

Present: Karl Biasi, Jay Knapp, Shawn Cox, Mike Morofsky, Suzanne Salay and Kathy Miles.

Karl called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00.

Minutes of **March 16** were approved.

Treasurers Report – Beginning balance was \$691.44. Income was \$34.75 in donations for Gary Bush and a grant from the Mayor's Advisory Board for \$750.00. Expenses were \$7.42 for frames for the certificates for the winners of the holiday lighting contest. Our ending balance is \$1,468.77.

Karl asked for volunteers to help with Newsletter distribution, refreshments, help planting and maintaining the plantings in the traffic circles and to beautify Colonial Village shopping center. Those interested should contact Anita.

Area 1 – Mike reported a break-in in the 1600 block of Victor and a possible attempt in the 1600 block of Rundle. A medium blue car with 4 African-American males was seen. One of them knocks on the door. If no one answers, they kick the door in and ransack the house. If someone does answer, they make up a name of someone they are supposedly looking for and when told that person does not live there, they leave. They are taking electronics, money and medications. Mike asked that we keep an eye out for unfamiliar vehicles and call police. A neighbor of the house on Victor was upset that the police had not notified neighbors of the crime or canvassed the area for witnesses. Carol Wood said that the report would be turned over to detectives and they would come around at some time.

There is a broken traffic sign on Cooper with a piece of steel projecting from the ground. It poses a possible hazard and was reported to public safety a year ago but is still not fixed. There is also a large hole in the street on Victor and the gas line there has leaked and had to be repaired 3 times. A neighbor said that this has been going on for months and she wishes it would finally be taken care of. Mike will keep trying to contact Chad Gamble at public safety.

A house in the 1600 block of Rundle flooded again after the recent heavy rain that had flooded and had roots in the drain after the CSO project.

There was discussion over the fact that two Code compliance officers will be laid off and another will be put on desk duty. Carol **Wood** said this is going to happen even if the Millage passes.

Vic Celentino's father is seriously ill and in the hospital so he could not attend. Mike reported that the road repairs on Waverly road will be finished in 6 weeks.

Area 2 – Jay reminded us that we now have a Facebook site.

Area 3 – No report. Bill wrote to be excused.

Vice President – Shawn informed us that the annual picnic will highlight neighborhood entrepreneurs this year. If you know anyone who has their own business and would like to be mentioned, please contact him. He also encouraged everyone to get involved in the neighborhood spruce-up. His number is 482-5376.

Police Report – Officer Osborn passed out packets with the current crime map along with a sheet explaining what the crimes were, a team area map, and one with contact numbers and assigned shifts contact numbers for officers. Currently 13 of the 25 reported incidents are still under investigation. She was asked about the break-in on Victor and what procedure is on alerting neighbors. Procedure is to go to door-to-door but she said that they don't normally leave cards. No one is in custody at this time. She will look into it and get back to us as she has been off on sick leave for a while and is not familiar with the incident.

City Council - Carol Wood discussed the Marijuana ordinance and explained that it is still being refined. There were 67 applications for licenses. They are currently being investigated to ascertain who is running a valid business. The City Clerk and City Attorney checked on proper zoning. Letters *were* sent out asking for LLC information to check for valid

licenses. Some shops sell 'grow' equipment but do not sell the product. Currently there are 48 operating legally. She passed out a comprehensive list and asked if a shop opens that is not on the list that we contact her. The new ordinance will be passed by July. Hydroworld will be moving as they did not have the required number of parking spaces. Carol was asked what defines a patient. It requires a prescription from a doctor and no drug record. A patient is allowed to have 12 plants or 2.5 ounces of marijuana in his home. There is no regulation on how often a patient may get a prescription filled. An Assigned Caregiver may have 5 patients. Michigan law does not define the term "relationship" with a doctor. Dr. Graesser explained that the Federal government is currently examining that and may tighten up restrictions. He recommends fellow physicians have a long-term background before writing prescriptions. Carol said that right now a person can get one over the Internet without ever meeting a doctor in person.

Speaker – Aileen Gow from the Board of Water and Light speakers' bureau passed out folders which explained the many programs and rebates available through their office. You can access all the information online at www.lbw.com or call 1-877-NRG-BWL (674-5295). They have an integrated resource plan, mandated by the State, which is paid for by users. They offer appliance recycling for old, working refrigerators, dehumidifiers and air conditioners as well as rebates for purchasing new energy-efficient ones. If you replace your old furnace with a more efficient one you are eligible for a rebate from Consumers Energy for the furnace and a rebate from BWL for the motor. BWL is now offering a \$10.00 rebate on "smart saver" surge protectors which shut off current when appliances are not in use. They are beginning a new program to work with apartment managers to replace old appliances and introduce CFL bulbs and introduce energy conserving shower heads and aerators. They offer a program online that you can use to audit your energy usage and also have a library with information on projects you can do to conserve. There is even a kids coloring book online.

An underused benefit is the weatherization of homes for low-income people. The qualification is \$23,832 for a single person with an increase of \$7,640 for each additional member. If you know anyone who could use this help they can reach get information at 393-1780 in Lansing or check online of outlying areas.

Free CFL bulbs were passed out and cards made available to get 4 free bulbs in the mail. Ms Gow explained that CFL bulbs have been around for 20 years. She said that a 100 watt CFL bulb only uses 27 watts of electricity and would be safe in a lamp that would normally only be safe to use a 60 watt incandescent bulb in. A comment was made that some CFL bulbs are not lasting as long as promised and she said that some of the early ones haven't but quality has improved. The CFL bulbs are made in China and she explained that light bulbs have always been a European product.

An article was cited from Prevention magazine about LED bulbs. They last 25 years and use half the energy of CFL's. They also have a more pleasing color of light and contain no mercury or lead. Ms. Gow explained that right now they are expensive but as price comes down BWL will be offering and promoting those.

City Council – A'Lynne Robinson, area representative for our area and Eric Hewitt spoke on the upcoming millage vote. A'Lynne mentioned the meetings that have taken place are to give residents the opportunity to decide the priorities and have input on how cuts are made. She said that while the ballot language does not specify that the millage, if passed, would go directly to police/fire and roads. City Council would make every possible effort to see that is where it would be used. Eric Hewitt expressed a desire to regionalize the fire department and outsource trash pick-up for the city. No concrete plans on the budget can be made until after the Millage vote and until the city finds out how much revenue sharing Governor Snyder allots us.

SLADA - Chris Herrmann asked for participants to help with the planting of flowers and trash pick-up at Colonial Village shopping center on May 14th. Hopefully this will attract new tenants for the center. A survey will be sent out in June as a test to show stability in the area.

Karl dismissed the meeting at 8:45.

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