



## Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA) May 21, 2008

President Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Evelyn Bush, Willie Vinson, Michael Morofsky. Thirty-three CVNA members and guests attended the meeting including, Lansing Police Dept Officer Jason Bock., Dr. Otto Graesser, Code Compliance Officer Greg Schrimger, Mayor's Office Joe McDonald, City Council Member A'Lynne Robinson, Ingham County Commissioners Dale Copedge and Victor Celentino and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Mary Brinks.

**Lansing Police Department Report:** Officer Bock reported on a water main break on Peggy Place and Rockway and shared the monthly crime map. Graffiti found at Elmhurst School will be removed immediately. Representative Robinson reported she would be working with Officer Bock to create a more comprehensive report that will tie into her plan to plot crime trends in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward.

**Program:** Robert and Rita Kleins, Elderhostel tour group representatives explained the history and purpose of Elderhostel. The organization started in 1975. The purpose at that time was to utilize dorms of colleges and universities that were not being used during the summer. Now, it continues to be education related and they are all over the world dealing with any subject you might imagine. Although dorm rooms are used in some cases, most of the accommodations are now in hotels and motels and trips are all year round. Elders = learning experience. They have classes & tours to places you normally can't get into and some may be closed to the public. They have top notched tour guides. Some are famous professors and teachers. Elderhostel is able to get you into private homes and allow you the opportunity to talk to people of the area.

Cost for these type trips cost a lot more when you travel commercially. Elderhostel price includes everything including all meals, tips, taxes, etc (except when they want you to sample local cuisine. There are several different type trips and programs. For example, there are outreach programs for when you want to be of service and work and work with your hands; Single women three day, 68 day long cruises and river cruises; grandparent & intergenerational trips; thrifty learner or starter trips. The only trips you can take for \$100 a day. The emphasis is always on learning except there are not tests or grades. Age requirement is 55. Your travel partner can be younger. For more complete information visit their website at: [Elderhostel.org](http://Elderhostel.org).

**Minutes:** April meeting minutes were accepted with the change, "Tennis Courts need to be repaired – changed from Tennis Courts have been repaired".

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$546.30. It includes grant and donations received.

**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 and we will have ice cream. She asked neighbors to bring Dishes to pass. Donations are accepted.

**President's Report:** Anita Beavers thanked the newsletter delivering crew for a fantastic job during her absence. She attended a meeting about South Lansing, i.e., how to keep this part of town viable. It is often neglected. Ingham County is putting out a brochure about neighborhoods in May. CVNA will determine if we will do our own or participate in the new brochure.

Neighborhood-wide garage sale is June 21, 2008. Participants are asked to give a small donation of \$1.00 to help pay for the advertising. This is Neighborhood Pride Week. To keep our neighborhood looking good and the way we like, we must help each other keep up our property and keeping up buildings.

**Vice President's Report:** Evelyn (Evie) Bush reported that schools taking open enrollment. Coles graduation kinder garden class. Their last day will be 6/5/08. Elmhurst school announced their carnival date as May 30; graduation 6/4/08 and last day 6/5/08. Evie also wanted to thank the caretakers of the blvds & gardens: Anita Beavers, Mike Morofsky, Judy Koch, Janet Anderson, Karen Charley, June and Paul Kenfield, Craig Young. In

addition, there are perennials available for sharing. Contact her if you want some of the flowers. Shasta Daisies, Lambs ears and ornamental grasses. They are available for a donation.

**Area Representatives Reports:** **Area One Representative** Michael Morofsky said he turned over to Greg Schrimger several properties with grass cutting & shingles problems. He wrote letter to Mr. Murdock pertaining to the repair of the tennis courts located by the school. He also mentioned grass needed cutting by AT&T building on northwest corner of parking lot. He announced that the lights on Logan Street Bridge were replaced yesterday.

**Area Two Representative** Anita Beavers gave Mary Bechtol's report. She said she had nothing to report.

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

**Lansing City Council Reports:** A'Lynn Robinson thanked everyone for input on budget issues and thanked everyone who come to her 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday meetings each month at the Fire Station on Pleasant Grove. She said the Southside Coalition's budget was increased to fund their farmers market and elder programs. She reviewed the Benjamin Davis Park area's cohesive plan. It includes tournament level walking trails, Skate Park and Harry Hill track area. The Southside Community Center opening date is estimated to be the early part of 2009. She is also working on the cell phone tower master planning committee. She said the Council chose to vote affirmative in favor of golf courses (Red Cedar/Waverly) and allocated \$200,000 to make that happen. Also a naturalist will be funded for Fenner.

The Council is looking at the Moped ordinance (on sidewalks and helmet requirements). She also reported she is working on a plan to plot crime trends in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Neighborhood. She will be working with Officer Jason Bock's office to coordinate his report with the others. They are also looking at the possibility of a rash of graffiti in the city.

Mayor's Office Report: Joe McDonald announced there will be a master plan update meeting, open to the public, in the Pattengill Middle School Auditorium 6 – 8 p.m. Also reminded everyone to Be a Tourist in Your Own Town on May 31. He thanked Mary Brinks for her involvement in the Neighborhood Watch Program. He said he received a request for new Neighborhood Watch signs, however, they cost \$23 each and there is still a large inventory of the old signs they would prefer to use until they are gone. He said the City Budget passed with 99% agreement and didn't raise taxes or credit rating.

**Ingham County Commission Reports:** Victor Celentino and Dale Copedge reported they have started their budget review process. They are looking at a \$3 to \$4 mil deficit in 2009. They are looking for money to fund out county road Patrol. They want to have a cost-share initiative with them. The Airport received International status to extend cargo shipping. They will be extending a runway 500 ft. to accommodate this. Victor Celentino has been working for 1.5 years with the Legislature and was disappointed they would not be able to vote on the \$5 mil proposal.

The Commission is looking for volunteers to sit on different commissions. Go to their website [www.ingham.org](http://www.ingham.org) for more details.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Area Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Mary Brinks said information is available. Basic Safety Tips, Vacation Tips. If you notice something, call 911 or call non-emergency number. She will need volunteers to help deliver Neighborhood Watch information bags to each home in the neighborhood. She reported that the Website, "Citizen Observer" is now on-line. All you have to do is go online and sign-up to receive reports. If you don't have a computer, block captains will provide you with the information. Ms Brinks said if you see something and think its odd, call the police. A question was received from the audience pertaining to a group home being placed in the neighborhood and safety as a result of it. Explanation was received from City Council members and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Due to the strict rules group homes have to meet, set up by the State's Community Mental Health Agency, they are safe and in most cases they keep the property in good shape as well.

**New Business:** Dennis, Manager of L & L, reported on the status of the Colonial Village mall. Rite Aid expansion is on hold, bank will stay put and options on Hollywood Video are in early stages. Mall landlord sent out a team with vacuums to sweep parking lot and pick up every pebble. It's promised they will sweep twice a year. A plan is underway to resurface the parking lot and strip within 30 days.

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