

November 2009 OHMHA Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jack Cederquist, Stuart Baggaley, Wendy Carman, Greg Jagst, Emily Eisbruch, Ann Karabakal, Monica Hanna, Neal Foster, Margie Weiss, Peter Mooney, Henry Brysk; residents Joel and Shirley Berger.

- The Meeting opened with a review of the Meeting Agenda; Peter Mooney moved to approve, Wendy Carman seconded; all approved.
- September 2009 OHMHA Meeting Minutes were presented by Greg Jagst; two typos were corrected. Neal Foster then moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Peter Mooney; all approved.
- Treasurer's Report: Wendy did not have any changes to report in the amounts held in the two OHMHA accounts. Signatures were still needed to be granted an EIN number. Wendy mentioned that some checks issued by OHMHA had yet to be cashed. The OHMHA checkbook was brought to reimburse various Board members their Fall Festival expenses. Jack moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Stuart seconded, all approved.
- Anita Jones Memorial proposal: Peter Mooney discussed how Joel Berger had approached Peter with the idea of a Memorial for Anita. Shirley Berger related how many friends and neighbors of Anita Jones had not been informed of her passing given the transition to a new city newspaper. Many wished to remember Anita through a memorial (i.e. a park bench, plaque, and/or tree) placed in a visible area of the neighborhood. Questions brought up with this proposal included how to acknowledge financial contributions from friends and neighbors, how much a memorial would cost and that verbiage planned on a memorial should be approved by Anita's family. The City would have to be contacted concerning placement of a memorial as well. Thurston Pond and Sugarbush Park were mentioned as possible locations. Peter moved that an article be written in the OHMHA newsletter informing residents of memorial plans and asking for feedback/interest. He also asked that OHMHA approve \$300 toward the cost of the memorial. Wendy seconded, all approved.
- Medians' Upkeep Status: Jack spoke to Mayor at Fall Festival: thought medians are probably owned by City, but not sure and that spraying was not probably allowed. Referred Jack to speak to Stephen Rapundalo about the issue and he felt spraying was not allowed. Margie spoke to Matthew Naud about the issue; he wanted to speak to Stephen R. and Tony Derezinski

about the issue. Mr. Naud hoped to work on the issue with OHMHA and would try to attend the next meeting. Stuart mentioned his city contact told him that no spraying of weed killer is allowed; Stuart had good success hiring students in the past pulling weeds in his lawn; Peter mentioned high school kids mowing the median more frequently would keep the appearance looking tidy as well. Monica mentioned two neighbors use Back to Nature organic fertilizer to combat weeds successfully. Jack moved that we postpone a decision until Matt Naud could address the Board.

Tony Derezinski arrived at the OHMHA Meeting at 8:05pm. He informed the OHMHA Board of several issues being addressed by City Council:

- A) Rezoning: city zoning has not been updated since the 1960's, so it is quite out of date. Property in the downtown edge of the city is being considered and redone. The master plan for the City of Ann Arbor is being reviewed. He also informed the Board of transportation changes that are being planned in the city. Two commuter rail lines are being worked on: an East-West line is expected to be operational by October 2010; communities are building hubs along the route between Detroit and Chicago. A second North-South commuter line is being worked that Tony feels has a 50% chance of coming to fruition. An intermodal hub on Fuller Road is being worked on involving East-West commuter line that will connect easily with U of M Hospital; this will include 1,000 parking spots and a bridge from Fuller Street to the Hospital.
- B) The Stadium Bridge is in severe disrepair and is narrowed down to two lanes for safety reasons. The cost of rebuilding the bridge is estimated at \$22 million; the City is hoping for Federal stimulus money, among other sources, to pay for this repair.
- C) The Argo Dam: Tony feels that the majority of constituents who have contacted him want to keep the Dam in place to maintain the ponds. The Department of Environmental Quality says that Dam is in good condition though a raceway may be leaking and may have to be repaired. The raceway would be shortened and a series of ponds graded at slightly different elevations may solve this problem.
- D) Single Stream Recycling: City is looking at how its large recycled product is sold; they are looking at increasing efficiencies with outlying communities.

- E) Downtown Parking: 770 parking spots will be created in a parking structure four stories underground. The City is debating what to put on top of this structure, considering a park, conference center, library, or a combination of the three options. The City is reviewing proposals and then will conduct open hearings on the topic.
- F) Budget Crunch: Given the City has lost so much tax revenue, they are considering ways to increase revenue. One proposal is increasing the fine on parking tickets; another proposal explores the possibility of a City income tax with a property tax reduction with the goal of taxing those non-residents who work in the City. Public discussion will occur on these issues.
- G) Neal Foster asked Tony about the Miller's Creek Watershed Improvement Plan; Tony said he would talk to Stephen Rapundalo about it and keep Jack updated on the issue as well.
- H) Wendy asked Tony about the Plymouth Green development concerning their affordable housing donation which has yet to be paid. She expressed concern that these funds would not be paid if the developer declared bankruptcy; he said he would call Stephen R. and would keep Jack posted on the subject.

Tony left the OHMHA Meeting to return to a City Council meeting.

- 501 C(4): Wendy received a letter from the IRS asking for a map of the neighborhood, the OHMHA bylaws, and a brief narrative description of OHMHA. Peter said that even if our 501C(4) is not yet in place we can use the EIN number, which is in process.
- OHMHA Neighborhood Garage Sale: the Board agreed to May 15, 2010 . Stuart made the motion, Emily seconded, all approved.
- OHMHA February Newsletter: Emily said that Fall Festival wrap up will be included, Neal will have a pond or nature article, an article on the Anita Jones memorial; a work in progress.
- Wendy added that the Plymouth Green development is scheduled to add another freestanding building. She also is on a City Committee to deal with R4C and R2A zonings in the City. Henry asked about the Plymouth Mall

development; Wendy confirmed that development plans were approved but the facility may be up for sale and everything appeared in limbo.

- Replanting Burbank Entrance: Peter talked to his neighbor Denise; suggested tabling the issue since nothing new to add at the moment. Wendy suggested that an area for Anita's memorial may be at the Burbank entrance given the importance it held for Anita.
- Next OHMHA Meeting dates: January 12, 2010 and March 9, 2010 at 7:30pm in the Activity Room at Thurston.
- Round Robin: Wendy mentioned a November 19, 2009 public meeting to discuss storm water detention on properties making additions to homes totaling over 200 square feet; Wendy may attend the meeting.
- Emily offered an AGENDA ITEM: To wrap up the Fall Festival 2009 and planning for Fall Festival 2010. Photos etc. to be included in next Newsletter. Also, a big "thank you" to all, especially Amy Seetoo, who helped make 2009 event a big success.
- Margie mentioned a couple residents had contacted her to be removed from the OHMHA email list. She moved that the latest OHMHA budget be posted of our website, Board discussed and approved the motion.
- Peter proposed that an article on Plymouth Green and possible bankruptcy be written for the Newsletter. Emily suggested emailing the Ann Arbor Observer with this article idea.
- Jack mentioned that some OHMHA members need to get checks from Wendy for reimbursement.

Meeting was adjourned at around 9:40PM.