



Meredith Neighborhood Association
QUARTERLY Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2007
Hoover High School Cafeteria
4800 Aurora Avenue / Des Moines, IA 50310

Attendees: Board members Bob Wells, Al Minear, Ken and Chris Craig, Wayne Thomas, Don Shaw and Peggy Grim. Frank Vinluan, Des Moines Register Reporter; Ray Carrington, School Resource Officer; Larry Rogers and Larry Davey, Des Moines Police Officers. **Speakers:** Connie Cook, Hoover High School Principal; Kathleen Jorgensen, Northwest Neighbors; Dr. Jeff Gilbert, Meredith Drive Chiropractic Center; Matt Mayse, Assistant to the Pastor Westchester Church, and Rev. Jon Sherrill, Meredith Reformed Church. Neighbors present are listed on the Sign-In Sheet.

Call to Order: Bob welcomed everyone and thanked Rev. Jon Sherrill for the use of Meredith Reformed Church for our MNA monthly Board Meetings. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Wells.

Meeting Minutes: The November, 2006 quarterly meeting minutes were reviewed by the attendees and approved. The evening agenda and committee reports were adjusted in consideration of our guests.

Treasurer Report: Keri McDermott was unable to attend but provided updated copies with a balance of \$6,117.46. The treasurer report was approved with a motion by Don Shaw and approved by the group.

Speakers:

Officers Larry Rogers, Larry Davey and Ray Carrington (Hoover Resource Officer) reported 196 calls for service by the police. Officer Rogers cautioned everyone not to leave their cars running unattended. Graffiti is up citywide; please report to the police to decipher for gang presence. The MNA was complimented for its strong presence in the neighborhood.

Dr. Jeff Gilbert, Meredith Drive Chiropractic Center introduced us to his practice and how he and his staff help with a patient's overall health. He passed out colored brochures and invited everyone to stop by for a "tour visit".

Matt Mayse, Associate Pastor at Westchester Church thanked the MNA and reported that Westchester church will be there for the Hoover students and the MNA neighborhood and offered help in any way that is needed.

Connie Cook, Principal Hoover High School, thanked everyone for help with recent student/neighbor concerns. Hoover has provided radios to Westchester Church and Zion Lutheran if any problems should arise with students on their premises during school time. DART has changed the bus stop at 50th Street and students must now board the bus in front of Hoover. The next school year will be closed campus for 9th and 10th graders. Hoover has applied for a grant from Lowe's to build a gazebo type structure for the students to use on the Hoover campus. Hoover has been awarded a grant for \$6,300 to plant trees around the school this spring.

Kathleen Jorgensen, PTO/PTA and Northwest Neighbors talked about the merger of Moore, Hillis and Woodlawn elementary schools. An Ice Cream Social to bring neighbors together is planned for May 6th, 2007 from 1 – 4 pm at Tower Park on Hickman Road and the MNA will promote the event in their spring newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Beautification Committee: No report, Lori Thelen was unable to attend; except the snow looks lovely.

Business Committee: Ken Craig, Business Chair, thanked President Bob Wells for a great job. We need volunteers to help keep this neighborhood a good one. Ken reminded everyone to get on our group email list to receive updates of interest from the MNA. Ken asked everyone to check the back of their Winter newsletter to see if their MNA dues are paid. Membership Appreciation Night is at Famous Dave's on April 9 from 6-8 pm with a 25% discount to everyone whose dues are paid. Ken said that Don Shaw will need volunteers to be Bell Ringers in July and December. He also thanked all of the advertisers who placed ads in the newsletter and reminded everyone

to thank the businesses who support the MNA. Ken asked that if anyone is interested in helping to deliver newsletters to our local businesses to get in touch with Don Lancaster.

Communications Committee: The MNA Winter newsletter is on our website www.meredithneighbors.org and is in PDF format. You can print it out or read it on-line in color. CityWatch calls with an automated recorded telephone message to alert neighbors in our boundaries about our quarterly meetings or events. Comments from the membership envelopes sent in by neighbors are compiled on a Comment Sheet report that is shared and acted upon by the Board members.

Bob announced the need for volunteers to fill the Vice President and Treasurer officer slots. Al Minear and Keri McDermott have submitted their resignation at the end of their 2-year terms 2005-2007. Bob thanked both individuals for their time and the great job they both have done. Everyone was given a nomination form and asked to think of someone for the positions or volunteer themselves to be a part of the MNA.

Community Development Committee: Don Shaw attended the recent Beaverdale Coalition Meeting and gave a report on all the happenings in that area. Don gave a report on the stop signs and no parking signs project in our boundaries that the city is acting on. Wayne Thomas gave a status report on the upcoming July Scrub Day. Merle Hay Neighborhood (President Steve Berry) is heading up the project this year and the MNA will co-sponsor. There will be porta potties at the Scrub Day location and additional dumpsters. The city is discussing not to have yard waste collected at Scrub Days but to direct people to the city compost center to save monies. Scrub Day is a big project and a lot of work; a big thanks goes to Wayne for the great job he has done for the MNA.

Chris Craig reported that MNA Welcome Signs are still in the works, street locations have been proposed and need to be approved by the Traffic Department, and grant monies are being researched. Bob Wells reported that the Hoover/MNA Monument sign is still a project in the works.

Membership Committee: No report, Mark Hrubetz was unable to attend.

Social Committee: No report at this time. We thanked Cheryl Musser, Barb Lancaster and Deloris Wells for the lovely Valentine decorations, cookies, popcorn, candies, and beverages of coffee and lemonade.

Westchester Park Committee: No report. The walking path and landscape is on hold until 2008 per the city budget changes. President Bob told everyone to use the park and enjoy it. Reservations for the pavilion should be made through the Parks Department.

Old and New Business: It was asked that the November Quarterly Meeting be changed from the first Tuesday of the month which is election night. Agreed that this needs to be looked into. If Hoover is not available then Westchester Church has offered the use of their church.

Valentine candy door prizes were given out and winners were Deb Luke, Matt Mayse, Kathleen Jorgenson, Sandy Sinclair, Claudia Koons, Mike Kühlenbeck, Randy Taylor, Larry Rogers and Lawrence Cooper. Extra cookies were sacked up and given out as attendance prizes also.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Don Shaw and seconded by Lawrence Cooper. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by



Peggy Grim, Secretary 2006-2008

MNA minutes are posted under Resources at www.meredithneighbors.org.