

Minutes for the May 12, 2016 Meeting of the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowner's Association Board at Clague Middle School

Present: Jennifer Oldham, Wendy Carman, Jack Cederquist, Frank Commisky, Anne Karabakal, Jerry Schulte, Emily Eisbruch, Nadine Wong, Martin Torch-Ishii

1. **Minutes.** The November 2015 and February 2016 minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.
3. **Newsletter.** Martin asked if it was alright to purchase a large batch of mailing labels for the newsletter. Jack suggested that this is an appropriate newsletter expense and Martin should go ahead and purchase the labels. There were some issues with the names not printing properly on the newsletter labels. This will be addressed within the spreadsheet Martin prints from.
4. **Community Forum.** Jack asked for an update about the recent community forum. Frank pointed out that the main topic was recent transportation issues between the City and the University of Michigan.
5. **Garage sale.** Jack has put up signs around the neighborhood. There are ads on Craigslist and NextDoor. Jack will refresh those ads throughout the week. There has been some email traffic to Jack from residents, which suggests there is still interest in this event.
6. **Annual general meeting.** The meeting will take place at Thurston Elementary School. Police Chief Jim Baird is committed to speaking at this event. Jack will make sure to bring forms for paying dues.
7. **Fall Festival.** Frank has an invitation out to various musicians to supply music for the festival. Frank discussed a few different charities involving Thurston Elementary, Thurston Nature Center, and Kiwanis. The charity run is currently scheduled on the same day as the Fall Festival. The run could either be moved to Saturday, or they would try to have their event at the same time as the Fall Festival. The Board gave Frank permission to make a decision about the start time of the festival, based on the run. Frank will sit down with Greg to make a final decision about start time.
8. **Email issues.** Wendy suggested Mailchimp as a clearer way for residents to contact the Board. Perhaps this can be added to the back of each newsletter. There was a discussion about how frequently emails should be sent out. The content should not include anything political, lost pets, sales pitches, etc. There was unanimous agreement among all Board members.
9. **Thurston Nature Center.** Frank said that the work days were very successful. There were about 35 people each day. There were many high school students that came this year to fulfill their volunteer requirements for school. In terms of progress, the pond has water, fish are coming in, and plants are going in. The current wildlife is doing very well. A

professional burn was completed successfully. The brush piles are difficult to get rid of. Chipping takes too long and is expensive. The best option will be to burn the piles and have residents roast marshmallows! The wall is going to be outside of Thurston Elementary. The location has almost been chosen. The wall should be up by the end of summer. It will be just to the left of the amphitheatre as you are looking north. The Mike Haber bench is no longer in commission. Frank had to take it apart and it was in very bad condition. The family would like to see the bench come back. The bench is on OHAC property though and was never placed there by OHMHA. Jack felt that it was not our job to replace the bench, but perhaps we could make a donation toward the cost of replacing the bench. Frank felt that OHAC is not in a financial position to be able to replace it. Frank felt that the TNC might be the most appropriate organization to cover the replacement cost of the bench.

10. **Georgetown Entrance.** Jerry got in touch with planning. There is some general support. We have to write a variance request. Both residents have to sign a letter. The Board would be submitting the letter on behalf of these two residents. Jerry will reach out to both residents and explain the procedure. Jerry will have a pre-meeting with planning once he is ready to submit. Jerry feels fairly optimistic the plan will be approved.
11. **September Newsletter.** The newsletter will include information about the Fall Festival, the annual meeting, Thurston Nature Center, OHAC Pools, possible progress on the Georgetown entrance, and a profile of our new board member.
12. **Next meeting:** The next meeting date was set for September 8 at Clague Middle School.