



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA) September 17, 2008

President Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other board members in attendance were Evelyn Bush, Michael Morofsky, Mary Bechtol, and Willie Vinson. Thirty-two CVNA members and guests attended the meeting including, City Council members A'Lynne Robinson and Kathy Dunbar; Joe McDonald and Jerry Ambrose from the Mayor's Office; Greg Schrimger, Code Compliance; Office Jason Bock

Basement Flooding Issues: City of Lansing's Public Service Director Chad Gamble and Jerry ? gave an explanation and assessment of rain fall and flooding in the area. Lansing received 6" of rain fall within a 48 hour period which caused an unprecedented event. The Water Treatment Plant received flows they had not seen in 25 years yet there were no pump failures and no pumps went offline. The system was able to handle the excessive flow without incident. Mr. Gamble said his office has received many complaint calls pertaining to basement flooding from all over the city. He said that sewers were designed for a 25 year event. What occurred was a 100 year event. This rain simply overwhelmed the footing drains and water had no place to go except into basements.

Jerry Ambrose, Mayor's Office said they are doing a damage assessment across the region. The City will offer low interest loans for qualified assessments. Call 517-483-4692 to report flooding/storm damage. You will hear a recording, choose proper extension and leave information pertaining to what type damage, extent of the damage, if you need assistance removing items, etc. If you are a senior or have a handicap and need assistance removing debris from the basement, let them know and they will follow-up by sending volunteers to help you. In addition, if needed, a special curbside pick up will be arranged. If you need a special pick up call 517 483-4692. Neighborhood Presidents have been notified that if necessary arrangements can be made to have a dumpster delivered to a public spot where residents can deliver debris to the dumpster. Calls must be made by Friday, September 26, 2008.

Dial 211 (Area-wide Community Assistance Line for health concerns) or Ingham County Department of Environmental Health 517-887-4312 if you have concerns about possible health issues .

Program Speaker: Iris Horner, Coordinator Community Volunteer for International Friendship Family Program said the program started 50 years ago. There are several elements to the program: 1. Spouse gathering - Every Tuesday the spouses of International Students get together and share information and learn to make American crafts; 2. Speaker's Bureau – Speakers are available to talk about their culture, their country, and share other information about where they live; 3. CBIP – Global Festival held at the MSU Student Union Building allows you to travel the world in one day. International Students share crafts, food, games, etc. at this festival. The next festival will be held on November 16, 2008 (Noon – 5 p.m.); 4. International Gift Shop – This shop is located on the 3rd floor of the Student Center. Find many gifts made and donated by the students. Funds go toward scholarships.

Ms Horner said students need donated furniture, blankets, lamps, dishes, and other household items to help them set up their living quarters at MSU. She also asked for volunteers to entertain international students to give them an opportunity to experience American life. Volunteers invite them to birthday parties, have dinner with them in their homes, share holidays (Halloween, Christmas, and Thanksgiving) with them, or just play board games. There are approximately 3,869 students who pay over \$90 mil in college tuition. She said doing so is a great way to get to know more about other countries and develop a relationship with future leaders around the world.

Program - Ballot Proposals: Anne Wilson, CATA Board member, explained the need for the CATA proposal to pass. She said every time gas prices increase \$1 CATA pays \$1 million. Mileage will go toward supporting operations no bus purchases. If failed, CATA will have to reduce some services. Cut weekend evening service, all Saturday & Sunday services and some routes will be shortened. For a \$100,000 house = \$39 a year. Speakers were not available for two of the proposals (Medical use of marijuana and stem cell research. Both sent literature which was distributed by President Anita Beavers.

Minutes: July minutes were accepted with one change. Minutes should have read, the SBC Ameritech building grounds are being mowed bi-weekly instead of "The SBC Ameritech building is only being mowed monthly." No meeting was held in August due to the annual picnic.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted: Income \$361.16, expenses \$250.56, Current balance \$939.91. L & L was thanked for their donation of \$230.27 worth of food/supplies for the picnic. In addition, a donation of \$50 was received from Dr. Otto Graesser. The many friends of Nancy Young donated \$200.00 in memory of her.

President's Report: Anita Beavers introduced the new manager of the L & L Food Center. Ms Reynolds invited members to shop at the L&L and wanted to point out all the new & positive changes that have occurred. Anita Beavers reported on the status of the neighborhood sign. The sign will be replaced with the help of a \$500 anonymous donation and \$300 grant. The sign should be complete soon. The company will notify her when it is time for a final review prior to installation. The Hon. Amy Krause asked President Beavers to distribute brochures pertaining to Relationship (domestic) violence. Judge Krause will attend the November meeting to discuss this topic further.

Area Representatives Reports:

Area One Representative Michael Morofsky reported a break in on the 1100 block of Woodbine. The owner did not call the police to report it. Michael explained how important reporting any and all crimes are, regardless of how minor they may seem, for the safety of everyone. He also reported on the status of the Railroad issue he has been working on for months. The location of the railroad is outside the Colonial Village Neighborhood area. Mr. Morofsky said he is working on this situation because of his concern for everyone's cars. Michael also mentioned several houses in the neighborhood that have had shingles on their roof for more than three years. He reported the location of those houses to the Code Compliance Officer for further investigation. In his role as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Michael expressed his concern that he had not heard on the status of the shooting on Lenore Street. Michael was informed that family members sent word to the Association expressing their desire to move past the incident and asked the Association not to pursue the issue.

Area Two Representative : Mary Bechtol reported all is well in her area. She had nothing to report.

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

Lansing City Council:

A'Lynne Robinson reported that the cell tower ordinance is still moving forward and her 2nd Saturday Meetings are good in that they allow the opportunity for good discussion about issues in the neighborhoods. The next 2nd Saturday meeting will be held October 11, 2008. She expressed her appreciation to CVNA's President Anita Beavers for participating on behalf of the Association. She said the situation with police radio system's dead spots have been resolved.

Mayor's Office: Joe McDonald reported the City is looking for people interested in taking census. If interested, call 1-877-474-5222. He also said the Mobile Food Pantry program has been very successful. The Pantry will be at Pleasant view on Saturday. The second annual Ramadan dinner will be held September 26 at Cooley Law School. Sultan's Restaurant is doing the catering. The City is planning its sesquicentennial celebration in 2009. The Rotary has been asked to spearhead the celebration. If you have historical documents you would like to share contact the Sesquicentennial committee. Find out more go to the website at www.lansing150.com Joe McDonald also asked residents to take action with the Mayor's Go Green! Personal Pledge program. Information cards were distributed. The Go Green initiative is to promote and encourage environmentally conscious practices in Lansing region.

Ingham County Commission Reports: Dale Copedge reported tests completed on towers and signals passed all tests. New construction must meet same requirements. He said that Victor Celentino could not attend the meeting due to county budget meeting.

South Lansing Community Development Association: Kathy Dunbar, representing SLCD, announced the newsletter distribution is late, they will soon be delivered. She read from the activities page of the newsletter and gave dates/times for many activities and events that will take place on the Southside in the near future. She reported on the master planning and visioning sessions that have been held for the Southside Development. October 2 will be the next scheduled master planning meeting. It will be held at the Grace United Methodist Church.

Neighborhood Watch: Mary Brinks, Lansing Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Colonial Village Area invited residents to consider becoming a Citizen's Police Officer by attending Citizens Police Academy. She also announced literature, pertaining to forming of Neighborhood Watch in the area is being distributed. Contact her to become a block captain.

New Business & Announcements:

- September 28, 2008 – Capitol City River Run
- 2009 – Lansing will celebrate its 150 anniversary. Plans are being made now to help with the celebration. Neighborhoods are asked to get involved. CVNA is seeking volunteers who may be interested in joining a committee to help the Association plan how it will celebrate it's involvement in the City's growth over 150 years.
- Diane Hammond, Parent from Sexton Girls Boosters distributed flyers pertaining to a fundraiser. The Sexton Swim Team will be collecting pop cans/bottles on October 5 to fund purchase and installation of timing device for the pool. Currently there are four lanes and only three of them have timers. All other schools have timers on all lanes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.