

Minutes of 1 June 2012
Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association
Annual General Meeting

In attendance: Board Members Pete Mooney, Wendy Carman, Anne Karabakal, Jack Cederquist, Neal Foster, Henry Brysk, David Bizot, Amy Seetoo and Emily Eisbruch. Several non-Board OHMHA members were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Board President Pete Mooney.

The agenda was approved unanimously without changes.

No minutes from the 13 March 2012 meeting were available. However those minutes were sent to the Board in April.

A meeting on 6 June 2012 for homeowners to learn about proposed changes to the Plymouth Green Crossings development plan was discussed by Jack Cederquist and Wendy Carman. David Bizot will attend the meeting and report on it. David and Emily Eisbruch will send information about the meeting to the residents email list in time for residents to attend.

Expenses for new signs for the Georgetown entrance are in the 2012 budget. The board did not object to paying the sign vendor in advance as he requested. Board Treasurer Wendy Carman issued a check for \$170 to Jack Cederquist to order the signs.

The brick corner walls at the Georgetown entrance have some loose bricks and some cracks. Jack Cederquist asked who is responsible for repairs. Consensus was that OHMHA may have to pay for the repairs, although the City of Ann Arbor will probably want to approve any work done. Pete Mooney will obtain quotes for repair work.

The 20 May Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale was reviewed by Jack Cederquist. He placed free ads on craigslist and a \$5 ad on mlive.com. About 50 families participated. Twelve individuals have sent emails to Jack stating that the garage sale was a positive event and requesting that it be repeated next year.

The Board will meet on 5 June 2012 at 7:30 pm at Emily Eisbruch's house to elect officers for the 2012-2013 year. (Meeting later moved to 6 June 2012 at Sweetwaters, Plymouth and Green.)

The next newsletter is scheduled for September 2012. Probable articles will be (with author): Plymouth Green Crossings plan (Bizot), garage sale (Cederquist), undesirable removal of trees at Applebee's (Mooney), Fall Festival announcement (Eisbruch) and report on tonight's speaker (Cederquist). Emily Eisbruch will announce a deadline for articles.

In the round robin, on the subject of the Anita Jones Memorial Bench, Neal Foster reported that he is now in contact with the company that supplied a bench similar to the one we desire. However, former Thurston Elementary Principal Patricia Manley indicated a problem with this company. Neal will investigate and report back.

Former Board member Sandy Smith reiterated her offer to donate a tree to replace the half-dead tree at the Burbank-Green Road entrance. Pete Mooney offered to develop a plan to replace the tree. It was noted that, if two symmetrical trees are desired, both trees would have to be replaced, unless a tree of the same species and size can be found.

Before, during and after the meeting, OHMHA membership dues were paid and election ballots cast. Treasurer Wendy Carman collected the dues for deposit and the ballots for counting.

At 7 pm, the meeting moved to a presentation on invasive species by Dave Borneman, Natural Area Preservation manager for the City of Ann Arbor. Twenty-four OHMHA members were in attendance for the presentation.

The excellent talk made the following points:

Before the arrival of European settlers to the Ann Arbor area, the landscape consisted of large oaks, widely spaced, with grassy areas between them. Travel through the landscape was not obstructed by shrubs or fallen trees. This native ecosystem was thus maintained for thousands of years by means of fires set by the resident native Americans. They desired a landscape suitable for hunting small game. Mr. Borneman illustrated this point with quotes from settlers of the early 1800s describing the beautiful landscape in the Ann Arbor area.

Europeans introduced plants from Europe and did not continue the practice of setting fires. Some of these plants, e.g., buckthorn, garlic mustard and purple loosestrife, were not controlled either by man or nature and grew extensively in the landscape, resulting in the invasive species problem we have today.

In Ann Arbor parks, the Natural Area Preservation department seeks to return them to their previous state, the native ecosystem. They do this by a combination of controlled burning, introduction of insects that eat undesired plants (an example is the effective control of purple loosestrife by a beetle), physical removal and careful use of herbicides.

Areas with invasive plants can be categorized as those that are heavily infested, areas that are at the boundary of the spread of the infestation and those in which only a very few invasives are present, so called "satellite infestations." Mr. Borneman stressed that the most effective approach is to remove the satellite infestations first, then attempt to push the invasive boundary back a small amount each year. This approach will keep the infestation from spreading. The less subtle

approach, sometimes adopted by well-meaning groups and individuals, of first attacking the heavy infestation usually results simply in the regrowth of the infestation the following year.

The audience asked many questions after the presentation. In response to a question about control of invasives in the Thurston Nature Center forest, Mr. Borneman noted that, while controlled burning might reduce invasive species, the goal of the Nature Center is not to become a native 'oak openings' ecosystem. Instead the Nature Center serves an educational purpose and contains many different types of trees planted over many years, some of which may be harmed by fire. The Nature Center is however starting an oak savannah just south of Thurston Pond in an attempt to establish a native ecosystem area.

For more information, good websites are:

mipn.org

www.stewardshipnetwork.org

www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/NAP/Pages/NaturalAreaPreservation.aspx

Mr. Borneman can be reached at dborneman@a2gov.org

The Natural Area Preservation department of the City of Ann Arbor is funded by the 2007-2012 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements millage.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jack Cederquist.