



## MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Board Meeting Minutes

APRIL 10, 2006 at 6:30 pm

Famous Dave's BBQ Restaurant and Member Appreciation Night  
4351 Merle Hay Road

**Attendees** - Those in attendance were Bob Wells, Al Minear, Chris Craig, Ken Craig, Emily Chafa, Mark Hrubetz and Dave Thelen. Don Shaw was on vacation, Keri had relatives in town but sent report copies, and Cheryl Musser did not RSVP. The management staff provided a large round table for our Board use. A motion was made by Al and seconded by Ken to approve the minutes of the previous March meeting which passed.

**Call To Order** - The Board Meeting was called to order by Bob Wells at 7:15 pm after a nicely attended Member Appreciation Night. We had over 25 board and family members sign in for the 25% dinner discount. Helping out was Allan Lynch a Meredith student and Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout badge and he logged couple hours of community service volunteer work. Chris Craig asked Allan and Don Lancaster to exchange phone information so Allan might help Don distribute Spring newsletters to businesses which takes Don several days.

**Treasurer Report** - Copies were passed out and Ken made a motion to approve, Al seconded and the group approved. Beginning balance of \$6,652.04; revenue of \$95.00 from memberships and advertising; expenses of \$0.00; and the ending balance as of April 10, 2006 of \$6,747.04. Expenses are grouped and reported by project on the general ledger. Keri added past months balances at the bottom of the page for ready reference per a prior request from the Board.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**May 9 Annual Meeting:** Chris will contact Cheryl Musser on food arrangements to see what her committee has arranged for our potluck dinner at Hoover at 6:30 pm. We should have Famous Dave's and Carlos O'Kelly's bringing some foods again this year. **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. Ken has asked Paul Dullard, General Manager of Carlo's O'Kelly's to speak on his business. Chris will contact Angela Connolly to report on the Hoover Complex construction. We can firm up more of the arrangements at our May 1 board meeting.

The **Nomination Committee** reports Bob Wells as their nominee for President and have confirmed his interest. Two past Secretary contacts have resulted in both ladies willing to do more social projects for the MNA. Al and Emily discussed several other names: Michelle Soria on Bel-Aire and Terry Timmons on Crestmoor. They will be contacted and Chris will email the Nomination Calling Sheet again to keep track of who we have all asked.

**Garage Sale:** Coming up Friday and Saturday May 19 & 20 which will be promoted in upcoming Spring newsletter. Chris has lined up six (6) Street Captains and participants in the sale are to call Chris to sign up. We may have an MNA table with donations from the board and neighbors to raise monies for the MNA. We have the kettle korn food vendor again who will set up to sell food and drink items on 49<sup>th</sup> Place. **A Fresh Start:** Chris reported that Rod & Nancy Querry who live at 4534 49<sup>th</sup> Street pastor a church that sponsors this FREE clothing ministry that helps people in need. They are constantly looking for clothing donations of all types. They want to partner again with the MNA to notify residents for donations, especially during the garage sale for leftover items. Chris will promote this again in the upcoming newsletter.

**Jazz In July:** Joanne Talarico from the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association sent an email to Bob concerned that a few hard working people do all the work. Justin Gross has told Chris that he should be able to co-coordinate with the MHNA folks again for this event at Hoover. Emily volunteered to contact Justin and work on this project this year. She suggested we hold the musical event in the Westchester Park. The Board had a concern the park would be under construction so she will research and report back.

**Alice Rodine Community Award:** The Board will be nominating Wayne Thomas and Lee Boisen for their community efforts for the April 27 potluck at the Mickle Center at 6:30 pm. Wayne wrote up a nice article on Lee and himself and submitted both to Chris to edit. She will email the nominations by April 14 to the Des Moines Neighbors. Chris did not have time to contact Dahl's Foods for an article for a business nomination so the Board said we would do that next year.

**Community Development: Scrub Day** is set for Saturday, July 22 at the Hoover parking lot from 7:00 am to 12 noon. Al will follow up with Wayne on the project status. Ken, Dave and Wayne cleaned up the Meredith and 50<sup>th</sup> Street area ditch from tons of debris and Wayne contacted the city to haul it all away at no charge, The Beaver Woods Homeowners Association noticed the work and Al commented on it.

**Beautification Committee:** The Board decided to set a budget for this committee for Chair Dave Thelen, and came up with a \$200 limit for now. If more funds are needed as we progress through the year we can adjust that amount. 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 on Sunday, May 21. We talked about the city skimming the Bel-Aire island dirt so the bark chips don't keep falling off.

**Westchester Park Committee:** Emily said the city is taking bids tomorrow and we will know the dollar figure and where we are. The City Council will approve at their April 24 meeting. Larry Edris will be the contact on the bid. The new climber equipment color has been changed. In 2007 trees and a walking path will be constructed.

**Membership Committee:** Mark Hrubetz reported he is calling expired members, making a personal contact. We discussed membership cards again with some type of business discounts on the back. Mark will work with 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; he mentioned neighbors want more incentives to join. We discussed doing a membership drawing at National Night Out from those who sign in and make it a large prize, and maybe change drawings at our quarterly meetings to members only, not just attendees.

**Business Committee** – We had a good turnout tonight for Member Appreciation Night and discount. Ken met and visited with the Vice President of Wells Fargo to get their ad for the upcoming issue. The committee has not yet talked or visited with Dahl's Foods to discuss our needs for the August picnic. Ken is still approaching Polk County Bank on being a summer issue \$250 sponsor. Ken, Al and Don Lancaster have their ad packets to work on ads for the Spring newsletter issue starting around April 1 and out at the end of April.

**Communications Committee:** Chris Craig reported we started our Spring issue due out in the mail the end of April. This is a big issue and our start of events for the summer. Chris reminded the Board that our front page lists the nominating committee suggested names and pictures so we need something for that article. She will also send an email to those folks who contribute articles and let them know the deadline.

**Neighborhood Growth Grant:** Chris reported she and Lori and Dave Thelen attended a grant writing workshop at the United Way Central Campus on 9<sup>th</sup> Street to see if they can get up to \$1,000 for a MNA project. The group wanted to purchase two 10 x 10 MNA logo tents for all our events to promote the association, or have funds to purchase Welcome Signs to post in the neighborhood, or funds toward a larger MNA street sign. They learned the donors would not support "equipment" type requests, so they will submit a grant to ask for \$1,000 toward our National Night Out budget with matching funds of \$1,000 from General Casualty Insurance. The grant folks thought that would be a good match.

**New Business:** Bob Wells reported he was contacted by Mr. Traviss of **Traviss TV & Appliance** about the hair salon next door putting out cardboard signs to promote their business, when the city required Traviss to go through hoops to get an electronic sign installed on his facilities. Bob said he would email Tom Vlassis with this concern. Mr. Traviss said they see a lot of unusual people hanging around the business. Bob reported on a Raccoon River Neighborhood Association letter and one from the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee. He also said he was wrestling with the Hoover trash and erosion of the dirt under the bleachers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. **NEXT BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, May 01 at 6:30 pm.**



Minutes Submitted by  
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006