

\*\*\* March 9, 2010 OHMHA Meeting Minutes \*\*\*

Board Members in attendance: Henry Brysk, Wendy Carman, Emily Eisbruch, Neal Foster, Monica Hanna, Greg Jagst, Peter Mooney, and Phil Savage.

- The OHMHA Board opened with a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda; Peter motioned, Neal seconded; all approved.
- The OHMHA Board made a motion to approve the January 2010 OHMHA Meeting Minutes; Neal mentioned a small correction concerning the Thurston Nature Center applying for a \$300,000 grant on January 29, 2010 and no formal letter of support was submitted at this time. Phil moved to approve and Neal seconded the motion.

At this point, OHMHA member Chad Bailey arrived to attend the Meeting; the Board introduced themselves. Chad indicated that he was attending the Meeting to contribute in the discussion of the Georgetown median care. The Board instructed that that issue could be addressed during the Round Robin segment of the Meeting.

- OHMHA Signage change at Georgetown and Plymouth: Emily had agreed to research new signage options given public comment expressing updating of 45 year old signs. A several companies were looked at and two options seemed viable for OHMHA needs. Exterior Signage from Chicago, owned by Bud, was a strong option who agreed to teleconference with the OHMHA Board to discuss a proposal. He quoted \$600 for two 18" by 24" high density polyurethane signs, sales tax and local installation being extra. The signs have a lifetime guarantee.

After discussion, the Board approved moving forward with Exterior Signs and approved up to \$650 for this expenditure.

- Treasurer's Report: Wendy indicated that \$450 has been collected for the Anita Jones Memorial from 12 donors; this adds to the \$300 OHMHA pledge to total \$750 raised thus far. Wendy also reported that \$410 in OHMHA membership dues has also been collected since the last OHMHA Meeting.
- OHMHA Garage Sale on May 15, 2010: Neal volunteered to help set up the signs with Greg. It was discussed as to whether to place newspaper ads and online postings (Craigslist, etc.) Ann Arbor Chronicle and Ann Arbor Observer were mentioned. Neal offered to check out some garage sale ad options. Wendy suggested that card advertisements could be placed on local bulletin boards.
- Fall Festival Leadership: Margie is stepping down from spearheading the Festival this year and other people were encouraged to fill the role. Neal and Greg offered to help again but declined the leadership role. Greg mentioned that Amy Seetoo did a terrific job with the talent portion of last years' Festival: maybe she would be interested in leading it? [UPDATE: Amy Seetoo has agreed as of late March to head the Fall Festival 2010—thank you Amy!]
- Median Care: Neal mentioned that 'Rain Garden' project for the Georgetown median as presented by Matt Naud at the January 2010 OHMHA Meeting is not possible for the City of Ann Arbor to move ahead with due to lack of funding. The Board agreed that there are essentially four choices that our neighborhood has as to care of the Georgetown median: A) that no chemical treatment be used in the median and that local residents would be hired to weed and cut the grass. A person would also be needed to supervise this effort. B) allow for a pilot area to be designated in which other plants

and shrubs could be installed to assess how feasible it is in regards to attractive appearance, low physical maintenance and cost of upkeep.

C) A combination of A and B

D) A company be hired to use pesticides and herbicides on the median in accordance with City of Ann Arbor policy. In the past, OHMHA did not require a lawn care company to follow this policy.

Chad Bailey read a summary of the extensive City policy to the OHMHA Board. Chad has a background in Environmental Science and advocated against the arbitrary use of pesticides and herbicides due to many studies informing of adverse health problems to people living close by. He also hopes that the neighborhood can reduce the amount of pesticide in runoff that flows into Miller's Creek. He favored a more balanced ecological solution to median care. He mentioned corn gluten as a natural compound that could lessen weed growth. Chad agreed to look into various options for the Board to consider in median care and discuss the issue with Margie.

The Board discussed issues of liability of hiring someone privately to grass cut the median. Peter favored hiring someone local to keep the money in the neighborhood. Chad suggested that many lawn care companies may be willing to fiscally negotiate the issue as well.

The Board agreed to give Margie the "green light" to do a pilot area in the median with low maintenance plantings and inform the Board of costs and other necessities.

The Meeting ended around 9pm.