing State Journal, Let City Council know the market is not for sale. The Friends are looking for grant money and grant writers to help pay for a feasibility study reference market viability. The Friends have met with the City Council's Planning and Development Committee many times and are thinking of hiring an attorney for council.

**Mayor's Office Report** Joe McDonald said the City of Lansing is committed to a viable City Market with outdoor vendors. \$1.7 mil has been set aside to make create a four season marketplace. Brian Anderson, EDC shared a photo of the current plans for the market. Joe McDonald explained how the City is trying to address a \$3 mil deficit and possible 50 lay-offs/jobs. He said although the Code Compliance officer is still on the job and will be able to respond to any neighborhood problems, he may not be able to attend all CVNA meetings due to budget expenses. He invited everyone to attend the free Concerts in the Park Series. Check the City's Website for locations and times. Next Wednesday night, 7 p.m., the concert will be in Quinton Park. Joe also responded to questions pertaining to storm damage in the neighborhood. He said the City has made Damage Assessment forms available for Federal Funds and responded to Mike Morofsky's questions reference a better communications effort to residents. Anne Wilson said she called the City's PR office reference to storm damage and received some information pertaining to repairs.

**Minutes:** May minutes were accepted with one change. Instead of the Logan Street Bridge was replaced, it should read, "the Light on Logan Street Bridge was replaced."

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted. Current balance is \$829.31.

**Committee/Project Reports:** Anita Beavers reported on CVNA's annual picnic. It will be held August 5. She asked Neighbors to please donate gift certificates that can be used for prizes. There will be no cotton candy this year, but there will be ice cream. She asked neighbors to bring Dishes to pass. Donations are also accepted.

**President's Report:** Anita Beavers thanked all neighbors for helping neighbors during the storm. She personally thanked Craig Young and John Miles for the clean up and repair of the CVNA sign on the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Mt. Hope. Also, thanks to Pat for clean up and Michael for picking up wood.

**Vice President's Report:** Evelyn Bush's report was given by the President Anita Beavers in her absence.

**Area Representatives Reports:** **Area One Representative** Michael Morofsky reported he is working on several issues with Greg Schrimger. 1200 Kelsey – vacant house – garage door open and grass needs trimming. Also a problem getting the grass mowed at the At&T building and the gas station.

**Area Two Representative** Mary Bechthol reported receiving two telephone calls, but not due to problems.

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

**Ingham County Commission Reports:** Victor Celentino, Dale Copedge spoke about the Lansing City Airport's Point of Entry Status. They now have authority for International shipping, i.e., Ireland, Puerto Rico, and other countries which is a boost of jobs and revenue. The Ingham County Budget is being discussed and reviewed. Other issues of concern are jail overcrowding, software changes and they are still overdue for towers. They hope to have it up by July. Curtis Hertel, Jr. was introduced. He is running for the Register of Deeds position (responsible for managing property records for the entire county). The current Register of Deeds, Paula Johnson, is retiring.

**South Lansing Community Development Association:** Kathy Dunbar, representing SLCDA distributed a brochure, "Discover Lansing", which will be distributed to all tourist areas, convention centers and realtors for open houses, etc.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Area Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Mary Brinks reported that information sheets are available from Neighborhood Watch. 1. What is Neighborhood Watch? 2. Family Data Sheet so you can be contacted in case of emergency (5 questions), 3. Bicycle information sheet (fill in information, take picture, stick in a file for safe keeping). All this information has been added to the CVNA Website under Neighborhood Watch. She asked for volunteers to help distribute family data sheets.

**New Business:**

- The City is looking for 911 dispatchers. There is always an opening. If you like helping people this may be a job opportunity for you. Criteria: High School graduate or GED acceptable. No college degree or previous experience is needed. To apply, go to Michigan Works and complete a data entry test, video test. You must complete eight months of training.
- The Colonial Village First Baptist Church is setting up a Town of Jerusalem Marketplace July 28, 29, & 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. complete with farm animals and other items: weaving, spice shop, bakery, candy factory, carpenter shops (making crosses), jewelry and pottery. More information will be placed on the CVNA Website. Cvnanews.com
- South Lansing Community Farmer's Market will open every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. on Holmes & Pleasant Grove beginning August 5.
- The CVNA Picnic will be held August 5 at Elmhurst School. There will be no regular meeting in August due to the Picnic.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.