



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA) March 19, 2008

President Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Evelyn Bush and Thelma Dempsey. Willie Vinson, Michael Morofsky and Mary Bechtol were absent. Thirty-seven CVNA members and guests attended the meeting including Officer Jason Bock, Lansing Police Dept.; Murdock Jemerson, Lansing Parks and Recreation Director; A'Lynne Robinson, and Kathie Dunbar, Lansing City Council; Greg Schrimger, Lansing Code Compliance; Dale Copedge, Ingham Co. Board of Commissioners; Judy Felice, Friends of Frances Park. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, attendees introduced themselves table-by-table.

Lansing Police Department Report: Officer Bock distributed a map showing offenses that have occurred in Team Area 9 in the last 30 days. There were no reports for the CVNA area. The incidences that did occur were not listed because the offenders were known. We were reminded to keep cars locked and to keep valuables out of sight in the trunk.

Program: Clara Bratton, Naturalist with Fenner Arboretum, discussed bird habitats and ways to attract birds to our backyards. There are several types of birdfeeders: some birds like to stand on perches, others like a flat surface or feed from the ground. The single most attractive bird seed is black "oiler" sunflower seed. Most squirrels don't like safflower seeds. Clara passed around samples of various seeds. The most active month for migrating birds is May. President Beavers announced a surprise. An anonymous donor generously gave CVNA enough copies of Birds of Michigan by Ted Black so that each attendee could have a book. Clara, whose retirement was recently announced, was recognized for her contribution as a knowledgeable and respected naturalist. Due to the City's budget deficit, the naturalist position may not be funded for 2008-2009. The budget will soon be presented to the public via community meetings. Those who feel strongly about funding the naturalist position can attend and voice their opinions.

Ingham County Board of Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dale Copedge made his report early because of another commitment. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners, in cooperation with the Ingham County Circuit Court's Family Division, is in the process of purchasing Our Savior Lutheran Church (1601 W. Holmes Road) which will house the Ingham Academy. This facility will provide services for at-risk juveniles and their families. One of the initial programs will be a day school for up to 40 non-violent youths who are not doing well in school. Plans include evening study and activities time. There will be no overnight stays. The school hopes to be ready for students to begin the 2008-2009 academic year beginning Sept. 2, 2008.

Minutes: February meeting minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Dempsey reported that the current balance is \$268.30. The report shows the anonymous donation for the Birds of Michigan books with an off-setting expense. CVNA donated \$25.00 to the American Red Cross in memory of Mayor Virg Bernero's mother. Donations from the last meeting were \$58.00.

Committee/Project Reports: No reports.

President's Report: Anita Beavers announced at event at Cooley Gardens and encouraged CVNA members to attend State Representative Joan Bauer's regularly scheduled coffees. The semi-annual CVNA Newsletter will be ready for distribution in May. Volunteers are needed to deliver door-to-door; sign up or see Anita after the meeting.

Vice President's Report: Evelyn Bush reported that Elmhurst Elementary School is having a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for their Reading Program. The school also needs more volunteers to help children read. Cole Academy is holding open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year.

Area Representatives Reports: No reports.

Lansing City Council Reports:

A'Lynne Robinson congratulated Anne Wilson on her Bea Christy nomination. She encouraged us to attend the 3rd Ward Second Saturday discussion groups. The next meeting is scheduled for April 12th, 10:00 a.m. – noon. Location is to be announced. Contact Councilmember Robinson or Anita Beavers for further information. The City budget will be released March 24th. Community meetings will be scheduled for citizen input. A meeting will be held Thursday, March 27th, 6:00 p.m. at Rich Middle School to discuss an amendment to the Lansing Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There is a possibility that Woodcreek and Wainwright elementary schools will be closed in the near future.

Kathie Dunbar discussed the proposed Davis Park Trail plan which will re-claim existing trails in the woods and will connect with the new South Lansing Community Center. She also discussed the development of winding trails which would follow Consumer Energy's utility right-of-way. The Hunters Ridge area (west of Waverly Road) wants to keep their green areas. The DNR Trust Fund will help to fund the land purchase.

Lansing Parks and Recreation: Judy Felice, representing Friends of Frances Park, asked for our support to approve funding for a new safe pedestrian access to Frances Park. Funding would come from a DNR matching grant and Lansing Parks millage. A "Walk to the Park" is scheduled for Mar. 30th with participants meeting at Moores River Drive and Cambridge Road. Director Murdoch Jemerson explained the Lansing Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan. Some projects, due to their cost, may be spread over up to five years.

Code Compliance: Greg Schrimger announced that Code Compliance would have a greater presence in our neighborhood in the spring when there would be more seasonal issues. He offered to meet to discuss individual situations after the meeting.

Old Business: Mary Brinks thanked residents for volunteering to assist with the Neighborhood Watch Program. More volunteer participation is welcomed and needed to make our Neighborhood Watch Program as effective as possible. Mary hopes to have street maps available for distribution to participants by April 1st.

New Business: Ann Cook, National City Bank's Colonial Village Branch Manager, announced that the branch located in our neighborhood (Colonial Village Shopping Center) will be temporarily relocating to the other end of the plaza in the vacated Fantastic Sam's space. The recessed portion of the shopping center will be torn down and rebuilt to the frontage of the rest of the stores. The new plans will allow for a bank drive-thru. The bank will close for four days in June to move to their temporary site. The new facility will be ready to open in Spring 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Thank you June Kenfield for preparing the March minutes.