

Pinecrest Neighborhood Association (PNA)
January 11, 2021 - 7:00 PM - Zoom
Meeting Minutes
Notes taken by Maureen McCabe-Power

President Abbie Tykocki brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Officers present: President Abbie Tykocki, Vice President Todd Swales, Secretary Maureen McCabe-Power. Officers absent: Treasurer Steve Ueberroth, Members at Large Nichole Biber and Kevin Brown.

Guests present: Sgt. Travis Bove ELPD and Library Director Kristin Shelley

Todd Swales moved the acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Veronica Wilkerson Johnson. Agenda additions were: City deer cull, plaques on trees near tot lot in Henry Fine Park and nominations for the Crystal Award. Agenda additions were accepted, motion passed.

Todd Swales moved the acceptance of the minutes from the November 2020 PNA meeting. Veronica Wilkerson Johnson seconded, motion passed, minutes approved.

East Lansing Police Department - Sgt. Bove reported not a lot going on in Pinecrest with respect to crime. He did report a reorganization in the works in the Police Department and his continued involvement as the PNA liaison uncertain. Lynn Richardson asks why daily speeding in neighborhoods cannot be stopped? Sgt. Bove responded that there are currently 47 officers "from top to bottom" in the ELPD, leaving 4 officers a shift to cover 13 square miles of City. Twenty officers down from the 90s to 2000s. Sgt. Bove indicates calling with complaint(s) helps and time of day license plate helpful. Sgt. Bove also reports that by MI law a ticket can only be issued if the speeding witnessed by a police officer.

Abbie Tykocki offers that the Safe Routes to School plans once implemented might help with the speeding issue.

Veronica Wilkerson Johnson asks if there has been discussion regarding threats nationally as it relates to our capital in Lansing. Kristin Shelley offers that there has been chatter in the media indicating that State capitals could be at risk until the inauguration. Sgt. Bove indicates that it is the MI State Police that guards the capital and then Lansing Police. He had no knowledge of any discussions that may have gone on higher up the chain regarding the involvement of ELPD.

East Lansing Public Library - Kristin Shelley reports that the library is still closed though curb side service and 24/7 lockers very active. Director Shelley reports that on January 12 at 7 PM there will be a special virtual workshop - Worship without Words plus a story time with Elaine Harding.

A special Martin Luther King program will be televised on Monday January 18 - MLK Day - at 7 PM, guest will be Bernice King, Reverend King's daughter.

Safe Routes to School grants are starting to come, Blanchette and Gainsborough are scheduled for resurfacing. More information is available from Nichole McPherson at the ELDPW.

Discussion Agenda - 15 minute time limit per item

PNA 2021 calendar of meetings:

March 15
April 19 - election of officers
June 21
September 20
October 18

Todd Swales moved approval of calendar, Maureen McCabe-Power seconded, motion passed.

Events

President Tykocki asks for a committee to oversee planning of events. No committee was formed - agenda item for March meeting.

Earth Day April 22, Arbor Day April 30 - Ralph Monsma indicates that tree planting has historically been coordinated with Pinecrest school and supported by the city with photo taking included.

June 5 - Stephanie Beeler bike rally

June 19 - Juneteenth

July 22 - PNA picnic

August 21 - neighborhood garage sale

October 23 - Halloween Parade - down payment on horses already made

Memorialization of Stephanie Beeler and Don Power

Stephanie Beeler - Brittany Pazdan, who has headed the committee, reports that Stephanie's husband Dan has been consulted regarding a preferred memorial for Stephanie and the planting of a tree has been chosen. Type of tree and location and plaque all yet to be determined.

Don Power - Brittany reports the type of bench and preferred location has been chosen in memory of Don Power in coordination with the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing. The committee is coordinating with Pinecrest school as the bench will be installed in the northeast corner of the large play area behind the school. A concrete slab will be poured first, then the bench placed and a plaque (inscription to be determined) - all hopefully sometime in the spring of 2021.

Pinecrest "Power Stations" - like little free libraries - are in the discussion stage. The Oxer family on Winchester has requested one be placed in their yard. It is hoped more will be planned. The materials will be purchased and labor will be donated by neighbors. Envisioned contents of Power Stations might be book exchange for people of all ages, seed packets for the garden, recipe cards, kindness rocks, crafts, business cards, etc.

A Calming Cart in honor of Don Power is being discussed by the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing for the Pinecrest School in hopes of it becoming a model for other schools. Calming Carts are for use by school social workers in assisting children who are having a difficult time due to stress and anxiety. The contents are resources to help - music, puzzles, etc.

A huge thank you to Brittany Pazdan and Barbara Hollstein and committee for all the wonderful/thoughtful work on behalf of the PNA to honor two neighbors very much missed.

Community Garden

In the absence of Nichole Biber, Allie Siarto reports that this effort is very much in its infancy. Nichole has spoken to someone at the city and the city seems encouraging. Nichole also has a list of interested people. However, no location or any details have yet been determined. While sources of water and other factors need considering, the relationship of the garden to the PNA needs to be determined. Is the community garden part of PNA or does it have its own nonprofit status as a separate entity? The organizational questions need to be answered first. Lynn Richardson expresses the need to keep the garden part of the PNA. Abbie Tykocki reminds that the nonprofit status of the PNA was allowed to lapse sometime ago and either needs to be renewed or begun anew. Lynn offered to help with getting the answer and getting it accomplished.

PNA Officers for 2021

Board officers are elected for the year at the April meeting per the PNA Bylaws. Needed is a nominating committee. First question for the committee is terms of office I.E. does 2020 count, given no elections were held in 2020, or

simply X out the year? Terms would have been up in 2020 for Todd Swales at VP, Steve Ueberroth, Treasurer, Kevin Brown, Member at Large. All three have remained on the board during 2020. Maureen McCabe-Power stepped in and filled the secretary position vacated due to the passing of Stephanie Beeler.

Volunteers to serve on the nominating committee are: Ralph Monsma, Abbie Tykocki, Todd Swales, Maureen McCabe-Power, Allie Siarto. A Pinecrest Post needs to be completed by March - including the slate of officers - and distributed so those not connected electronically can participate and vote. Ralph Monsma notes that the committee should make every attempt to have officers from all areas of Pinecrest and should make diversity an important factor.

Crystal Awards

Ralph Monsma was nominated last year for the City's highest community service award - Crystal Award - he WON!

The PNA can nominate someone this year - Todd Swales and Maureen McCabe-Power suggest Abbie Tykocki. Abbie Tykocki suggests Maureen McCabe-Power - no action was taken.

Tree Plaques

Over the years trees have been planted in Henry Fine Park honoring neighbors who have made major contributions to the Pinecrest neighborhood and/or the City of East Lansing. Over time some of the plaques memorializing these individuals have tarnished and are unreadable. Brittany Pazdan will consult with Wendy Longpre at the city about the cleaning and/or replacing of plaques.

Deer Cull

Lynn Richardson expresses serious safety concerns regarding the discharging of high powered firearms (rifles) within the boundaries of Henry Fine Park - boundaries shared with homeowners. She cites legislation forbidding the discharging of such firearms (southern half of lower peninsula) within 450' without the property owner's permission - exception being muzzle loaders and shotguns. Lynn wants to go on record as being afraid for her safety and the safety of her dogs.

Veronica Wilkerson Johnson having served on the planning commission when the northern tier trail was being contemplated, recalls concern about driving deer south. Veronica suggests believes the issue deserves another City Council discussion and believes one should be requested.

There being no further discussion, Todd Swales moves to adjourn the meeting, Allie Siarto seconds - motion carries - meeting is adjourned at 8:45 PM.