

# ENO General Membership minutes May 6, 2015

Marti Wheeler, VP called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions were made around the room

Marti announced her move to Chicago. Many of us thanked her for all she has done for the Eastside and that we will miss her. We wished her good luck on her new adventure.

BWL- Bob Perialas He announced that Adopt a River is this Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 am. They are giving away lots of trees; flowering trees and smaller spruce trees. The trees will be on the east side of Impression 5. The customer service center is now open again. The parking lot still is busy and they are working on changing it again. He suggested that if we can please do not come on a Monday or Friday at the end or beginning of the month. Denise K thanked him for his help on the power outage on Sunday in her neighborhood. BWL's Chili cook off is June 5<sup>th</sup> New this year is a \$5,000 value (used) car is being raffled off. University motor mall is donating it. The raffle money is going to Impression 5.

Register of Deeds Presentation -Derrick Quinney- Last month his office received a lot of phone calls about businesses that are sending out forms regarding their deeds especially to senior citizens. He can say it is unethical to do it. These companies charge \$83 for a copy of the deeds. You can come in person or electronic to his office and they charge \$2. M-F 8-5 pm are their office hours. They have records for the county that date back to 1838. They are working on digitalizing them. They have a fraud alert on their website that you can sign up for anything that would have your name on it and they would send a note to your computer.

Downtown Neighborhood Association- Ray and Melody - They are a part of the Lansing Neighborhood Summit on safe housing. There is a need to add code enforcement officers. There are some suggestions for some ordinance changes as well. Carol Wood was asked to give some info and numbers. There are 33,706 registered rentals in the city. There have been some that the land bank has received. Those are all red tagged. The city cannot do anything to enforce code items on them. There are about 500 red tagged houses in the city now. Currently it takes about 3-4 weeks to get a recheck rental inspection. 1<sup>st</sup> time inspection is about 6 weeks out from doing paperwork to the inspection. Council is looking at adding at least 2 officers. It would cost about \$104,000 for a code officer for the first year. They can use the inspector general line item to pay for the two. They also can hire a HR director and get rid of the line item for deputy HR person. There is an operational audit for BWL already so do not need another one. May 11<sup>th</sup> is when the budget will be passed or not. On Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> mayor can file a veto. On May 18<sup>th</sup> the council could override the veto. Now for the information that was given by Ray and Melody. The following numbers are from 2014, we have 7 officers for the city with 1 open position. Each spend about ½ their time on rental code enforcement. They bring in about \$340,000 each in fees and such. There are about 8,500 rental properties that each officer is responsible for. The group would love to see 7 more officers but will start with asking for 2. The group received just today from Jessica Yorke some proposed changes that would be made to the international maintenance code that city uses. Her reason is to put some teeth into the code. They are asking ENO to do a couple

of things to help with this project. 1<sup>st</sup>- asking people to sign a petition either here or online to have city council to put some attention to this issue of code enforcement. 2<sup>nd</sup>- They would like ENO to write a letter of support for the budget changes of adding 2 code officers to the budget. 3<sup>rd</sup> They would like someone from our group to speak at a press conference on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center. Nancy will speak at it. (Update: the press conference was cancelled) 4<sup>th</sup>-They would like to see as many people as possible at Committee of the Whole May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to speaking to council on this topic and encourage them to change the budget to add code officers. It was recommended to remember each city resident has 5 council members that represent them. (1 ward one and 4 at large) so contact them all. Also talk to your friends and family who live in other parts of the city to encourage theirs as well especially those who are up for reelection. The group has a Facebook page as well as a website housingsummitt.org and will hopefully have a Flickr site up soon for posting pictures of the violations of houses that are being ignored.

Spring Newspaper-Nancy- The articles and ads are due May 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be published in early June. We need ads and article but especially ads since that is what pays for the paper.

Treasurer's report- Theresa- We have about \$3,000 in the bank.

Housing concern- Nancy has been talking with Brian McGrain about the 200 houses that are scheduled to be demolished this summer with a federal grant that the city and Land bank received. She went with Joan Nelson Brian and Lynne Martinez to look at the ones on Hosmer Hill and a couple other streets where there were many houses on the list. They looked at them and put together a list of the ones they thought could be saved. There are about 80 houses on the Eastside on the main list.

Lansing school district- Nancy is on the Bond Proposal Committee. They will be meeting each Wednesday until mid-June to work on it. They are asked to have a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for our schools and use a learning pathway concept.

ENO will not be meeting in July. There was a motion made to cancel the August meeting by Cheryl. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Theresa. After some minor discussion, the motion passed. So ENO will not be meeting in August either.

ANC report- Denise P- The market walk started walking outside on Tuesday. They added a few families to the group despite the rain. The farmers Market will move outside starting May 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see the Eastside Neighbor for more events happening at ANC.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brenda. It passed with 1 no vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Denise Kelley  
ENO secretary

