

Minutes of the September 15, 2015 OHMHA meeting

Board Members Present: Jack Cederquist, Greg Jagst, Jerry Schulte, Emily Eisbruch, Peter Mooney, Anne Karabakal, Martin Torch-Ishii, and Nadine Wong.

When Earth, Wind and Fire thinks of September they sing “Ba de ya”. When the OHMHA board thinks of September, their minds turn to Nixon Road Developments, the Fall Festival, and the Thurston Pond. At our September meeting we were unable to access the Clague Media Center, but, with McGyver-like ingenuity, we made a meeting area out of the entrance foyer. Here is what was discussed:

1. **Minutes** - Last meeting’s minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Newsletter** - Jack thanked Emily for putting the newsletter together, Amy for printing it and Greg handling distribution. As Jack said, it takes a village.
3. **Rabia Shafie’s Seat on the Board.** Jack reminded us that, unfortunately, Rabia Shafie has moved out of the neighborhood and can no longer serve on the board. There followed a discussion of replacing Rabia. Jack said that he would reach out to Deanna Sakamoto, and also indicated that he would send out a neighborhood wide email to gauge interest.
4. **Online voting/donations** - There was discussion of residents voting online, and paying dues online. Wendy indicated that using Paypal as means of paying dues had been a big success with one resident sending \$500 online to cover current and, apparently, many years past dues. Anne Karabakal offered to investigate online AGM voting.
5. **Nixon Road Developments** - Jack explained that two properties on the east and one on the west of Nixon are being developed with a total of 750 new residences anticipated. These will consist of a mix of apartments, duplexes, carriage houses etc. Jack explained that properties were being annexed by Ann Arbor, and the developers were seeking rezoning to permit the developments. Wendy explained that there are wetlands on the properties being developed, and shared pictures of a 5.5 acre wetland on the east side of Nixon that she indicated could have a road installed through it on the west end of the wetland if the development were approved. She added that the parcels on the west side of Nixon included the Traver Creek tributary. The current zoning for the parcels is agricultural, but that would have to change in 2017 once they came into the city if not earlier by council action. Although, as noted above, Traver Creek would be impacted by the developments, Wendy explained that unlike Allen Creek there is no committee championing Traver Creek leaving it more vulnerable. Jack and

Wendy discussed touring the property with 2nd ward reps Jane Lumm and Kirk Westphal to show them firsthand some of the natural features on the parcels.

6. **Georgetown Entrance** - Jerry Schulte spoke on this issue. Right now, the primary concern is that anything that we may do to replace the wall could run afoul of city ordinances. Jerry said that he had had discussions with city planner Wendy Rampson that were progressing smoothly, and then she retired before anything could be finalized. Wendy had suggested that Jerry go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance. There was also a discussion of a fence adjacent to the wall that has caused concern among neighbors. There was discussion of a motion to preauthorize the cost of going to the ZBA, which passed preauthorizing the payment of \$500 of the cost of going to the ZBA.
7. **Welcome packet.** We discussed creating a welcome package for new residents that could include information about the association, OHAC and TNC. Nadine mentioned that she had received a welcome pack when she arrived, and thought that it was a good idea. Nadine volunteered to lead this effort.
8. **Fall Festival.** Greg Jagst and Frank Commiskey were in charge of this year's Fall Festival. Greg said that bird-handling celebrity Francie has moved to the River Raisin raptor center, which will now provide the eagle and other birds of prey. He added that Tom Teller will provide audio equipment, and that officer Tom Hickey from the AAPD would appear. Others promising to attend included representatives of the Kiwanis and Joanne Culbertson from OHAC. Business donations were a bit down, but Greg expected to still have a raffle.
9. **Thurston Nature Center** - Erstwhile and tireless pond advocate Frank Commiskey described the significant progress made so far. Frank said that they were very close to completing the construction portion and that reinforcement of the berm was done. In addition, the upgrading and restoring of the outlet channel was completed and the pond was deepened by removing 1050 cubic yards of sediment. Jack asked about draining the pond given all the rain during the past summer, and Frank explained that July-August were dry enough to drain the pond though damp sediment had created issues. Emily suggested saying thanks to all who contributed time and money at the Fall Festival. Kudos to Frank for an incredible accomplishment.
10. **Treasurer** - Wendy Carmen reported that we have \$14,439 in the bank and 132 paid members. She has met with Martin who is taking over the treasurer's duties. It was decided that in the meantime we would leave Wendy on the account as a signer. There was also a discussion of whether the responsibilities

for collecting dues and maintaining the membership/ mailing list should be split, but Martin thought that he could handle both.

11. **Candidate forum** - Pete Mooney arrived during the treasurer discussion, and so we doubled back to the candidate forum. Both Sally Hart Petersen and Jane Lumm had agreed to take part, and Pete reported that the event was scheduled to take place at the Traverwood library on October 11 at 4 pm.
12. **Next meeting** - The date for our next gathering was set for November 12.