



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA)

November 15, 2006

President, Anita Beavers, called the meeting to order. Other board members in attendance were Mike Morofsky, Greg Kozak, Anne Wilson, Thelma Dempsey and Willie Vinson. Twenty-five members and guests attended the meeting, including Carol Wood, Lansing City Council, Dale Copedge, Ingham County Commission and Joe McDonald, Mayor's Office.

Lansing Police Department Report: Officer Jason Bock's duties have been re-assigned and he no longer will be able to attend regular meetings. Officer Walt Kim is his replacement. Districts 10 and 11 were divided in half to form a new District nine. There are fewer officers who now cover bigger districts. Colonial Village has been moved to the newly formed district nine.

Program: Ann Cook, City National Bank, thanked everyone for welcoming her to the neighborhood as the new manager of City National. She explained her background and the strategy she brings with her to the bank. "Treat all customers as if they are your guests." A percentage of credit card purchases, made with a City National credit card, go toward breast cancer research. The bank is a full service brokerage firm; they can help with retirement planning and personal banking such as home equity line of credit and home equity loans. Their personnel are certified in all aspects of personal and business banking needs. They appreciate the business of neighborhood residents and they are a big supporter of CVNA's programs.

Minutes: The July Minutes were approved and accepted. There were no August minutes due to the Annual Picnic.

Treasurer's Report: Thelma Dempsey presented the budget. Previous balance \$532.67 + \$511.42 income - (\$530.38 expenses = current balance \$513.71. Expenses included the cost of the Annual Picnic and repair of the CVNA sign. The report was accepted.

Vice President Report: Anne Wilson reported that she, Anita Beavers and Mike Morofsky attended a meeting at the South Precinct to meet the Chief of Police. They discussed the district re-alignment and new contact list. Anne asked everyone to assist in getting the word out about Candidate's night scheduled to be held October 18. Flyers are available for distribution. See her or Anita for copies. Elmhurst elementary School's Open House is scheduled Thursday, September 21, 2006 and PTA meeting will begin after the open house at 7:30 p.m. Stop by and welcome the new principal, Sue Saltman.

The Mayor's office has formed a Southside Community Center Committee to discuss and present a plan to the Mayor by December 1. Because there is no center or anything like one south of I-496 the Mayor formed the committee to find the best location. Anne was asked to participate on the Committee. She explained her duties and asked CVNA members to give her feedback on what they would like to have happen at the center in the line of activities, programs, services, etc. Doing so will help with the design of the building. She would also like to hear your opinions of the locations currently under consideration: Our Savior Lutheran Church on Holmes Road, Risdale Park on Pleasant Grove, Benjamin Davis Park on Pleasant Grove and Kendon Park.

The Chair of the Committee, Frank Lain, added that the Committee is reviewing previous reports, going back 20 years, prepared for the Center and is using that information along with information they are currently collecting to ensure a thorough and complete report for the Mayor. They received a two million dollar donation from Joel Ferguson and a one million dollar grant from the city to build the center. He said three million dollars is not a lot of money, therefore, our concerns need to be heard before the engineers draw up the final plan. After the engineers draw up the plan, it will be too late to decide how to use the building. Meetings are held Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayors' Conference Room on the 9th floor of City Hall and are open to the public. Some meetings are held off-site to tour potential locations. The building is expected to be complete by 2008.

President Report: Anita Beavers reported that 48 Candidate Night invitations were sent to candidates and she has received eight responses to date. Anne Wilson is taking care of communications to get the word out about the event. She also asked Association members to help distribute flyers and invite their neighbors, friends, church members, etc. to help fill up the church sanctuary.

The cost of repairing the neighborhood sign was \$95 up from the original estimate of \$75 because of the amount of damage done by graffiti. The police have reported an increase in graffiti in the area and they are keeping watch.

The Baptist church next door holds regular seminars and the subject of the next seminar is prevention of identity thief. It will be held October 1 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. It's free to the public. Dale Copedge, Ingham County Commission, added that identity thief is a growing crime in this area.

The annual picnic was a success and all expenses were paid with donations and a \$325 grant. \$362.00 was received. \$157.00 of those dollars were donated and received at the picnic. The overall cost of the picnic was \$468.03. The Children's Theater Group

was also a big hit. Pictures were provided for all to see. Ann Cook, City National Bank was thanked for the generous donation of \$300 toward the printing of the newsletter.

Lewton Rich Neighborhood Association holds their meetings Lewton Rich School. Their meeting will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. Their speaker for this meeting will be Murdock Jameson who will speak on the Potter Park Ballot issue. Carol Wood also mentioned that the placement of Cell Towers, in the area, on Waverly will be discussed.

On September 21, a composting seminar will be held at Clifford Park and Sunday, October 8, will be the Annual Crop Walk to support the garden project. It will begin at 1 p.m. at Dwight Rich School. Call 517-887-4660 for information.

Area One: Michael Morofsky attended the Meet the Chief meeting with Anita Beavers and Anne Wilson. He also said he is working with Greg Scrimger, Code Compliance Officer, on a few issues and he attended the City Council Meeting to discuss an on-going problem.

Area Two: Area Rep. Position vacant contact Anita Beavers if you witness any problems in the area.

Area Three (Areas of Colonial Village south of Victor): Greg Kozak reported that three weeks ago a neighbor's Pit Bull Dog escaped and was able to get close enough to the mailman to snatch the mail out of his hand. A complaint was filed with Animal Control and they will follow up. Carol Wood also said that Lansing has a leash law. The owner can be fined up to \$500. The law states that owners are required to keep their dog on a lease. She suggested contacting Yolanda Bennet at 517-483-4328. Greg also reported safety concerns with the traffic circle at Rockway and Boston especially when traffic is heaviest during the hours of 7 a.m. and again around 4:30 p.m. People are not following the circle, but cutting across instead and he feels it is a hazard to children. The problem has been reported.

City Council: Carol Wood reported that Randy Woods was unable to attend due to a meeting conflict. She let everyone know that the Black Child and Family Institute have started a Children's Choir for 3rd – 6th grade children. It's free and Michigan State University's School of Music will be tutoring the children Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

City Council Rules for addressing the Council during meetings are being revised. She will provide the Association with copies as soon as the rules have been finalized. One rule pertains to persons who wish to address the Council. They must sign up beforehand or call ahead to get on the list. In addition, they have combined public hearings and legislative matters into one to help make the meetings more efficient. There is a new premise code joint committee and rental code to deal with problematic landlords. A new Hearing Clause allows only owners of affected property and one speaker only from neighborhood associations and neighborhood watches to speak on the matter. Anyone can submit their comments in writing.

A CSO Restoration letter will soon be sent out to residents asking for feedback pertaining to conditions of their property. She suggested everyone respond to the letter as quickly as possible. In response to a question pertaining to Ash Tree Removal, she suggested calling Murdock Jameson, Parks and Recreation, at 483-4277.

Ingham County Commission - Dale Copedge reported that Victor Celentino was unable to attend the meeting due to his role on the budget committee. Also, Highfields is back on track and starting to place kids back in the school. They have a new director and have increased their staff. In addition, Waverly Street resurfacing has been complete.

Mayor's Office – Joe McDonald, Special Assistant to the Mayor, provided a quick reference numbers handout and business cards with his telephone number and asked residents to work with them on the CSO restoration project in getting yards back together. He thanked Anne Wilson and Frank Lane for participating on the Southside Community Center Committee.

Committee Reports: The Flower Committee reported that the flowers are doing quite well. Mr. Smith from Smith Flowers was pleased to see the results of his donation. Also, the committee is looking for assistance in maintaining the beds and obtaining some ornamental grasses to plant. Margie Good provided helpful suggestions on how to control grubs in the area. She suggested an organized neighborhood-wide effort to apply a product called Milky Spore in April, July, August and September. To get additional information on the product, go to this website: <http://www.milkyspore.com/milkyspore.htm>.

Drawing:

Thanks to the generous donations of Ann Cook, City National Bank there were four drawings.

1. Dr. Otto Graesser, winner of a City National Bank tote bag
2. Stu Miller, winner of a City National Bank Mug
3. Dale Copedge, winner of a City National Bank tote bag.
4. Lois Stanley, winner of City National Bank umbrella

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 PM. .