



MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees - Those in attendance were Bob Wells, Al Minear, Don Shaw, Chris Craig, Ken Craig, Wayne Thomas, Keri McDermott, Mark Hrubetz, and Dave and Lori Thelen. Cheryl Musser was absent and Emily Chafa had RSVP'd she would try to make it to give a park report.

Thanks to all for RSVPing and attending, we had a great turnout and lots to talk about. Chris invited guest Jody Walker, possible candidate for Secretary, to come see what we did at our meetings; Chris had met with Jody prior at her home and together they updated and emailed out this meeting's agenda and minutes. Jody emailed Bob and Chris that morning and said she could not commit after all to the Secretary position, but would volunteer her help for other projects.

Call To Order - The Board Meeting was called to order by Bob Wells at 6:35 pm. A motion was made by Don and seconded by Keri to approve the minutes of the previous February meeting which passed.

Treasurer Report - Keri McDermott passed out copies of her report which were approved. Beginning balance of \$5,484.06; revenue of \$1,230.00 from (13) memberships and advertising; expenses of \$62.02; and the ending balance as of March 13, 2006 of \$6,652.04. Expenses are grouped and reported by project on the general ledger. Keri passed around a thank you note for the MNA gift that Cheryl Musser put together for her which the family really appreciated. Chris will pass the note to Cheryl who was not present. We noted that Cheryl does a great job and we missed the popcorn treats this evening. Keri said they were taking their funds and buying a double stroller for their new baby and daughter Meredith.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee: Cheryl Musser was absent so Chris reported on the **May 9 Annual Potluck** that she rounded up contact information and will pass to Cheryl to call Famous Dave's and Carlos O'Kelly's to donate some foods. Chris will drop in her door. **Speakers:** Linda Johnson, General Manager of the Merle Hay Mall has been contacted by Chris as one of our speakers which will be confirmed by email. The Business Committee will also invite several advertisers to the potluck and ask them to say a few words and take any questions. The **Garage Sale** is coming up Friday and Saturday May 19 & 20 which will be promoted in upcoming Spring newsletter.

Community Development: Wayne Thomas reported that we sent in our **Scrub Day** application asking for Saturday, July 22 as our first choice; then July 29. The Merle Hay folks have been contacted that those days will work with them. Wayne said this would be his last year to coordinate the event and maybe we should let the MHNA coordinate it in 2007. Joanne Talarico is passing her co-coordination to a new couple she will work with this year. Don Shaw will ask for the shredded truck this year for a \$50 MNA donation again to have it park and take materials the morning of the Scrub Day; this was very successful last year.

Don reported the Des Moines Neighbors had a meeting on March 7 and there is always a lot going on to report. They discussed the curb side recycling program, the 2006 city budget, street concerns, etc. Mark Hrubetz would like to attend some of the meetings to become familiar with these groups. Don passed around materials of interest so we could jot down any details of these meetings. The Beavertdale Business Coalition has their luncheon meeting at 11:30 at Christopher's Restaurant on March 28 and the next Business After Hours is April 19 at the Calvin Manors Retirement Home; many of the Board has attended these quarterly socials in the past which are very successful in meeting community leaders, mingling with other neighborhood association members, etc. The BNA is setting up a series of home improvement seminars and has been promoting them.

Alice Rodine Community Award: Wayne Thomas wrote up a nice article on the MNA nominating city worker Lee Boisen which will be submitted along with a community worker. We nominated Wayne Thomas for his past efforts and work and asked him to write up his volunteer experience and send to Chris; Wayne is available to attend the April 27 potluck at the Mickle Center at 6:30 pm. Out of Dahl's Foods, General Casualty, Famous Dave's and Carlos O'Kelly's we voted to nominate Dahl's Foods for a business worker and Chris will work on that article and ask a representative from the corporate office to attend. We submit three nominations and email it by April 14 to the Des Moines Neighbors who put on this annual event.

Beautification Committee: Dave and Lori Thelen were present. Chris is waiting to hear back from Bob Boles of the Men's Garden Club that his group is interested in helping with the Palm and Bel-Aire Street islands. The MNA has 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.

The **Free Flowers Program** is handled by Ruth VanRoekel and Chris and she are trying to coordinate to make sure we have the 2006 order form updated. Lori Thelen of the Beautification Committee said she will order flowers for the islands this year, as she did last year, but she needs the new form. We discussed setting a budget figure for this committee to purchase plants, mulch, etc. as needed. Don't think we came up with a firm number, will have to verify that. Wayne Thomas will contact the City to donate free mulch for the street islands and maybe level off Bel-Aire better. The group discussed the MNA has a lease with the City to maintain these islands and we now have a great Beautification Committee of the Thelen's and volunteers to coordinate efforts to plant and water the free annual flowers in the islands and at Westchester Park. Dave Thelen mentioned putting in some plants between the windows at Hoover and Bob Wells pointed out that we donated monies toward a tree grant for Hoover and we should wait to see how the whole upcoming improvement project proceeds.

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: Mark Hrubetz reported that he has begun calling expired members, making a personal contact and asked Chris for some supplies of membership envelopes. He plans to mail them to the expired members or drop them off and follow with a letter. Looking at the membership listing we probably do not have 230 members, but more like 185 taking off the expired members. Mark discussed making up membership cards with business discounts on the back. Chris had made sample cards in the past and she will work with Mark on an initial mailing to current members, but maybe we list business discounts in a letter and the newsletter as they will change. Mark wants to work with the Ken Craig and the Business Committee on getting discounts from our local businesses to offer to members. This would be a good reason to join as a member. We discussed increasing our \$15 annual dues, but Chris mention we just printed up 5,000 membership envelopes to future use with the \$15 fee. The MNA dues are consistent with what other neighborhood associations charge, some charge \$20 and 25, some just \$5. Mark wants to get the Welcome Neighbors Program restarted again also, but plans to work on calling and getting more memberships first.

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 and is confirming that. We have a Board Meeting and Membership Appreciation Night at Famous Dave's on Monday, April 10 from 6-8 pm. Board members come early to eat and we agreed to start the meeting at 7:00 pm; Chris has reserved us a table with manager Kevin Burger. Don Shaw said he will be on a months vacation in North Carolina so Ken and Al Minear said they would call on his ads for the Spring newsletter issue starting around April 1 and out at the end of April. Don said he had a new ad of Floors and More in Beaverdale and will get their business card.

Communications Committee: Chris Craig reported we start our Spring issue around April 1 due out in the mail the end of April. This is a big issue and our start of events for the summer. The Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 19 & 20 is our first big event. Chris reminded the Board that in the past we have made around \$200 or more in revenue from an auction one year that Bob Wells did and a MNA proceeds table another year. We asked for donations from neighbors, board and garage sale participants. We really did not discuss donations again but we partner again with neighbor Rod Querry who coordinates Fresh Start a free clothing ministry for the needy to give him any leftover clothing.

Nomination Committee: The Committee of Al Minear, Don Shaw, Dave Thelen and Keri McDermott reported that Bob Wells has agreed to run for President for 2006-2008 and since Jody Walker could not commit after all to the Secretary position they will continue to look for a candidate. Chris mentioned she had emailed past Beaverdale Secretary Martha Nelson to see if she might be interested in assisting the MNA as our new Secretary. The Board said if she was interested we would make any necessary procedural changes to make it work. Chris will get back to the committee when she hears back from Martha.

Bob Wells read off and passed around materials of interest and we adjourned at 8:05 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **Monday, April 10 at 7:00 pm at Famous Dave's BBQ Restaurant on Merle Hay Road.** Come early to eat with your family and enjoy the 25% discount set up by the Business Committee.

Chris Craig

Minutes Submitted by
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006