



## MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Board Meeting Minutes

**FEBRUARY 13, 2006** at 6:30 pm  
Meredith Drive Reformed Church  
5128 Meredith Drive, Room 244

**Attendees** - Those in attendance were Al Minear, Chris Craig, Ken Craig, Wayne Thomas and Cheryl Musser. Absent were Bob Wells who had to attend a visitation, Keri McDermott will be having her baby, Emily Chafa had another meeting, Mark Hrubetz was sick, Don Shaw had another appointment, and Lori and Dave Thelen could not make it.

Thanks to all for RSVPing and emailing your reports. We had a quorum present to vote on several items on the agenda. Chris invited guest Som Rasavanh, possible candidate for Secretary, to come see what we did at our meetings; Som helped Chris pass out all the meeting materials and get things set up. Cheryl brought fresh popcorn and candy as treats for the meeting which we all enjoyed very much and recommended she continue!!

**Call To Order** - The Board Meeting was called to order by Al Minear at 6:35 pm. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Wayne to approve the minutes of the previous January meeting which passed.

**Guest Som Rasavanh** was welcomed and asked by Al to introduce herself. She lives at 4518 Bel-Aire and has known about the MNA and has thought about doing more. After consideration of the open Secretary position, Som felt uncomfortable with the responsibility now and she was asked to join the Social Committee; Cheryl and she will communicate and organize our May 9 potluck and also contact Famous Dave's and Carlos O'Kelly's for food donations. Chris will forward that contact information to Cheryl so we can get our requests in early.

**Treasurer Report** - Keri McDermott had provided copies of her report which were approved. Beginning balance of \$6,424.28; revenue of \$400.00 from (22) memberships and advertising; expenses of \$1,340.22; and the ending balance as of February 13, 2006 of \$5,484.06. Expenses are grouped and reported by project.

**Hoover Tree Grant:** President Bob Wells received an email from Maribeth Newman at Hoover requesting neighborhood association matching donation funds for a \$3,000 grant they submitted to plant additional trees and perennials in conjunction with the new athletic complex construction. The Board voted to donate \$100 to the project as it will be a beautification project adding long-term value to our neighborhood. Chris will draft a letter from President Bob Wells and get with Keri for a check.

**Hoover Post Prom Committee:** President Bob Wells received an email from committee member Lori Garth regarding the May 7 alcohol and drug free event booked at Plaza Lanes again. Prom night is Saturday, May 6. 240 seniors will be graduating and their committee is soliciting for donations to cover a budget of approximately \$16,000. Beavertdale made a donation of \$250; Lower Beaver donated \$10 and t-shirts. Sponsors are promoted in the newspaper, at the event, and through school materials. The Board tabled the donation issue at the last meeting and noted that our boundaries support two school districts of Des Moines and Johnston. The Board voted to support this controlled safe environment with a \$50 donation. Chris will draft a letter from President Bob Wells and get with Keri for a check.

**Hoover Golf Outing:** The Board voted to reduce our \$100 Golf Outing hole sponsorship to a \$50 donation; funds help support student activities and materials each year. We can adjust if needed with further discussion.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Social Committee:** Cheryl Musser reported that at our February 7 quarterly meeting we had excellent speakers; several were impressed with what the MNA does and how we operate. Speaker Marlene Thatcher of Remax said she was going to get her neighbors to join and she offered some free services to

the neighborhood. We thought we had a good turnout for this time of the year and Cheryl did another excellent job of treats for the evening. We thought new membership coordinator Mark Hrubetz did a great job of introducing himself and his ideas and has a good grasp of what the MNA does. Chris mentioned on the events calendar that we moved the annual Garage Sale weekend to the Fri/Sat of May 19 and 20 as the weekend prior is Mother's Day weekend. She asked the Board to tell folks should they inquire.

**Community Development:** Don Shaw was not present but Wayne Thomas reported that our joint Scrub Day with the Merle Hay Association was scheduled for Saturday July 22 and he has to turn in the form to the city by February 24 with several date choices and hopefully we will get that date. The city will have the transfer station open the same day for bigger hauling items, and a compost site open once a month for 7 months. We will still have the shredder and appliance drop. We might put something in the Spring newsletter to give folks even earlier notice of the Scrub date. Wayne mentioned he needs to step back and is looking for a replacement to take over Scrub Day; the Board thought since he knows what is involved he might seek out a co-coordinator this year to help him to introduce how the whole procedure works. Wayne might have a person in mind; we need to get younger folks involved to take over as we have some older members working now. Wayne is checking with Connie Cook for use of the Hoover parking lot again and with the MHNA representative as this is Joanne Talarico's last year and she is training another couple.

**Beautification Committee:** No report was available. Chris mentioned she followed up on a lead from Bob Wells who was contacted by fellow church member Bob Boles of the Men's Garden Club that his group is looking for a service project and is interested in helping with the Palm and Bel-Aire Street islands. They have a meeting coming up and Bob will tell them we have a Sunday, May 21 planting day starting at 1:00 pm to clean up and plant annuals and perennials at the islands and around the Westchester Park sign. We would welcome any help. Chris will follow up and pass the information to committee coordinator Dave Thelen and Don Shaw to implement. Chris is checking if her boss will donate free hosta plants for the islands; Bel-Aire could really use more perennials. They live in Dallas Center and we would need to drive out and dig up; Al Minear volunteered to go with if needed. We will need to order flowers for the islands through Ruth VanRoekel and we think Lori Thelen did that last year. Chris also orders some flowers so we have extra just in case they can't fill the orders and we have used them every year to make a more compact planting.

**Westchester Park Committee:** No report and no changes that we know since the February 7 quarterly meeting report. The Parks Dept is still on schedule to finish Phase III this summer with an open air shelter, kybo and enclosure, walking path, landscaping, more lighting and benches with low maintenance plantings. Construction is scheduled to be completed prior to August 1 National Night Out per Emily Chafa.

**Membership Committee:** No report was available or given. Chris reported that Mark Hrubetz has reviewed the membership listing and has lots of ideas of what he wants to do to increase memberships and revenue. We may have fewer members than 235 reported recently as Mark says we need to take off the residents who have expired, and contact them re renew. We may have around 158 or so. Chris asked Mark to get together with database coordinator Jennifer Hushagen and fix the listing to better reflect where we stand on paid members. Mark still wants to work with the Business Committee also on several ideas.

**Business Committee:** Ken Craig reported that he may have the Polk County Bank in Johnston signed up as a \$250 back page sponsor for the Summer issue as Dahl's dropped their support in 2005. Cheryl asked the Business Committee to make sure to call on the Dahl's corporate offices on where we would stand on food donations this year for our National Night Out family picnic in August. Would we again get a 50% discount, could they do better, etc?

**Communications Committee:** Chris Craig reported our Winter issue arrive din the mail recently and restated the three pages of ads are paying for the printing and mailing of each issue at revenue of \$1400; with the January recent postage increase each 12-page issue is now costing us around .16 cents /copy to mail. Total printing, mailing services, postage and membership envelopes

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**Alice Rodine Award:** This annual award from the Des Moines Neighbors is given each year to multiple nominated community volunteers and city employees who work diligently in the neighborhoods, and businesses who have shown outstanding service to


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Recognition Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at the Mickle Center at 6:30 pm. The Board recommended we nominate Don Shaw and Don Lancaster for their hard work with the MNA and city worker Lee Boisen, Solid Waste Administrator. Chris will check her records to make sure who we have nominated in the past years and rediscuss who to nominate at the March 13 Board Meeting. Wayne Thomas will do a write-up on the city volunteer.

**Nomination Committee:** Al Minear asked Som Rasavanh if she knew of anyone who might be able to take over the responsibilities of Secretary since she was not comfortable with being a candidate. Al will check back with Emily Chafa on any other names who might work out and the committee will move forward. Bob Wells has expressed his desire to the committee to run for President which has been very well received by the committee consisting of Don Shaw, Al Minear, Dave Thelen and Keri McDermott.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm and we thanked Al for a great job of running the meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Monday, March 13 at 6:30 pm at Meredith Drive Reformed Church, Room 244

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Craig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Minutes Submitted by  
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006