



MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

MAY 02, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Meredith Reformed Church / 5128 Meredith Drive / Room 238

Attendees - Those in attendance were Justin Gross, Chris Craig, Ken Craig, Cheryl Musser, Wayne Thomas and new Vice President nominee Al Minear; new Treasurer nominee Keri McDermott was invited also but did not make it. Mikki Kinning had ball games but furnished the financial reports, Don Shaw had his scheduled tennis and just missed the last of the Board, Lisa Shaw had other meeting scheduled as well as Emily Chafa and Dave Thelan did not RSVP.

Call To Order - The Board Meeting was called to order by Justin Gross at 6:35 pm and we welcomed Vice President nominee Al Minier to the meeting and thanked him for volunteering for the position. Al is retired from the Small Business Association and lives in Beaver Woods at 4424 44th Place with wife Peg.

Treasurer Report – Mikki Kinning sent copies of her financial report which were accepted. Beginning balance \$7,914.79; revenue of \$235.00 with \$100.00 advertising and \$135.00 for 9 memberships; expenses of \$5.30 bank fees; and the ending balance as of May 02, 2005 of \$8,155.09. Also provided was the Fiscal 2005 budget with expenses grouped and reported by project. Mikki also provided an email instruction to the board on how to amend/approve the Fiscal 2006 budget which will be presented at the May 10 Annual Meeting for recommendation to be approved as presented by the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee

May 10 Annual Meeting: Election of officers is coming up Tuesday, May 10 at Hoover. Justin will work on two speakers and get names to Chris for the front page of the newsletter. Emily suggested maybe the General Manager of Merle Hay Mall with their new construction efforts. Both Justin and Chris will contact Famous Dave's BBQ and Carlos O'Kelly's to ask them to attend, possibly speak or introduce themselves as a business advertiser and to bring a food donation for the potluck. Chris will contact Boesen's for the discounted geranium plants we use as centerpieces and drawings for the evening.

Board voted at the May 2, 2005 meeting to award an outgoing officer or committee chair with the framed certificate and in addition set a limit of \$25 in a gift certificate to a local business, or certificate and flower combination. Cheryl Musser, Social Chair volunteered to put something nice together for outgoing Treasurer Mikki Kinning and Vice President Lisa Shaw and personalize it if she can. Gift should include a Thank You card from the Board hand written. Awards will be presented by another board member and photo taken for the newsletter.

Garage Sale: To be held May 13 & 14. Chris reported that the six Street Captains had met and would be taping the flyers on 250 neighbors door in a portion of the neighborhood around April 14 around 6:30 pm. The yellow flyer notifies neighbors how to participate in the sale by calling Chris to register. Justin brought up the concern that the sale does not include all of the residents in the MNA boundaries. Chris and Emily explained that the sale was the 16th annual sale due to prior organizers retiring and turning it over to the MNA who accepted the responsibility to continue the very successful event. The included homes have always stayed the same due to the limited volunteer base and the amount of work to put the event on. This is published in the MNA newsletters and if anyone wants to volunteer to coordinate a similar sale in their part of the neighborhood, to contact Chris on the details; Chris will word the upcoming article better to reflect this option. The sale is open to the public.

A Fresh Start: Chris reported that Rod & Nancy Query who live at 4534 49th 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: men's, women's, children's, baby clothing, shoes of all sizes, and accessories for clothing (no jewelry). They want to partner with the MNA to notify residents for donations and the Board approved. Their trailer is stocked full of donated clothes and driven to the North High School parking lot

If neighbors have clothing items left from the neighborhood Garage Sale, or throughout the year, and would like to donate them, contact the Querries or bring those donated items to their home address. If unable to drop them off, call and they will make arrangements for pick up from your home. A tax-deductible contribution letter is available for your donation. For more information, please contact **Rod or Nancy Query of 4534 49th Street at 727-5289 or email them at rodquery@mchsi.com.**

Taste of Hoover: The MNA will be asked to participate in the day to be held at the school on June 11 as a new annual event sponsored by the Booster Club under their new President Dick Murphy. Justin suggested we try not to do too much but definitely have a booth to promote membership and the MNA and we could participate in the contest for painting of the logo on the sidewalk. They will also have Olympic games the neighborhoods can participate in and a 11:00 am parade; the whole event goes to 5:00 pm and include lots of entertainment and ethnic foods.

Garden Tour: Chris reported that she met with LaShell Staley, Jane McDowell and Shelly Tyler who have formed a Committee to put on a tour for June 18. Due to a small response of gardeners the event will be postponed until 2006 and they will try again.

Golf Outing: The Hoover sponsored event to be held in June has been moved back to the fall. Teacher Maribeth Newman is the coordinator and their original date selected conflicts with a city tournament, so they are looking for a later date. Last year the MNA sponsored a \$100 hole and participated in the golf foursomes.

July 4th Kids Parade: This very successful annual event is put on each year by Project coordinator Rod Ryan and will be on Monday, July 4 this year. Over 200 kids participate and committee member Bruce Babcock coordinates snacks and games sponsored by the MNA. They may need more signs for this year.

Jazz In July: Justin was contacted by Joanne Talarico of the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association to join with them this year in a band concert and use Hoover as a venue. The board discussed and Justin wrote an email to Principal Connie Cook about the possibilities of using the Hoover track and bleacher area. He also contacted President Dick Murphy of the Hoover Boosters who volunteered to sell all the refreshments for the event to contribute to their budget. We need details on and exact date from July 9, 10 or 30 and costs and band selection. The MHNA asked the MNA last year if we were interested in sharing this very fun successful night with them in 2005 and hold it in our bigger area. Last year they had the Des Moines Big Band but it rained and they moved into a building location which did not work well.

Community Development – The Board agreed that we should nominate past Social Chairs Harold and Nancy Rathert and city Police Officer Larry Rogers for the Des Moines Neighbors Alice Rodine Award to be given out at their annual dinner on April 28. Chris will contact both nominees and get bio information and submit to Amy Long, Administrative Assistant for the DSM Neighbors. The awards are read out loud and a certificate presented. Last year we skipped this award due to time constraints and two years ago we nominated Bob Wells.

Palm and Bel-Aire Street Islands: Project Coordinator Dave Thelen asked for direction on planting free annual flowers in the islands. He can call on past volunteers and neighbors from past years to come and plant the islands on Sunday, May 15 from 1-3:00 pm. Dave took it upon himself to clean up the islands by pulling out dead material and sprucing up the area. The islands look wonderful and the Board applauded him for the great job. Chris mentioned that Dave recontact Al Morano of the city who promised to replace a new tree in the Bel-Aire island this Spring where they took out the old diseased tree. Both islands could use more perennials. Ken Craig reported that he and Dave have been in touch with Bob Lenc, local garden landscaping business and are waiting on a quote to provide water to the islands for part of the summer or plant and water. Ken will follow up.

Westchester Park Committee – Bob Shaw reported that Don McLaughlin wrote a letter for park

Membership Committee - Jennifer Hushagen is continuing to update our database and doing an excellent job. Chris already has received by email the April 1 updated Membership and Newsletter Mailing Lists in addition to the Comments Sheet. The Board reviewed the Comments Sheet and Justin agreed to contact #4 John Grim about his negative comments on Westchester Park. Justin has talked to Hoover Student Resource Officer Ray Carrington and Principal Connie Cooks knows also.

Business Committee – Member Appreciation Night tonight went very well with 30 members signing in to use their 25% discount for dinner. The restaurant staff and managers are very supportive of our efforts, friendly, and willing to make it an enjoyable evening.

Chris typed up a listing of what other organizations we agreed to support last year with membership or dues donations. Mikki Kinning provided the \$ amount and April dates of the checks she wrote and the Board discussed what we might approve for this year. Don Shaw mentioned that the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association, the Beaverdale Fall Festival and Beaverdale Business Coalition might be considering putting all their fees into one solicitation and Don will check this out with BNS President Bill Miller. The discussion was tabled till the next meeting.

Communications Committee – Chris reported that we are starting the Spring newsletter and she will have Ken drop off the ad packets to the Business Committee members (Don Lancaster, Justin Gross, Ken Craig, and Don Shaw) to start soliciting ads. She will also send an email to those folks who contribute articles and let them know the deadline. We need to Rush this issue due to tax season mailings and to promote our May 10 Annual Meeting.

Chris applied to a local company who is promoting the professional development of a free website to non-profit associations. Their deadline to notify applicants is around May 14 or so. The Board discussed how much a website would benefit our association and were excited at the possibilities.

Chris reported that she also applied to a local printer who was offering a \$1,000 grant toward current printing projects or development of a brochure, etc.

Chris reported that our printer Julander Printing entered a contest and won some type of award for submitting our MNA newsletter. We will receive notification or a plaque in the near future.

Nominations Committee – Emily Chafa is Chair and handling along with Lisa Shaw and Don Shaw. They are working on contacting names for Vice President and waiting to hear. Emily introduced Keri McDermott who had joined the Board meeting and who has accepted to volunteer for the Treasurer position. Chris took her picture for the newsletter and Keri will get Emily a short bio.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, May 02 at 6:30 pm
at Meredith Reformed Church at 5128 Meredith Drive 276-4901**



Minutes Submitted by
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006