

NORTHVILLE ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NECA)

Minutes of Annual Meeting -- March 5, 2015

In Attendance

Dan Ondrus, Jim Young, Chuck & Andrea Murdock, Heather Warnick, Dennis Holt, Deagon Jewett, Jim Salley

Meeting started at 7:02 PM.

2014 – Year In Review

Chuck summarized the document which had previously been distributed:

- Dues paying membership is up year-over-year to 99 households (up by 20)
- We've improved communications with about 95 households on the new e-mail distribution list
- Sub-wide garage sale traffic was disappointing, hurt badly by 8-mile reconstruction
- Annual picnic was a huge success
- We kept up with sub business – landscaping, holiday decorations, sprinkler maintenance, etc.

Financial Report

Andrea reported our revenues and expenses for the 2014 calendar year. Revenue was up from last year, due to increased membership participation. Expenses were lower, as we did not apply new mulch to the front entrance island (but we'll probably do it again this spring). Total available funds are approximately \$15,750.

Chuck summarized his view of what the 2015 CY budget might look like versus last year:

- 1) Slightly increased revenue (goal is to increase membership to 110 for the year)
- 2) Landscaping expenses will be about the same as 2013, when we did mulch at the front island
- 3) Decrease water usage by about 1/3 from last year
- 4) Spend more on the garage sale to increase traffic -- more advertising and signage
- 5) Do one or two more social events – set aside \$500
- 6) New sign for the front entrance – set aside \$6000 for 2015 (this may be phase 1 only)
- 7) Start a Welcoming Committee – set aside \$100

If the new sign happens, end of year funds could potentially decrease to less than \$10,000. This is consistent with the plan, as we've been building funds for this purpose for a number of years.

Calendar of Events

- Front Island Clean-up Day -- a Saturday morning in mid-May
- Sub-Wide Garage Sale – after school is out / before July 4th
- Annual Picnic – after Labor Day / before Victorian Festival
- Euchre Nights – October to May
- New Social Events -- we had a good brainstorming discussion about possible events, including: chili potluck dinner/tasting, sub-wide bike/walk from sub to Maybury Park, whirlyball, road rally event, Santa for the kids, bounce house for the kids. If you have any other ideas, please contact Chuck.

Sign at the Front Entrance Island

We had a lengthy discussion about our sign. Even with a small group, opinions varied greatly – from simply repainting the existing sign to various all-new alternatives. We will need to get more input from our members to put a focus on what direction to take. We will create a survey (on-line Survey Monkey), which will be sent to our e-mail distribution list – we will accept comments from recognized dues-paying members only.

The group felt some of these attributes were important to consider:

- Use very natural simple materials and design (perhaps keep it wood)
- Tie to our heritage by using the “Northville Estates” script, fonts, and design in the new sign

- Raise the sign slightly to make it more visible
- Pull the sign closer to the front of the island for better visibility
- Perhaps rotating the sign 90 degrees for better visibility

After we've got some better input and clarity, we'll start working with a sign company to work up some designs.

Condition of Roads

Summerside Ct and Silchester Ct were both repaved last fall. The entire length of Elmsmere is scheduled to be repaved this summer. But, the condition of our roads continues to deteriorate. As we've done in the past, we'll continue to remind City Hall to keep up with patching, and look into better repairs. There was some discussion about the need for better plowing of snow – again, we've contacted the City a couple times this year when we really needed it. Chuck will find out if Abbey Knoll or Pheasant Hills supplement plowing by contracting their own services.

Landscaping of the Front Island

We will conduct our own Clean-Up Day, as we did last year in mid-May. But, the person we hired last year to plant new annuals is not available this year. So, we will attempt to plant annuals with volunteer help – if we don't get enough volunteers, we'll pay someone again. We will also put down fresh mulch this year.

Condition of Commons Areas

Last year, we had a 50/50 matching grant program if neighbors wanted to get together and purchase/plant bushes or make other capital improvements to commons areas. We only had one, small project last year, which cost us about \$40. We agreed to try it again this summer.

Facebook / Next Door

Our Facebook page never really got off the ground – perhaps we can find a use for it – maybe it can be used as a blog for ideas on the front entrance sign design. Next Door Neighbor seems to be pretty popular – I see notes just about every week with advice on all sorts of things.

New Neighbor Welcoming Committee

We're starting a Welcoming Committee, and have two volunteers so far – Vicky and Patricia. We'll let them create their own program. But, we've already collected welcoming packets from City Hall, to get them started. And, we set aside \$100 for them to purchase small trinkets, etc., (like Northville coffee mugs).

Decorating the Front Entrance for More Holidays

Dan has been decorating the sign during the Christmas season for years. We'd like to try a few more holidays. For Halloween, perhaps some of us would donate carved/lit pumpkins which we can line up on the island. For Memorial Day and July 4th, we could have small flags drape the sign. Volunteers, please let Chuck know.

New Projects

- **Streetlight** -- we had some discussion about the darkness of the entrance at night. There was a suggestion for a new streetlight at the front entrance, at the back end of the island (in the island), where the existing Lanthorn/Chigwidden street sign is located. Chuck will talk to the City about our role / their role.

New Issues

- **Membership Dues** – there was some discussion about the history of the annual dues. Dues have always been much lower than surrounding subs, and have been \$50 for many years. It was recommended that dues be increased, perhaps to \$75. After some discussion, Chuck suggested we should complete the sign project to demonstrate we are spending the funds wisely, and then consider an increase. (Also, the dues have already been announced for this fiscal year.)

Election of Officers and Board Members

A motion was presented by Dan Ondrus, seconded by Dennis Holt, for the following Board Members/Officers:

Chuck Murdock (President)

Walter Davison (Vice President)

Andrea Murdock (Treasurer)

Dan Ondrus

Heather Warnick

Nick Gnau

Meeting Ended promptly at 8:00 PM.