



Karen Breen-Bondie, President
Carol Frederick, Vice President
Michelle Delacourt, Second Vice President
Darcey McLaughlin, Secretary
Katrina Collins, Treasurer

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting Monday, February 2, 2009

A call to order was made by President Karen Breen-Bondie at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held in the Ferndale Historical Museum. Karen introduced new Block Director and also Second Vice President, Michelle Delacourt. There were several new block directors and the group each introduced themselves.

Present: Carol Frederick, Bill Frederick, Darcey McLaughlin, Michelle Delacourt, Debbie Sobolewski, Garry Andrews, Katrina Collins, Scott Helmer, Stacy Helmer, Sharon King, Tiffani Gagne and Karen Breen-Bondie

Vice President's Report: Carol Frederick reported that luminaries continued this year as they have in all past years, but that the rain was a deterrent this year. The group was informed that the official Rain Day is always the next day and in upcoming years we can remind the neighborhood of this. VP Frederick also reported that plans and date for the next upcoming neighborhood garage sale will be communicated soon. Money collected from those who participate goes toward the ads placed in three papers for the pre-sale. We were reminded that garage sales are usually held every one and a half years, alternating between the spring and the fall. VP Frederick made a final suggestion to the group that we review our by-laws in an upcoming meeting.

Second Vice President's Report: Michelle Delacourt reported on her duties organizing the Beautification Award. There was a home selected for the 2005 Beautification Award (426 Maplehurst), but due to low funds never announced or communicated. We were also still waiting on the 2004 plaque which President Breen-Bondie exhaustively worked with the company who paid the check but hadn't delivered. The plaque was eventually received and presented to Eric Johnson & Hildy Fleming of 382 W. Oakridge. The group was asked if they knew of any new vendors for good/cheaper plaques, to please forward that information to Karen or Michelle. Tiffani Gagne reported that she had a contact she will put us in touch with.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the March 21, 2005 meeting, presented by Darcey McLaughlin and taken by Carol Frederick, were approved and recorded as submitted.

Treasurer's Report. The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted. Katrina Collins reported a balance of \$2,265.03. A bill from Bill and Carol Frederick in the amount of \$621.67 for two years of luminary supplies was presented and a check was written on-site at our meeting. The state incorporation fee has been paid. Treasurer Collins informed the group that the credit union has been charging WPIA \$10 per month for "inactive account" fees during our off months of no collections. Treasurer Collins will contact them directly to attempt to get those fees waived. Our website domain name fees are not up for renewal until May 2009. The annual collections by block were reported as: Upper Oakridge – 65%, Lower Oakridge - \$35%, Upper Drayton – 80%, Lower Drayton – 0%, Upper Woodland – 48%, Lower Woodland – 14%, Upper Maplehurst – 60%, Lower Maplehurst – 0%, and Lower Lewiston – 44%.

Block Directors each took turns informing the group present of their various social activities that have happened and/or planned and everyone agreed that they each had the best block in the neighborhood. Of note: Upper Drayton Block Director Garry Andrews let the group know that the historical "Year Built In" plaques seen around the city can be obtained from the Historical

Museum for \$85 each. Also, all home historical papers are housed at the Museum and open to the public.

President's Report: President Breen-Bondie indicated that advertising revenue for our neighborhood newsletter has been around \$700. In addition, the Sherwin-Williams store campaign has generated \$250 and flyers for this were passed around. The two vacant lots of land on north Lower Oakridge were discussed. There was discussion whether or not the land has been designated officially as a park. Our group was able to inform our neighbors about the city's intent to sell these lots as commercial property a few years ago and was defeated. Due to the current economy, it is feared that the city may attempt to put the lots up for sale again.

President Breen-Bondie prepared and submitted a grant to begin development of the park through the Ferndale Community Foundation. A volunteer landscape architect worked with the WPIA park committee to develop the land into a park. The plan was presented to the Ferndale City Council in 2004. Unfortunately the city council could not act because of impending issues with park land that was tied into the Ferndale Laboratory expansion site within Garbutt Park and they would not make a decision. The WPIA park committee eventually decided not to develop the land and were satisfied with it in its present state. The Ferndale Community Foundation grant application was rejected as well because the land had not yet been formally designated a park by the city. Debbie Sobolewski offered to bring the new Lower Oakridge block director up to speed on the history of this land and see if they are willing to look into the situation further. President Breen-Bondie also passed out an updated Block Director Guidelines document that also had the names and contact of each of our block directors.

New Business: Snow removal was discussed. Our organization has been providing snow removal services since 1953 with the same contractor up until 3 years ago. The new contractor is doing a good job, however, unfortunately our group did not have enough money in our account to pay the initial monthly \$1000 fee for December. The contractor did plow twice at the beginning of winter without a contract, and was contacted by the president to cease services until we were able to pay.

A suggestion was made to raise our current dues from \$15 to \$20 to help bring in more fees, however, the group felt with the current economy and the fact that we have not provided any snow removal services to date this year that we should table that discussion for next year and consider it for 2010. It was also suggested that we reduce the dates of the contract for next year to just three months: December, January and February only. Another suggestion of start in late December and end in mid-March. It was suggested that block directors need to start their yearly collections in mid-October rather than the first snowfall in order to insure there is enough money in the bank to pay for snow removal. In the past there were reserves in the account, however, they have been exhausted.

A motion was made to start snow services again next year in mid-December and end in mid-March by Carol Frederick. Garry Andrews seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The group also suggested that no snow plow services will be provided for the balance of this year in the hopes of rebuilding our reserves and reminding neighbors how important this service is to the elderly and corner homes along Livernois. The group was hopeful that absence will make the heart grow stronger and collections for next year and possibly this year will increase. Lastly, Scott Helmer offered to try to negotiate a lower rate for service with the snow contractor for next year.

Discussion turned to holding an annual meeting. It was noted that this is the 85th year of our organization and the group felt that celebration is in order! President Breen-Bondie will e:Mail the block directors with suggestions for dates in April, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at Roosevelt Elementary. Stacey Helmer offered to create a notice about our annual meeting to be e:Mailed to all the block captains and copied and delivered to the residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. Next meeting TBD.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Secretary Darcey McLaughlin.