



MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Meredith Reformed Church/ 5128 Meredith Drive / 276-4901

Attendees - Those in attendance were Justin Gross, Chris Craig, Ken Craig, Cheryl Musser and Emily Chafa. Mikki Kinning's husband was out of town but she provided a financial report, Lisa Shaw's son was sick and Don Shaw was on vacation the month of March. Joining us for the first time was new Street Islands Project Coordinator Dave Thelen.

Call To Order - The Board Meeting was called to order by Justin Gross at 6:35 pm.

Treasurer Report – Mikki Kinning provided copies of her report. Beginning balance \$7,601.66; revenue of \$1,520.00 which included 41 received memberships (\$615.00), advertising revenue (\$900.00) and donations (\$5.00); expenses were \$1,436.87; and the ending balance as of March 14, 2005 is \$7,684.79. Expenses are grouped and reported by project. Justin reported that the MNA account has been moved from FirstStar Bank to Wells Fargo at the asking of their Vice President Augie Gutierrez who personally knows the functions and board of the MNA and offered us better services, fees and free checking. Wells Fargo has also been a major supporting advertiser for four years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee –Cheryl Musser was present and welcomed as the new Chair of this committee. Justin gave a brief update on the February 8 Quarterly Meeting that we had a nice turnout and lots of questions from residents to the speakers. For the 6:30 social time Cheryl did an excellent job of refreshments with iced valentine sugar cookies and candies, lemonade, coffee and water. Decorations were very nice and tastefully done. Leftover cookies were given out to attendees and guest Major Cownie and speakers Michael Kiernan and Dick Murphy.

May 10 Annual Meeting: It was discussed that we start earlier planning for all our events. Justin will work on the speakers. Chris will firm up the meeting room at Hoover with Pat Johnston (Office) for all our events for the 2005-2006 calendar years. Right now our May 10 meeting is in the Library and it has carpeting and we have a potluck to put on.

Taste of Hoover: The MNA will be asked to participate in the day to be help at the school on June 11 as a new annual event sponsored by the Booster Club under their new President Dick Murphy.

Family Picnic Night Out: For the August 2 we will start planning at the May 2 Board Meeting. We should try to get younger families involved and Don Shaw reported that Connie Cook confirmed Hoover as our backup rain location.

Garden Tour: Chris reported that she met with LaShell Staley, Jane McDowell and Shelly Tyler who have formed a committee to put on for June 18. They are in the initial planning stages but all supplies, signs, etc were purchased in 2003 to reuse. Chris passed out a timeline for the Board to go over and the committee will get back to the Board on any requests.

The Board discussed whether to reduce some of our activities and concentrate efforts on doing a better job with just a couple events. Chris mentioned that we have Project Coordinators and volunteers for each event and they are willing to continue to volunteer to do these projects. Don Shaw believes we should retain the projects we annual put on. It seems like a lot as the majority come during the summer months. It was again mentioned we do more of recognition for our volunteers at year end.

Community Development – Don Shaw reported he has reserved both of the Hoover parking lots for the **July 23 Scrub Day**. He will meet with city officials on how to set up the lots as user friendly. Plans are to add a shredder and an appliance drop off for a \$fee paid to the vendor; the MNA will not handle the money. The MNA and Merle Hay will again coordinate this scrub site. Their will be a policeman asking to see residents ID, drivers license or utility bill to make sure with live within the city of Des Moines.

Chris met with new Coordinator for the **Free Flowers Program** Ruth VanRoekel and passed on Lisa Shaw's files for the project. Deadline to place an order is Monday, April 11. Residents can request free annuals from an email Ruth can email or mail to them.

Don Shaw cannot attend some of the Des Moines Neighbors meetings and Justin will attend in his place. Kimberly Hansen is the new President of this group. Chris will check what other organizations we support with membership or dues as she keeps a list. Get check to Justin for \$100 Des Moines Neighbors to drop off.

MNA street signs were discussed on placing them out to promote our events. Chris will check with Wayne as some quarterly signs may be missing.

Westchester Park Committee – Lisa Shaw reported the city has had budget cuts and our Phase II redevelopment plan will be postponed until 2006.

Membership Committee - Jennifer Hushagen is continuing to update our database and doing an excellent job. Wayne Thomas obtained a new neighborhood listing from the City Assessors office and Jennifer is trying to find names for all the Vacant addresses we are not mailing to as people have moved into some of these homes.

Business Committee – Member Appreciation Night is April 11 @ Famous Dave's from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and we have a Board Meeting at this location starting at 7:00 pm.

Communications Committee – Chris passed out extra copies of the Winter Newsletter. We may be able to save money on the membership envelopes if we get #500 printed at one time versus the #1600 we are currently printing each quarter. Julander Printing gave us a quote on this. Justin had a request from a vendor to promote his product at a Board or quarterly meeting. The MNA does promote individuals and Cheryl Musser suggested we have him advertise in the newsletter. The letter was passed to Chris to follow up on. Justin mentioned we might want to spotlight volunteers in upcoming issues. We have published all 12 Hoover Hall of Fame individuals in the past 2004 issues.


Chris reported that the Waterbury President CJ Stevens called and asked who we use for newsletter vendors. Their editor quit and their current printer is high. Chris emailed her our contact information and copies of our newsletter. We have passed information and help to other associations: Lower Beaver, Beaverdale and Merle Hay.

Chris reported she filed the Biennial Non-Profit Report on January 10, 2005 and the Annual Survey Report is due February 25. Both these notices come in the mail to the President's home address.

Nominations Committee – Emily Chafa is handling along with Lisa Shaw and Don Shaw and needs a fourth member. Justin as President cannot be on the committee per our bylaws. Cheryl Musser will call Emily if she has any recommendations for nominations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, March 14 at 6:30 pm
at Meredith Reformed Church at 5128 Meredith Drive 276-4901**



Minutes Submitted by
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006