

MPNO Meeting – Minutes 01/14/15

Present: Officers Natalie Molnar, Amy Valleau, Ellen Gallavan, and David Potts; 11 neighbors; Officer Shawn Martinez; Councilwomen Jessica Yorko – 4th Ward and Jody Washington – 1st Ward

November meeting minutes approved

Jody Washington:

Overnight parking has been a polarizing issue. Medical marijuana issue is under discussion – patient advocacy groups want control. Land use in Lansing – proposed new condos.

Jessica Yorko:

Leadership meetings and elections done. Jessica chairs the General Services committee which oversees licensing, art, rental inspections, certificates of compliance. There is no general license for landlords. The city attorney says a license of this type would be legal. Jessica will bring forth legislation about this. The city has a \$6million dollar grant to address blighted property – primarily for removal of buildings. Inter-government board – works especially with the school board; works to get out positive stories about our schools. Andy Eagle said more properties were being bought by Detroit people and thought this was a problem. Shirley stated that code compliance wasn't working for problem property near her house.

Public Safety:

- Officer Martinez (our neighborhood officer) – car theft is the #1 crime in the city. Probable car theft rings of young people 18-20 years old. You can be ticketed for leaving your car running unattended. Larceny from vehicles (LFA) – thieves might break windows in locked cars, but unlocked cars encourage thieves to return. House on Woodlawn has 17 people living there with raw sewage in basement. Drug problems at Sunoco and Speedwagon. If an emergency, call 911. If not immediate, call or email Off. Martinez. 483-6868 (2645-voice mail box); shawnmartinez@lansingmi.gov
- Neighborhood Watch meeting next Wednesday, 6:30pm, at St. Casimir.

Officer reports:

- **Amy** – wants to change location of our web site. Motion was made and carried to pay up to \$120/month to move it and purchase new names. Amy recommended a \$9/month site. Facebook page – only Natalie can friend people on the site.
- **Dave** – we received a \$50 donation from Vincent Celentino for the carnival.

New Business:

- The City parks director and board is working with us. The landscape architect has made a drawing of the park. What is the neighborhood's vision for the park? "Friends of Lansing Parks" group may be forming and is looking for people to join.
- "Sustain our Great Lakes organization" – grant money is available to get rid of non-native species and provide riparian services. Fishing is an asset to our park. Natalie will set up meetings with the park people.
- Do we want to get 501c3 status? Costs \$400 to apply. This would enable us to apply for certain non-profit grants.

Community Events:

- Garden workshop series starts Jan. 15th and meets every other Thursday through and including March 26th at St. Casimir from 6-8pm in room 107. Open to the public and free. 1/29- winter gardening and growing inside; 2/12 season extension and involving your neighbors.
- The South Lansing Community Development Assoc is moving their office to St. Casimir. We will also have a monthly (Thursdays) farm market at St. Casimir.
- The Greater Lansing Housing Coalition will build raised beds in the community garden. They also help improve walkways and access for homeowners. They have a tool truck. Also help seniors with housing needs.
- Next MPNO meeting on February 11th at 6:30pm at St. Casimir.

Meeting adjourned