

**Eastside Neighborhood Organization
General Membership Meeting
March 5, 2014**

Board attendance: Brian Baer, Rock Hudson, and Nancy Mahlow
Excused: Cheryl Risner, Denise Kelley, Deb Biehler, and Kelly Groll

1. Treasurer Report:

Checking: \$2,651.15 **CD 1:** \$1,170.16 **CD2:** \$1,157.17
TOTAL: \$4,978.48

Souper Update: Approximately \$900.00. Great attendance and everyone had a great time. We donated \$100 to Pattengill Academy for the use of the building and will give TRIAD a portion of our proceeds. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated their time, items, food, etc.

2. Councilmember Jody Washington Report:

1st Contact: Jody reported the next meeting will be May 3, 2014, at the Avenue and will have updates on various issues within our area/city.

City Budget: The city budget is coming up so departments will be discussing their needs, cuts, etc. Michigan State University is learning about the city budget.

Quad Meeting: Jody is still meeting monthly with Joan Nelson, Andy Schor, Brian McGrain, Rebecca Barr-Cook, and Nancy Mahlow which provides open dialogue at all levels and helps to bring issues forward and get answers.

Public Safety: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at Noon discussion on the medical marijuana sites still open. Michigan Avenue has two; TNT and one at the corner of Magnolia/Michigan Avenue.

Medical Marijuana issue: The city attorney doesn't seem to acknowledge the city's moratorium. Need better support from our city attorney. She seems to believe it is a county issue.

There are many issues about the traceability of where the marijuana is coming from; no structure under the health department; hygiene issues dealing with where these items are stored, baked, cooked, type of kitchen, employees, etc. LPD are writing tickets but no follow through with the city attorney; there were some letters delivered to "cease and desist" because they do not comply with state laws; there are approximately six still open and some are open 24/7. Barnes Avenue site is a huge problem. The law states that 19 and over can have one ounce in their possession on private property but it doesn't state "whose property".

3. Scott Gillespie Development along Michigan Avenue:

The Avenue Building: Will have “Mert’s Meats” coming soon, which will be located next to the Subway.

2000 Block of Michigan Avenue:

Scott is working on finding a new “owner” for Emil’s; Wild Strawberry is moving in at the corner of Michigan Avenue and N. Fairview.

4. Board of Water and Light Presentation:

Bob Perialas, Community Services and Public Relations, discussed the issues of the storms and how BWL is working to improve their relationship with citizens. Mr. Perialas mentioned that if BWL can do anything to help a neighborhood just give him a call and they would see what they can do. Also contact him if you have a problem or see something that isn’t right. BWL is working on their map reporting outage and upgrading their computer system to help with future issues.

Police Advisory Board (Nancy Mahlow) Report:

Lansing Police Department (LPD): will be moving into the 2nd floor of the Hill Academy. Renovations will begin soon. Their lease is up at the end of August. All options are on the table.

LPD budget FY15 will begin soon; maintain what they have; bring back the cadet program. They will also be getting several new cars as many have over 90,000 miles and starting to need extensive maintenance.

Changing road patrol from 12 hours down to 10 hours; officers will be in major areas where needed.

Still have 14 openings and will be looking for new recruits.

LPD is now on “social media”: Twitter, Face Book, and Join the Team.

Goals of LPD: 1. Follow their “Mission Statement”, every officer goes home safe, and continue training.

New “School Watch” Volunteer Program: Citizens will be given a car with radios, will be out in school areas one hour before and after to help build a safe environment and partnership in neighborhoods; and making sure students get from point A to B safely. Volunteers are not allowed to get out of their cars but simply be the “eyes and ears” and report any issues.

Business solicitation in neighborhoods: “Magic Window” is a company out of Wixom, Michigan, working in neighborhoods to get residents to buy windows, will do repairs, etc. Their products are made in Canada, they do not have a peddler’s license, and may/may not show an ID, they attend home shows and get information from potential prospects. They have been in Holt, South Lansing, and East Lansing.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program:

Nancy Mahlow attended the first meeting held at Fairview School, on March 4, 2014 to discuss the federal program. This is a national program and this year will be working with Fairview, Lewton, STEM, and Averill schools to encourage walking, biking, getting to school safely and still work to help kids get fit.

Members will be walking through neighborhoods looking at sidewalk conditions, trees, bushes blocking views, looking at areas where there is no sidewalks, checking intersections, stop signs, and markings on roads.

In May the SR2S will hold a huge “bike to school” day for students. Each school will be pulling together a “walking bus” zone. This would be a specific stop area that parents would drop off students and a volunteer would be there to walk the students to school. One of Holt’s elementary school has a “walking bus” and is very successful with many students and parents participating.

Over the summer you will see individuals out doing surveys, walking tally, writing a plan of action, and apply for grants to help with purchases such as helmets, signs, etc.

City of Lansing, LPD, school board, and many others are on board with this program.

March 20th is the district launch.

If you are interested in participating in the program the next meeting will be at Fairview School, in the library, April 15, 2014, at 4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Nancy Mahlow