

Pinecrest Neighborhood Association (PNA) Minutes – March 15, 2021 – Zoom

President Abbie Tykocki formally brought the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Introductions had been made while waiting for attendees to join the zoom meeting.

Board Attendees: Abbie Tykocki, Todd Swales, Maureen McCabe Power, Nichole Biber, Kevin Brown

Board Absent: Stephen Ueberroth

Motions were made, seconded and passed to approve the meeting agenda and January 2021 minutes respectively: Todd Swales, Allie Siarto.

Guests were introduced:

Dr. Green Commemoration Committee

Ron Bacon – EL City Council member

Elaine Hardy – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Administrator, City of EL

Adam DeLay – Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, City of EL

Karen Hoene - Human Rights Commissioner, City of EL

Robert L Green power point presentation summarizing East Lansing civil rights history was made. The purpose and passion of the group (noted above) is to memorialize the civil rights achievements of Robert L Green and his family – the first family to challenge housing discrimination in East Lansing and the nation following John F Kennedy’s November 20, 1962 Executive Order signing abolishing housing discrimination – “red lining.” The Green family located at 207 Bessemaur in what is considered the Northern Meadows neighborhood and the Green children attended Pinecrest Elementary School. The hope is to place a plaque from the National Historic Registry in the front of the house and ultimately to name a building in East Lansing after Mr. Green noting his contribution to the furthering of civil rights. You can watch the presentation and conversation that followed here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H4QmDxbqksr5VenrfbZrPP4VxNKfdkn5/view?usp=sharing>

The presentation is instructive and relates an important journey. Library Director Kristin Shelley requests that material be included in the East Lansing Public Library’s local history collection.

Sgt. Travis Bove reports no crimes in Pinecrest over the last 4 weeks. The ELPD is working at strengthening relations with East Lansing neighborhoods and to that end have employed Neighborhood Resource Specialists to help with that effort. Sgt. Bove is also in charge of the canine unit for the ELPD, Quinn being his constant companion. Meetings in the park with the children are introducing the dogs to the children and are planned quarterly. There will be some construction on local streets this summer so be paying attention.

President Tykocki thanks Sgt. Bove for often going above and beyond the call of duty to be available to the residents of Pinecrest.

ELPD Neighborhood Resource Specialist Yutaka Benson also joined the meeting. The NRS is a new position within the ELPD and the team looks forward to attending PNA events throughout the year and building relationships with our residents.

Chuck Grigsby announced the Study Committee on an Independent Police Oversight Commission is hosting a community input meeting on March 29 at 6pm. Attendees will get an overview of what the Study Committee is working to accomplish and there will be an opportunity for input from attendees and small group break-out discussions. Grigsby shared this link with all meeting details: <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1415>

Library Director, Kristin Shelley announced library re-opening with limited hours, but lots going on virtually. The library now has tutoring, chrome books/hot spots for borrowing and help signing up for vaccines.

Friends of the Library president, Maureen McCabe-Power encouraged people to access Library/Friends website and order t-shirts supporting the Friends.

Ralph Monsma remembers a time capsule buried on Pinecrest School property and wonders where it might be?

Barbara Hollstein announces openings in the ELPD and encourages people to spread the word. Kiwanis of EL sponsoring a candy hunt at home by driving through Patriarche Park the Saturday before Easter, April 3, 2021 - intended for toddler - grade 5.

Nominations Committee - Allie Siarto - reports nominees for positions open this year and highlights the current roster.

President - Abbie Tykocki

VP - Todd Swales

Secretary - Maureen McCabe-Power

Treasurer - Diane Goddeeris to complete the term of Steve Ueberroth

MAL - Nichole Biber, Brittany Pazdan, Veronica Wilkerson Johnson

One of the tasks for the board this year will be a review of the Bylaws that haven't been updated since 2004. Elections for board members will be April 19, 2021 and as always nominations are always welcome from the floor - Zoom.

Committee Reports

Memorial Committee - Brittany Pazdan

Stephanie Beeler:

The annual bike rally has now been named the Stephanie Beeler annual Bid and Stroller Rally and COVID permitting will be held this year on June 5. A crabapple tree in Stephanie's memory will be planted in the park in the late spring or early summer with a plaque memorializing Stephanie.

It was also mentioned that several tree plaques have become unreadable due to weather and need to be replaced.

Power Stations in honor/memory of Don Power are gaining traction. The goal is to have five (5) distributed throughout Pinecrest. So far Blanchette has more than one request so more northerly and southerly streets in the neighborhood are being sought. Materials are being purchased by the PNA, talent to make the stations is being donated so locations need to be decided. They do not all have to be completed at the same time. A graphic design for the stations identifying the purpose is being created a neighbor.

The Kiwanis Club is still working towards installation of a park bench in Henry Fine Park that will also memorialize Don Power.

Community Garden - Nichole Biber

Garden Leader Training was held at the city and interested individuals attended. Size of garden (small, medium, large) desired, location - water, fencing, cost - all questions to be answered. Then more questions such as neighborhood resourcing (composting), natural control (certain plants/flowers) versus pesticides, etc. - lots of work and potential cost to be determined. Newly submitted 501c3 application might help with ability to fund.

Pinecrest Post - Abbie Tykocki

A draft of the post will be distributed to board members for review. Paper copies need to be printed and distributed soon so proper election of officer protocols (Bylaws) can be satisfied.

Two meeting extension time frames (15 minutes) motions were made and approved - Todd Swales, Allie Siarto.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCabe-Power, Secretary
March 18, 2021