

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 7:08 pm.

Present: Wendy Carman, Dave Hibbs, Amy Seetoo, Joe Trulik, Jerry Schulte, Emily Eisbruch, Jack Cederquist, Greg Jagst, Anne Karabakal, and Jane Klingsten

AGENDA: Greg requested moving the discussion of the Fall Festival to first on the agenda. The discussion reflected both enthusiasm for the event's history along with concern regarding COVID and unvaccinated kids. The Board discussed the pros and cons of going forward this year, including an offer from Tecumseh Tent to provide rentals for free due to a problem two years ago. The consensus was that we could not hold an unmasked event. In addition, Greg had not been able to get a response from the Thurston choir about their availability. Wendy expressed concern about unvaccinated children, and Jane about group singing. Amy referenced breakthrough cases. We considered various options for providing a revised festival that had music, but no other activities, while perhaps offering food or only cans of pop. After further discussion, Amy moved to postpone the event to next year and Joe seconded with unanimous approval from the board.

Action items: Jane will let the pool know and Emily will let the Thurston Nature Center know.

Annual Meeting: June 9th: Wendy took on the task of the Newsletter distribution for this year, which went well with special thanks to guidance from Greg and help from volunteers he had previously lined up. Wendy discussed the meeting's guest, former City Administrator Tom Crawford, who gave a presentation and answered questions from the virtual audience. We also discussed his forced resignation following an investigation of concerns raised by 5 employees regarding comments they considered racially-insensitive.

Report of June 15 Meeting to elect Officers: The slate was elected and by-laws changes were approved. We held a brief meeting to elect officers. All 4 executive officers agreed to continue in those roles for this fiscal year. In addition, Emily agreed to continue as editor of the Newsletter and Anne will continue to be in charge of the website. Our only other action at that meeting was to set the date for this meeting.

Action Item: Wendy will reach out to the board members to ensure the by-law changes go into effect and a clean copy is/has been posted to the website

Minutes of May 12th Meeting: Pete had circulated the minutes of the May 12th meeting. Jane and Amy suggested revisions to be sent via email. Approval was postponed so those issues could be addressed. Amy mentioned that she had corrected. Jane had requested some more details. Jane moved to postponed approval and Amy seconded with unanimous approval from the board.

Treasurer's report: Dave noted that he received ballots from about 50 people. He also noted the transfer of \$3500 to the entrance fund and the \$205 used to buy new garage sale signs. We had more success with people paying their dues with the paper newsletter which improved our balance. Jane moved and Joe seconded approval of the treasurer's report, which was unanimously approved. In further discussion, Dave noted that Huntington Bank will be taking over over TCF bank in October. Joe raised the question of whether the change might improve the security options for us.

Action item: Wendy will visit Huntington Bank as soon as Huntington takes over to ask about security protocols available then will call a meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee.

Reports (if any) from Committees

Budget & Finance Committee- We confirmed that Joe, Dave, and Wendy will remain on the Committee and Jane will join the Committee. There was a discussion of PayPal and the need to take some money out of PayPal. It may require Wendy to resolve issues, PayPal still thinks Wendy, who was the treasurer, is the contact person.

Action Items: Wendy will contact PayPal as soon as possible to investigate. The Budget and Finance committee will plan to meet after Wendy talks with Huntington. Wendy will file the tax reporting for Federal and Michigan in the next week or two. We will ensure that future newsletters have Dave's actual address.

Nominating Committee Wendy reported that she and Jack had each approached someone to fill the vacancy without success.

Action items: We will continue to reach out to other possible prospects and will post a notice on the website and in the next Newsletter

Old business

Monument Project This project is progressing very well. Jerry noted that he had asked for a 20% increase in the budget and that is not reflected in the budget. However, things seem to be going well and it probably won't be needed.

Action Item: Any overage that occurs will be brought to the Board's attention.

Garage Sale: Jack has submitted a report for the minutes. Jack estimated that participation was similar to that of other years with 24 houses in Bromley and 30-35 homes in our neighborhood.

Park Access Meeting-Jane reported that she and Wendy had a successful meeting with Scott Spooner from the City of Ann Arbor, and learned that some Park access items could be fixed from the current parks budget and some would need to be part of 2023 Parks PROS plan. Jane discussed our budgeted \$500 contribution to Parks and whether we should do it now. Wendy suggested we wait until after we get a date for work to start on updates

Action Item: Jane will try to get confirmation of a date from Parks.

Solar Event: Wendy reported that the Solar event was well attended and that 34 people signed up to get estimates. Jane asked about holding another event highlighting another installer. Wendy reported that some people who had signed up but were not able to attend were provided a link to see a recording of the event. She had vetted another installer who is apparently not on the City's list. Board discussion raised questions about doing this.

Action items: Jane and Wendy will discuss this further. Wendy will reach out to Julie Roth at the city and discuss why Michigan Solar is not on their recommended list.

New Business

Landscaping at entrances: Wendy reported that Jack and Wendy were in contact with Dana Novak about the City's new Adopt-a-Median Program. That program has indicated that it can offer support crafting outreach/coordination for volunteer events, and a small annual stipend for mulch, flowers, and similar supplies. Sometimes it can arrange larger deliveries of compost or woodchips. We have indicated interest for both the garden at the Plymouth & Georgetown entrance and at the Burbank & Green Rd entrance. We have not heard back.

Action item: We will contact Dana Novak if we have not heard after some time

Neighborhood Watch/CPOT- Jack

This program is replacing Neighborhood Watch with the Community Partnership and Outreach Team (CPOT) and perhaps its focus. Jack went to the Police meeting about this. He has submitted a report to be included in the minutes. He indicated he did not know why he received an invitation. Amy who had started to take over Greg's role as head of our Neighborhood Watch was surprised that she was not invited to this City Meeting. It was not clear what these new changes would mean for us.

Action items: Amy will follow-up with the City and try to find out why she was skipped and what she should have learned.

Mail Chimp Wendy asked whether mail chimp was restricted to Emily because of the need for 2-factor authentication through her phone number. Both Emily and Jack can send messages and Emily pays \$10.00 for the ability to send longer messages such as newsletters. Anyone could be trained and send messages that probably would not have to be 2-factor authenticated after the first time. However, having both Jack and Emily may be sufficient.

Action Item: Wendy will consider whether she needs to also become a sender.

Membership Committee Wendy indicated that she will reach out to Board members to see if we can activate this committee and make some plans. Amy volunteered to help Action Item: wendy will meet with Amy and propose next steps to activate this new Committee.

Next Newsletter: Emily discussed she anticipates having 3 Newsletters each year with only the Spring election newsletter being printed and the other 2 being electronic. This will be easier and it will be cheaper. There was a lengthy discussion of a possible contactless Halloween activity that could include lighted trails through part of Sugarbush and/or the Nature Center with LED lights and/or a contest regarding homeowner's decorations perhaps with a theme that we could advertise on Nextdoor and facebook. This activity could be an alternative to the Fall Festival. This could serve as a way to generate some excitement and membership interest. We voted to allot up to \$200 toward this. Dave proposed and Joe seconded allocating \$200.00. The motion passed 8-1.

Action item: Jane and Amy will be the organizers and decide what is feasible

Potential articles for a Fall newsletter

- Please pay your dues

- Board Vacancy
- Article about the Monument
- No Fall Festival- Wendy
- Pool
- Nature center
- Halloween- COVID guidance
- Solar - Wendy and Jane
- Sugarbush Improvements- Jane
- Garage Sale- Jack and Emily PIX
- Welcome- usual blurb
- Neighborhood Watch if there is something to update.

Next Meeting: Set next meeting date- Nov 3rd @ 7 PM

Round Robin

April 2022 There will be an exhibition in Gallup Park of a major Art competition

Free Tree Event- Tree registration started Aug 30 and ends Sept 24-pick up Oct 2- 750 trees- arbor vitae and white pine

Thurston Nature Center is holding a planting activity on Saturday Sept 4th at 10:00- if you can help- and did not get an email about this, I can forward it.