

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association
June 9, 2014

Call to order, 6:30 PM

Present were: Marcia Gruenhagen, Dan Drossart, Larry Desch, Sue Ley, Sharon & Pete Doherty, Jill & Reed Hardy and our advisory members Sister Charlene Hockers and Sr. Sharon Lasee. Four members, Kathy Desch, Cheryl and Dick Pigeon and Mike Clark were excused. Visiting were Sr. Rose Jockmann, Mr. Joseph Morgan and Mr. John Kosmoski. Two members, Ron Antonneau and Carol Jones arrived approximately 20 minutes after the meeting started.

A quorum was established with 8 members present.

Approval of agenda: The motion to approve, made by Sharon and seconded by Sue, passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes of last meeting on May 12, 2014: The motion to approve, made by Jill and seconded by Dan, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: As of 5/31/14 we had a checking balance of \$565.00. After deposits of \$1070.00 (\$800 from members for spring social meeting and donations of \$20 from Susan Chapin and \$250 from Cheryl and Dick Pigeon) and checks issued for \$1387.66 our current balance is \$247.94. Our current savings account balance is \$4046.38. The motion to approve, made by Reed and seconded by Marcia, passed unanimously.

Report, Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council April meeting: Sharon & Pete Doherty and Jill & Reed Hardy attended the meeting. The meeting was held at a new venue, the Riverside Ballroom. Several announcements were made, then the meeting was turned over to County Supervisor Troy Streckenbach who discussed the need to attract young, upward mobile people to Green Bay. One way of doing this is to have good schools. Another way in the planning stages is the establishment of a Research and Technology Park near UWGB. The presentation was well received.

Mayor Jim Schmitt reported that the importance of having wonderful schools can't be over estimated. We need to market ourselves as an "education community. Not only do we have fine K-12 schools but we have three respected colleges. He also discussed the "Read to Feed" program under which for each book a child in the program reads, a food item will be donated to Paul's Pantry. Finally, Mr. Schmitt discussed the current decision-making process for the Walmart proposal. He feels that this is a straight-forward zoning issue, but others feel that bending the established zoning rules might be a good idea. We will know the results of these deliberations by Wednesday, June 11th.

Finally, the Mayor encouraged us to distribute the Kids' Day materials in our neighborhoods and return unused materials to City Hall. The program which will occur on June 25th, has a lot of free activities for children throughout the City.

The last presenter was City Forester Brian Pelot who talked about the Emerald Ash Borer. It has been in Green Bay since 2009. They are working to slow its progress. Folks who have cherished ash trees in their yards can treat their trees successfully and the treatment is not expensive though it must be done each year for the next several years. It is a great deal more expensive to have your trees treated professionally. You can contact the forester at brianpe@greenbaywi.gov if you need advice about your tree.

Fire over the Fox Festival Ben's Wish Firecracker Food Drive. Bring a can of food to the city fireworks program to donate to Ben's Wish program that puts food in the food pantrys in the summer when it is most needed.

Mini-Grant Awards Announced: NDNA's application was not approved.

Note: Cheryl Wigg-Renier reminded us that neighborhood sign site maintenance is an expectation of the GBNLC. Check your sign site and make sure it is not unkempt. If you have plantings around your sign that are not being maintained you might be better off simply replacing them with mulch which requires a lot less maintenance. Several members of the board agreed to check our sign sites to make sure they were acceptable.

We were reminded that each neighborhood association needs to generate at least \$200 in support of the neighborhood capital campaign.

Reminder: Larry will sit in on all of these meetings as our Acting President: The volunteers who will join Larry for upcoming NLC meetings are: Aug 7, Sr. Sharon; Sep 4, Sue; Oct 2, TBA; Nov 6, TBA; Dec 4, TBA.

Special Guest, Sister Rose presented information on the Sister's of St. Francis of the Holy Cross convent's new solar photovoltaic system. Rationale: The sisters want a totally renewable energy program for convent. In 2009 the passed a resolution to live a lifestyle that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

The building has many sustainable features. But it was built in 2006 before the Sisters considered all of the current issues. They looked at wind energy but the costs were higher and involved greater land use. Solar thermal systems are not as useful when you don't use much hot water. The photovoltaic system provides sun generated DC current that is then converted to AC for use with lights and appliances. "We started by talking to WPS, then to local businesses with solar installations and Notre Dame Academy. We applied for a focus on energy grant and we had to get approval for our project through the City Planning Commission for a conditional use permit."

Decisions: Roof or ground mounted? "We decided to use ground mount since it is easier

to maintain the site. The site we chose can be easily seen from Church Road. The panels face the road and that makes for a better aesthetic appeal. The panels are in 3 uneven rows due to shading in the area. Eland Electric was chosen to build the system. Funding was provided by a Focus on Energy grant of \$74,000. Our decision for sizing our system was based on this grant. We built the largest site we could and still qualify to get the grant. If we had build a bigger array we would not have qualified for the grant. After the grant we still needed more than \$200,000. We struggled with this decision, but we decided to go ahead with the project and we ended up getting enough to finish the project from one large donation! Have faith and God will provide.”

“We now have ‘net metering’ with WPS so we sell surplus energy back to WPS at a lower rate than we pay for electricity. We expect a payback period of 16 to 20 years and we expect to save 500,000 over the life of the system. Panels are expected to last 30 to 35 yrs but warranted for only 25. Snow and ice are not a problem because it just slides off. Durability: All American made materials. Earth anchors are driven 6 ft. into the ground. All cabling is buried. Aluminum racks anchored to the earth anchors. We were told that the system will hold up to hail driven by up to 100 mph winds.”

“The system is a 112 kilowatt system that has 416 solar modules. End to end these would stretch to about 700 feet. It is the largest array in the City. 18th largest in the state. Enough to provide power for 14 homes.”

Educational component. “We plan to install a grass walking path and native prairie and wild flowers and welcome people to visit. On our website, www.gbfranciscans.org, we have a real-time meter that shows how much we are generating at the moment. This site provides project details and other information. In just 5 days we have saved 2 tons of carbon emissions! We are inviting schools to bring their students out to visit the site.”

Old Business:

National Night Out Aug 5th: Jill reported that they now have their grant so they will be moving forward with planning. The program will take place on Aug 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Baird School on Humbolt Drive. They would like to have volunteers help with setup. Members of our association should sign in if they attend so we get credit for participation. Our representatives need to have some small token gifts to give the children and neighbors who visit our table. We still need to pay our \$150 fee. Jill will ask the Treasurer for a check when she knows when it is due.

Board Vacancies: We need to plan for our August meeting and recruit assertively to fill board openings. We expect to have at least 4 openings by the time of our annual meeting.

Summer meeting schedule: Reminder, no meeting next month (July), then we have only the Aug 12th meeting remaining for this summer. That meeting will take place in Rm 101 MAC Hall as was the case for this meeting.

New business: Election of new officers will happen as per our bylaws immediately after the

annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Planning: September 30th will be the date of the meeting. The venue will be The Ravine near Festival Foods store. Cost will be \$15 per person. Cocktails at 5:00 PM dinner at 6:00 PM. Larry will try to get the new UWGB Chancellor to speak.

The next Newsletter will come out in July. Planned articles will be about the National Night Out, the Sister's solar system and the Annual Meeting. Please send any ideas for articles to Larry.

Annual Meeting and Fund Raising Planning: The "Recycling Electronics Program" will work for us. Larry will look into making it happen soon after our August meeting.

Ron suggested that we put a "What's your speed" sign out to encourage slower driving on Nicolet. He further suggested that we have more of a police presence in the neighborhood given that some people are building bonfires on the beach in the park and some neighbors have had attempted break-ins.

Town Hall Meeting: The neighborhood is divided on the Joliet Park issue. It would be a good time for us to set up a town hall meeting to discuss this. Ron suggested that we wait until the invasive species study is done before having this meeting. Ron went further to discuss his recent conversation with the Director of Parks. He reported that she said she can get this done before the end of the year and possibly earlier.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn, made by Ron and seconded by Carol, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Reed Hardy, Secretary May 12, 2014.