

Minutes of the November 11, 2014 OHMHA meeting

Board Members Present: Jack Cederquist, Amy Seetoo, Greg Jagst, Emily Eisbruch, Frank Commiskey, Peter Mooney, Anne Karabakal, Martin Torch-Ishii.
Guest Present: Brad Roth

It was 7 o'clock on a Tuesday . . . and the regular crowd shuffled in:

1. **Agenda** -- Amy moved and Greg seconded followed by unanimous board approval.
2. **Minutes of 9 September 2014 meeting** -- Amy moved and Greg seconded followed by unanimous board approval.
3. **Treasurer's Report** -- Pete moved and Anne seconded followed by unanimous board approval
4. **Discussion of membership levels** -- There was an extended discussion relating to increasing membership. Amy suggested reaching out directly to non-member households with a focus on making the membership more diverse. Guest Brad Roth indicated that an online payment option on the website would be beneficial by making renewal more convenient. Anne Karabakal agreed to investigate online renewal. Others discussed the importance of personal contact, and making sure residents were aware of their membership status. Frank suggested an Association-sponsored food festival.
5. **Fall Festival feedback** - Greg and Frank discussed this year's Fall Festival. Greg estimated there were about 220-250 in attendance over the course of the event. Expenses were a bit higher than expected. Some felt that there were too many raffle items. Others suggested reviewing the length of the festival. Frank reported that the donation jar received \$48. Frank also agreed to request a contribution toward the cost of the tent from the PTO. Several recommended that anyone interested in a summary of this year's Festival review Emily's video of the event.
6. **Newsletter Topics** - Proposed articles included: Possible second neighborhood forum at Zoup/Garage sale in May/Proposed developments at Nixon-Dhu Varren/Fall Festival wrap up/Thurston Nature Center fundraising article/Georgetown Entrance status.
7. **Community Forum** - Jack agreed that it would make sense to hold another community forum at Zoup. Amy suggested that there would likely be interest in discussing the Nixon-Dhu Varren developments. Jack agreed to coordinate. Martin agreed to help with logistics. It was suggested that we reach out to the Thurston Nature Center, OHAC and Bromley regarding scheduling the forum.

8. **Pedestrian Safety and Access Task Force report** – Emily reported on a meeting of the Pedestrian Safety and Access Task Force. The biggest issues were speeding, and lack of sidewalks. Some complaints were raised that crosswalks were not painted consistently. There is an app, A2 Fix It, to report crosswalk problems. It was reported that there is discussion of sidewalks being constructed on the east side of Nixon.
9. **Georgetown Entrance** – Suzanne Karabakal weeded the entrance area plantings, which was much appreciated. The City of Ann Arbor may plant trees in median in 2015.
10. **Georgetown Brick Wall Entrance** – Jerry Schulte could not attend but emailed a report. Jerry reported that he surveyed residents at the Fall Festival and that there was little or no interest in replacing the existing wall with a structure on the median. It was suggested that Jerry write a newsletter article reporting the survey results, what respondents wanted, etc. Guest Brad Roth talked about being willing to work with board on the wall.
11. **Developments on Nixon Rd North/South** – Jack reported that Bleznak Real Estate Group’s Woodbury Park 282-unit apartment project slated for an area east of Nixon and South of M-14 had received support from the Planning Commission both for its site plan and the proposed annexation of the property into Ann Arbor. In connection with another development in this area, the Planning Commission approved annexing land proposed to be developed by Toll Bros for 473 housing units in the areas northwest and southwest of the Nixon/Dhu Varren intersection. Jack reported that one member of the Planning Commission (Sabra Briere) sought delay of Toll Bros. proposed annexation of the property into Ann Arbor. This proposal failed 6-1. Jack has talked to council members Sumi Kailasapathy, Sabra Briere, Jane Lumm and Sally Petersen about neighborhood concerns about the projects. It was also discussed that City Council has funded a traffic study for the Dhu Varren, Green, & Nixon intersection costing \$60,000.00.
12. **Thurston Nature Center Update** – Frank reported that for the work needed on the Thurston Pond construction would likely cost \$165,000 based on current estimates. He added that work must start in May, 2015. In addition to funds that the Nature Center is attempting to raise, the school system is looking at whether they have money they can contribute. Frank added that Praveena Ramaswami is starting a crowd-funding site.
13. **Future Meeting Dates** – It was agreed that the next meetings would be February 10 and May 12.