

## **MINUTES OF THE OHMHA MAY 13, 2014 BOARD MEETING**

Board Members Present: Jack Cederquist, Wendy Carmen, Greg Jagst, Anne Karabakal, Jerry Schulte, Peter Mooney, Frank Commiskey  
Residents present: Martin Torch-Ishii, Nadine Wong

It was a dark and stormy night in Orchard Hill-Maplewood when the Association Board met in the fortunately not dark and stormy Clague Middle School media center.

### **THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Greg Jagst moved and Frank Commiskey seconded that the board approve the proposed agenda. It was unanimously approved. Greg moved and Frank seconded that Emily Eisbruch's email summarizing the February meetings minutes be approved as the minutes of that meeting. This was also unanimously approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Wendy reported on changes in the financial status of the Association's accounts. Since the last report, the Association earned 54 cents in interest, incurred \$80 owed to Ann Arbor Toilet from last year's Fall Festival and \$600 owed to Pete Mooney for the Burbank plantings. Frank asked about a donation to the Thurston Nature Center, with a discussion indicating that all favored making one at a future meeting. It was also noted that \$245 is left in the Anita Jones Memorial Fund, and it was discussed that Emily had indicated that she may have ideas about the use for funds. Greg moved and Pete Mooney seconded the approval of the minutes, which were approved unanimously.

### **NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

Greg found 2 volunteers to help with newsletter delivery which Greg labeled by hand while watching a Tigers game. Nadine asked what percentage of the neighborhood are members. Wendy indicated that 40 percent is our high water mark though the exact current percentage was unknown. Jerry Schulte asked if the Association could permit annual dues payments by electronic bank transfers or credit cards. Other ways of increasing membership were discussed, including an email from Jack to the neighborhood listserv about the importance of membership.

### **FALL FESTIVAL**

Greg said that he would consider leading the Fall Festival effort again. Frank pointed out that the Thurston Nature Center's 50 year anniversary is this year, which could be paired with the Festival. Jack Cederquist volunteered to contact OHAC and Bromley about the Festival, but asked for help reaching out to other groups. Jack asked for Frank's help in contacting other groups. Greg suggested allowing local non-profits to fundraise at the Festival. Though it was agreed that the event should take place on a Sunday in late September or early October, there was a discussion about whether it should be on a

Michigan football home or away weekend. After a discussion of home vs. away football game dates, the Board voted to hold the Festival on September 28<sup>th</sup>, a home weekend.

### **GARAGE SALE**

Jack discussed a new garage sale sign printed by Arbor Printing and Design with the OHMHA logo that would cost \$12.50 each. The Board approved the new signs. Jack indicated that we will no longer use paid ads and would use those funds to buy new signs. Jack also mentioned that a Bromley resident is doing a neighborhood garage sale, and that that would be on the same date as the OHMHA sale.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Association's annual meeting will be at 7 pm on June 6 at Thurston, paired with the Ice Cream Social. The Board discussed reserving the Thurston Media Center. Jack indicated that he has kept in contact with Adam Zemke about speaking at the meeting.

### **GEORGETOWN PLANTING**

Jack said that he and his wife did some work in the area around the Georgetown entrance, and that Suzan Karabakal will weed and water the plantings. There was a discussion about whose responsibility it is to prune and otherwise maintain the crab apple tree trees on the Georgetown Boulevard median. Wendy indicated that the city has planted new trees in the past but was no longer pruning the existing trees. Frank mentioned the possibility of the residents adopting the trees.

### **GEORGETOWN ENTRANCE BRICK WALL**

Pete indicated that he had obtained a bid from a local mason to do basic maintenance such as point tucking but felt that a larger project required someone with more knowledge in the construction/design area. Jerry said that he had hoped to use a software program to put together images of potential redesigns. There was a discussion, including whether to keep the existing structure or replace it with a much smaller structure in the median. Jerry said that he would work on getting options to present to the Board and Association.

### **BURBANK ENTRANCE**

Jack said that he was pleased that the new trees had been planted. Pete indicated that he had hoped that he could have accomplished this project earlier but was pleased with the result. Pete also indicated that the contractor, Jay's Unique Landscaping, recommended to him watering the new plantings daily for 30 days. After a discussion about getting the trees watered Martin and Jerry offered to help with that effort.

## **THURSTON NATURE CENTER**

Frank Commiskey discussed the status of Thurston Pond. He explained that maintaining it would involve significant cost. He added that Ann Arbor Public Schools funds are limited and that a hoped for state grant did not come through. Frank pointed out that there was a gap in the berm, and that if the berm failed water could flow onto Prairie St. Frank added that there are 14 million gallons of water in pond and that the pond acts as a detention pond for the neighborhood. The first step is to procure blueprints/construction design documents to outline steps to deal with the problems with the pond. Those problems include its depth, sediment buildup and the fact that it was no longer a desirable habitat for geese. Solutions would include re-contouring and digging channels throughout the pond. Frank concluded by indicating that at this point the priority was fundraising to get a study done to provide a blueprint for needed action and that this was expected to cost \$20,000.00

During Round Robin it was agreed that Pete would attempt to organize a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward City Council candidates' forum.

The next OHMHA Board meeting is Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Clague Middle School.