



MEREDITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting and "Special Membership Meeting" Minutes
SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 at 6:30 pm
Meredith Drive Reformed Church
5128 Meredith Drive 276-4901

Attendees - Those in attendance were Justin Gross, Chris Craig, Dave Thelen, Al Minear, Cheryl Musser, Emily Chafa, Keri McDermott, Randy Taylor and Bob Wells. Ken Craig arrived late. Several north of Meredith neighbors attended also. A sign up sheet was passed around to register members for voting.

Call To Order – A Special Membership Meeting was called by the Board prior to its regular meeting to vote on the offer of Bob Wells to step in as President from September, 2005 to May, 2006. Prior group emails and notice in the Des Moines Register were published regarding this special meeting. At least 10 members must be present at any membership meeting in order to conduct business.

Justin Gross related to the Board that he was torn between his career change and his tenure as MNA President and again confirmed his resignation. He told the attendees he would continue to be involved and offered his new email address of jjg001@dake.edu.

The Board entertained a motion to go out of Agenda order and vote on accepting the resignation of Justin Gross as our current President. Acting on the newly created vacancy, the attendees nominated Bob Wells to fill the position of President through May 2006. No other nominations came before the Board or from the floor. All in favor of voting Bob Wells as acting President – 8 Yes and 4 Yes (Absentee – Wayne Thomas, Mikki Kinning, Lori Thelen and Ken Craig). Congratulations were extended to Bob and a big thank you.

The Board Meeting was called to order by newly elected President Bob Wells at 6:50 pm. Bob congratulated Justin on his acceptance into Drake Law School and for all his past work in getting folks to step up and get involved.

Treasurer Report – Keri McDermott provided copies of her report which were accepted. Beginning balance \$9,253.76; revenue of \$2,765.00 from memberships, advertising and donations; expenses of \$3,049.43; and the ending balance as of September 12, 2005 of \$8,969.33. Expenses are grouped and reported by project. Keri also provided Chris Craig with an outlined copy of the Treasurer's role and responsibilities to maintain in the MNA file records.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee

Beaverdale Parade: Chris Craig discussed the event coming up Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 am. The MNA entry will have a 2006 Hummer donated by Betts Cadillac; Bob Wells has arranged and volunteered to drive the vehicle. Chris was contacted by Des Moines Police Sgt. Scott Rounds who booked the 2002 police Camaro and will furnish a police officer as driver. Ken Craig offered to haul the candy in the Off Campus van. Randy and Karen Taylor volunteered to walk in the parade, others are checking and Chris will coordinate final details to everyone by email and give them t-shirts. Sonja Crain's son Steven has offered to contact some of his Johnston pals to walk in the parade.

Chili Cook-Off: Chris asked is anyone wanted to enter the contest hosted by the Des Moines Neighbors on Saturday, October 8 from noon to 2:00 pm. Neighborhood associations can have a table, sell chili, or other wares, and win prizes. Justin Gross' dad represented the MNA in 2004 and did a wonderful job. Results are posted in the local papers and cash prizes are given to the winners. No one was available to volunteer to help this year, so check in 2006.

Membership Meeting: The quarterly November 8 meeting will be held at Hoover cafeteria starting with a pie social at 6:30. Social Chair Cheryl Musser will handle purchasing pies at a discount from Dahl's Food Store and set up with fall decorations and beverages. Left over pies will be auctioned off by auctioneer Bob Wells with the revenue going to our budget. The meeting will address crime in our neighborhood, the Neighborhood Watch Program, etc. Chris Craig has confirmed Sgt. Larry Rogers to speak on the watch program and bring materials and he suggested a detective also speak to handle recent break-ins and questions. Emily Chafa is checking on a speaker also. Chris will check with the neighbor ladies who volunteered to restart the watch program (details furnished by Chris).

Street Islands: Dave Thelen has planted several evergreen trees and grasses around the Westchester Park sign, in addition to the annual flowers, so some greenery is visible during the winter season. He watered them this evening and will check with neighbors Kurt and Joann Tapps as he left a message to continue watering the new plants.

Westchester Park Committee – Emily Chafa reported nothing new. Status quo the same. The Parks Dept is still on schedule to finish Phase III next summer in 2006. They will put a bid in this Fall for an open air shelter, kybo and enclosure, walking path, landscaping, possible basketball court, more lighting and benches with low maintenance plantings.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Hushagen is continuing to update our database and doing an excellent job. Chris will receive an October 1 updated Membership and Newsletter Mailing Lists in addition to the Comments Sheet. We could still use a Welcome Neighbors Program coordinator. Current membership is around 225.


Business Committee: Ken Craig was not present at this time and Chris Craig asked (for Ken) if Al Minear would step in on the committee and take over several ads that Justin was reping on a quarterly basis. Al accepted and was thanked. Ken will get Al the ad packet information to start around October 1.

Communications Committee: Chris Craig reported we will be starting the Fall newsletter issue which should be out in the mail around the end of October. She will be an email out for folks to send in articles. Chris verbally thanked Don Lancaster for his consistent volunteer time in delivering the leftover newsletters to the businesses each quarter which is quite a big job, taking days to complete. Bob Wells offered to help Don in this task. Don does an excellent job on calling on and selling 4 ads each quarter also. Chris will notify Don by email.

Website: Chris Craig reported that she and Lori Thelen continue to work each Thursday evening for several hours with volunteer website leader Matt Howard in developing a website for the MNA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, October 10 at 6:30 pm
at Meredith Reformed Church at 5128 Meredith Drive 276-4901**



Minutes Submitted by
Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006