

Draft
Minutes
RCCA Board meeting
Feb. 10, 2014

President Jim DeWitt welcomes everyone.

Board members present: Erin Anderson, Maria Zdybel Chisolm, Jim DeWitt, Deb Robinson, Joanne Russell, Liz Schweitzer, Ruth Stump. Board members absent: Bill Hartwig, Karen Hoene, Heather Rivera.

Also present are CRC intern Hannah Champ and EL Neighborhood Partnership liaison, Ami VanAntwerp.

The agenda is unanimously approved with one item added by Deb related to Red Cedar school.

The September 12, 2013 minutes are approved. The January 23, 2014 minutes are approved with the addition on one paragraph related to the MSU presentation.

Treasurer's report - Deb reports that we have received a \$90.54 reimbursement from the city on the grant that was approved. There is a balance of \$332.54. A request by Liz for a reimbursement of \$12.59 for copying is approved.

Neighborhood Watch - Adrian cannot be with us tonight. He shared his report with Liz: there were two incidents - one was a break-in on Marigold in early December (occupants were out of town); another was a financial scam that was reported from Marigold in January (by phone or email).

Adrian also noted that he is willing to present the Powerpoint that the city has developed regarding Emergency Preparedness if we would like that as part of the RCCA Annual Meeting program. We agree it would be a good idea. There is a going to be a kick-off of this presentation at the Feb. 24th Council of Neighborhood Presidents meeting, and then the city will be available to do it for individual neighborhoods. We discuss the recent power outage and the concerns we have about seniors in our neighborhood. We have emails for half the homeowners, and in a power outage situation, communications is even more of a challenge. Jim notes that at the recent CONP meeting, it was suggested that Hannah Community Center could be an emergency shelter for such situations. Ami shares that the city is looking into an emergency communications system such as NIXLE for instant messaging. MSU has such a system in place for MSU students, etc. There is also some discussion as to why the city did not declare a state of emergency during the power outage in December.

Trowbridge Merchants group - Deb says there have been no meetings so no report.

Neighborhood Partnership Program - Ami reports that another round of \$250 mini-grants is available to neighborhood associations. It is open to a wider group so more competition. She distributes copies of the application but it also online. June 30 is the deadline.

Ami also looked into the status of the city obtaining a different FEMA rating in order for home-owners to get a reduction in the cost of federal flood insurance. The city is working

with the DEQ now and eventually FEMA will do an audit. This could be a year-long process. Joanne notes that the west end of Daisy has no storm sewer; she will contact Glen at city hall to let him know in case he doesn't already.

Community Relations Coalition - Hannah suggests bringing the neighborhood residents and the RC school together for a shared event - perhaps around April 22, Earth Day. She will post something on Next Door eventually, and we will let neighbors know as well. She and Brendan have planned another Neighbors Night Out for Tuesday, February 25th, probably at Hobies.

Council of Neighborhood Presidents - Jim and Joanne attended the recent meeting. There was a Trowbridge Road update on the agenda, and concerns were raised about the project from other neighborhoods as well. Concerned Citizens group is doing a series of presentations on some city issues including the financial support that the city can give to projects.

Construction Junction - Jim reports not much new going on outside given the weather.

Senior Commission - Maria reports that newsletters from the senior program will now be sent to a much larger group - quarterly. Kathy Boyle is the EL city council member who serves as their liaison. The group is trying to push universal design.

Comprehensive Plan update - Joanne serves on the Housing steering committee for this process. They are also talking about universal design as one of their goals. The Comp Plan process will take about a year.

Trowbridge Plaza - Not much new information. No word yet on when McGraw will put the proposal back on the Planning Commission agenda. One of the outcomes of Brendan's meeting last month was the production of a petition to express the value of Shop-Rite for the larger community. They have over 370 signatures so far.

Red Cedar School - Deb suggests going back to the school board to promote keeping RC open give new information from MSU about their future housing. We agree that this is still an open item.

Annual meeting - Liz has reserved Thursday, April 24th at the Red Cedar school for our annual meeting. Joanne suggests using the remainder of our mini-grant money for some sub sandwiches for a potluck, asking residents to bring other items like salads, desserts, munchies. Using grant funds for this purpose may or may not be possible – Ami will check on it and get back to us. Ruth, Maria, Erin agree to work on planning the annual meeting including the flyer that will need to go out.

By-law changes - Liz proposes some minor changes to the by-laws for clarification. There is unanimous approval to present these for a vote at the annual mtg. The flyer will say to see the website for the proposed changes. Liz will send the proposed changes to

Jan to post on the website. There is also a motion (required by our current by-laws) to set the annual dues for this annual meeting at \$5 per individual or \$10 per household. Motion passes unanimously.

Board member concerns - We discuss the break in a pipe coming from the water main along Triowbridge in front of Arbor Forest that occurred last week. It took 4 hours to repair and water service to most of the north side and south side of Trowbridge was off for that period of time. Soon afterward, a water main break occurred on Arbor Drive near Palmer Lane. Water was rushing down Arbor for a while before the city was able to repair it late that evening. For future reference, if no one answers a city phone line, call 911.

Future of RCCA board - Liz shares her concern that the four officers have been on the board for a while, some serving a second time. We need new board members and new officers come spring. If we move to a quarterly meeting schedule, it should reduce some of the time commitment. We agree to be looking for new board members.

Jim notes he had 15 deer in his yard yesterday...

Liz notes that the Red Cedar school Festival of Cultures will take place on May 22 at 7 pm, rain date is May 29.

Next RCCA Board meeting - Thursday, March 13th, same time and location.