



Meredith Neighborhood Association

QUARTERLY Meeting

Minutes of November 8, 2005

Hoover High School Cafeteria

4800 Aurora Avenue / Des Moines, IA 50310

Neighbors present are listed on the Sign-In Sheet

Meredith neighbors enjoyed a delicious Pie Social with refreshments beginning at 6:30 pm. Thank you to Social Chair Cheryl Musser for serving the pies. Remaining pies were auctioned off by auctioneer Bob Wells to attendees with donations going to the MNA budget.

MNA President Bob Wells presented the Meeting Agenda for the evening which was approved. There were no previous meeting minutes to approve as the last quarterly meeting was held as a Family Picnic at Hoover High School on August 2.

Treasurer Report – Keri McDermott reported a beginning balance \$7,223.51; revenue of \$65.00; expenses of \$59.90; with an ending balance as of November 8 of \$7,028.61. Keri provided copies of the Fiscal 2006 Projected Budget listing revenue and expense projections; the attendees agreed it looked good and thanked her for her efforts.

Bob talked about Hoover tennis court improvements, read a thank you note from Harold Rathert and talked about the public works luncheon that the MNA contributed to. He introduced Polk County Bank representative Bob Miller who was invited by Ken Craig as a guest. Bob reported we had representatives from the Des Moines Police Department on hand to discuss recent criminal activities in our neighborhood. In addition to the speakers, Officer Kelly Fisher was also on hand from the NARC office. Vice President Al Minear took over as leader during the meeting as Bob had to leave for another meeting.

Speaker Larry Rogers, Senior Police Officer, Vice and Narcotics Control Section passed around crime maps unique to the neighborhood again property broken down by address and why type of property. We might want to take the summary and put figures into the newsletter. Larry explained the Neighborhood Watch Program and how successful it can be to reduce crime in the neighborhood and can offer safety and security for its residents. Neighbors need to get to know each other and watch out for each other and it unites the community. Smaller groups reduce the fear of crime and it improves reporting. He passed materials around the room. 10-15 households is a manageable group and this program is basically a tree-calling system to inform your nearest neighbors.

Speaker Sgt. Tony Steverson, Crime Unit explained how he investigates burglaries in our area. Recent reported criminal activity of 15-30 reports were committed by 10-11 individuals and some were apprehended. It was mentioned that the prior crime watch ID numbers are no longer good; police officers recommended using your Iowa drivers license number to mark personal property.

Speaker Detective Franklin Irvin, Des Moines Police Department explained how residents need to pay more attention to their surroundings. He said neighbors are important as the eyes and ears of the neighborhood and are important in solving crimes. They should always be observant, curious, suspicious and pay attention to their surroundings. Criminals watch and see who comes and leaves early. He suggested residents leave, drive around and return shortly to see any suspicious activities or to surprise a criminal. Make sure to lock all garage doors and windows, change your tactics, slow down and become observant. He passed around criminal pictures which are on the Polk County website to attendees to view and remember. It was mentioned we start a new section in the newsletter on recent crimes and M.O.s His motto is to light up, lock up and get to know your neighbors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Westchester Park Committee – A report was read from park chair Bob Shaw on the scheduled and continued improvements for the park for spring 2006. Families and kids are enjoying the park but additional improvements are coming.

Membership Committee – Chris Craig reported new membership database volunteer Jennifer Hushagen has updated the Excel membership and mailing lists doing a great job. Membership continues to increase each quarterly mailing and the renewal process of mailing in \$15 dues using the remit envelopes enclosed with each newsletter works very smooth. We currently have around 240 members and are looking for a Membership Coordinator to increase business and individual memberships.

Social Committee – The 2006 Calendar of events was provided as copies and attendees discussed the various projects and social events for the coming year. Volunteer sign up sheets were available on the table for interested parties.

Business Committee – Ken Craig reported on the success of the Member Appreciation night at Carlos O’Kelly’s last year and this year’s event is November 14. We want to thank General Manager Paul Dullard for the 20% dinner discount they offer to the MNA members.

Communications Committee – Ken Craig asked if neighbors received their Fall / October newsletter issue in the mail and asked neighbors to thank our sponsors and use advertiser coupons. The Business Committee rounds up all the ads which pay for the printing and mailing of each quarterly issue mailed direct to over 1,000 residents.

Community Development Committee – Wayne Thomas reported that the MNA had a very successful Scrub Day in July. He thanked the many volunteers who donated their time and mentioned how well we work to co-sponsor this event with the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association.

Don Shaw will check with Hoover/Meredith Principal Connie Cook about the constant complaints of trash that accumulates around the school property and blows into neighbors’ yards. Neighbors complained of thumping boom boxes at night which is against the sound ordinance, and speeding around Hoover and 50th Street.

Evening prize drawings were won by: Kelly Sersland and Fred and Geri Walker (Chocolate Storybook popcorn), Peggy Grim (MNA t-shirt) and Anne Citarella (candle).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. These minutes are in abbreviated form as the laptop file did not save properly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Craig, MNA Secretary 2004-2006